McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms

The Most Practical Reference
to the Idiomatic and Verbal Expressions of Contemporary American English

Over 24,000 phrases and expressions
McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Richard A. Spears, Ph.D.
Contents

About This Dictionary      v
How to Use This Dictionary   ix
Acknowledgments          xv
Terms and Symbols        xvii
Dictionary                1
Phrase-Finder Index      783
All languages have phrases that cannot be understood literally and, therefore, cannot be used with confidence. They are opaque or unpredictable because they don’t have expected, literal meaning. Even if you know the meaning of all the words in a phrase and understand all the grammar of the phrase completely, the meaning of the phrase may still be confusing. A phrase or sentence of this type is said to be idiomatic. This dictionary is a collection of the idiomatic phrases and sentences that occur frequently in American English. Many of them occur in some fashion in other varieties of English also.

Many overlapping terms have been used to describe the idiomatic phrases included here: verbal collocations, idioms, idiomatic expressions, clichés, proverbs, set phrases, fixed phrases, phrasal verbs, common phrases, prepositional verbs, and phrasal/prepositional verbs. They all offer the same kinds of problems to the speaker and writer of English. They are unclear because the meaning of the phrase is not literal or predictable. Phrasal verbs, also called two-word verbs, are idiomatic expressions because the second element of the verb (the adverb or preposition) is not necessarily predictable. For instance, why the word up in call up a friend? Why not say call on a friend or call in a friend? Actually, those are three separate, unpredictable combinations, and they each mean something completely different. For example, you can call up a friend on the telephone, call on a friend to have a visit, and call in a friend to come and help you with something.

Although there are some entries that are very casual or informal English, slang and idioms should not be confused. Some slang is also idiomatic, and some idioms are also slang, but generally they refer to different aspects of language. There are a few slang terms in this dictionary, because they are also fairly commonly known idioms.

GOALS OF THE DICTIONARY

A major goal of this dictionary is to make certain that each definition of a phrase illustrates the meaning of the phrase and matches it in syntax. The major exceptions are definitions that begin with “a phrase” or “an expression.” Similarly, the examples for each sense must match the definition in meaning and syntax. The best use of the entries is to study the entry head, definition, and example carefully. Look for the meaning that is common to all three. If the diligent user can see the elements of meaning shared by the entry phrase, the definition, and the example(s), the dictionary entry has done its task well.

A second goal is to provide the learner with enough information about the many forms that an idiom might take to allow the user to recognize it in a variety of contexts and to be able to use it in speech and writing.

A third goal is to make the details accessible to the learner. Idiomatic expressions and their variants are complex and unpredictable. There are many synonyms and near synonyms. General cross-referencing in the body of the dictionary will help users find synonymous phrases. The Phrase-Finder Index provides a powerful tool for locating entry forms embedded in other entries and partially remembered phrases. The form of the entry is quite straightforward, consisting of entry, definition, comments (if any), and examples. Senses are numbered and may include variants in addition to those found in the entry head. A minimum of abbreviations and symbols are used, and these are explained in the section “Terms and Symbols.” The user who understands the meaning of entry head, variable, and wild card term is equipped to understand everything that follows.
WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM THIS DICTIONARY?

The dictionary will prove useful for native speakers who are looking for synonymous idiomatic phrases. Many phrases can be expressed in a variety of ways, and this dictionary, through cross-referencing, can lead the native speaker to equivalent forms with the same or similar meaning. The index provides a means for a writer to find the most appropriate phrase for a given purpose. Native speakers can find most of what they want by looking up words representing key ideas in the index and following the references to phrases in the dictionary itself.

Likewise, near-native speakers who need help with phrasal verbs and common idiomatic phrases will find this reference very useful. Speakers and writers trained in British English will find this dictionary a good reference for checking on the American form and meaning of expressions previously encountered in British English.

The format of the dictionary is designed to provide the information needed by learners who are attempting to read and write conventional American English. It contains far more detail and specificity than is required by people who have heard, spoken, and written standard American English all their lives. For instance, a dictionary designed for native speakers of English might include the subentries bail out and see through. However, there are major differences in meaning between the idiomatic expressions that can be based on these words.

bail out (of something) “jump out”
bail someone out (of something) “post bond to get a person out of jail”
bail something out (of something) “remove water from a boat”
bail something out “empty a boat (of accumulated water)”

see something through “work at something until it is finished”
see through something “see through something that is transparent”
see through something “detect a trick or deception”

These differences may never be revealed if the entry heads are just bail out and see through, with no object indicated. This dictionary presents the additional details that a native speaker already knows. The information needed for the learner includes whether the verb can take an object and, if so, what kind of object (human, nonhuman, or both) is needed. The learner also needs to know what additional prepositional phrases are required or optional for the correct use of the expressions.

PHRASE ORIGINS

A surprising number of phrases have literary or Biblical origins. The works of Shakespeare, in particular, have provided many memorable phrases that are in constant use around the world. When the source is the Bible or Shakespeare, as well as other authors, that is noted in the dictionary entries. Most of the phrasal or two-word verbs are due to the Germanic origins of English. The choice of which particle (the second part of a two-word verb) is an ancient problem.

There are many instances, recorded in this dictionary, of a figurative phrasal verb being derived from a more literal interpretation of the same phrasal verb. In these instances, the phrasal verbs (or two-word verbs) appear in both figurative and literal senses in the same entry. One sense helps the user understand the other sense. In this case, the figurative sense has its origin in the literal sense. In entries where this occurs, the literal senses are marked Lit. and the figurative senses are marked Fig.

A high percentage of the entries in this dictionary have their origins in a figurative usage where there is no matching literal sense. That is why they offer special difficulty in understanding. Whenever necessary or possible there is a note in the entry suggesting what a figurative entry is based on or alluding to. Sometimes the relationship is completely obvious and no explanation is offered.

Quite a few of the similes (for example, as busy as a beaver) are contrived and appear to be part of an ever-expanding repertory of colorful and quaint comparisons. Similarly, the senses marked Rur. (rural) are often contrived and may
appear more often as colorful expressions in writing than they ever did in real life. That these rural-sounding expressions actually had a rural origin can be debated. Nor can all the similes be taken seriously. They are included because they might be encountered by the learner and their listing here might be useful for a writer—if nothing more than as something to be avoided.

There is another kind of “origin” that needs to be mentioned. There are a few idioms that seem to invite very clever but totally baseless tales of origin. Many of these tales are quite popular and widely known. Two examples of such “story” idioms involve sleep tight and a dead ringer. The first is associated with sleeping on a tightly strung, rope-supported mattress, and the second refers to a corpse ringing a bell. The details depend on the teller of the tale. Such tales of origin are very entertaining to many people. The idioms on which these stories are based are included in this dictionary, but the tale is neither told nor debunked here.

There are many additional phrases that are just the customary patterns used to say things in both casual and more formal situations. Common greetings and responses are included in this category, and these expressions have their origins in the functions they were meant to serve.

WHEN WERE THEY FIRST USED?

Users often have an interest in dating the origins of a phrase. It is possible to put a specific date on the early use of a word by consulting a historical dictionary, such as the Oxford English Dictionary. That will show the earliest usage recorded in the books and other documents that have been consulted for the creation of the dictionary. Some phrases and idioms may be included in the entries and quotations, but that is not the primary focus of a historical dictionary. As more and more data become available in a searchable, digital format, it is possible to find examples of the early uses of specific phrases more easily. A very careful writer of historical novels or screenplays will be interested in making sure that a certain word or phrase was actually in use during the period in question. The OED can be helpful in determining this kind of information. An early date for a phrase (or word) does not necessarily indicate the earliest use of the item nor the period of widespread comprehension in the population, however.

This dictionary offers the user help in seeing semantic relationships and allusions, but it has goals that are quite different from those of a historical dictionary. The major concern here is contemporary usage, and it probably reflects idiomatic English over the last 50 years. The older members of the native-speaking population know more of the entries than the younger people, but the latter will learn more as they age. Probably 75 percent of the entries are widely known, conventional English for 75 percent of the educated, native-speaking adult population.
This page intentionally left blank.
For most users, most of the time, a single instruction will be enough, and that is to start with the Phrase-Finder Index.

In the index, look up a major word in the idiom, preferably a verb, and go to the most appropriate dictionary entry listed in the right-hand column. If no appropriate entry is listed at the verb, try an adverb, preposition, or other word.

Further hints can be found at the beginning of the Phrase-Finder Index. The organization and philosophy of the dictionary is discussed in much greater detail below.

**ALPHABETIZATION**

In the dictionary, phrasal verbs (or two-word verbs) and their related prepositional verbs are alphabetized on the verb. All other idiomatic expressions are alphabetized in their complete forms with no inversion of parts. Entries are not listed by “key word” unless the “key word” is the first word. On the other hand, the index lists all the key words in a phrase. In that way, the key word is the user’s choice and not the compiler’s choice. All alphabetizing is word by word, rather than letter by letter. Initial *a*, *an*, and *the* are ignored in the alphabetization. Significant variants are cross-referenced to a main **entry head**. In most instances, an object of a verb or preposition is shown by a **wild card term**, either *someone*, *something*, *someone or something*, or some other expression such as *some amount of money*. Showing whether an object is human, nonhuman, or of some other semantically limited category is essential to explaining meaning and distinguishing the senses. **Wild card terms** are included in the alphabetization. In the Phrase-Finder Index, you are shown which entry head to look up. Those entry heads will include **wild card terms**. It is much easier to look up these expressions in the dictionary itself if the **wild card terms** are included in the alphabetization.

**OVERCOMING OPAQUE AND UNPREDICTABLE PHRASES**

There are three general reasons why idiomatic expressions are problems for students, writers, and other adults wishing to expand their skills with conventional American English. The three problems involve (1) difficulties with extracting the core of the idiomatic expression from a sentence or paragraph, (2) the variable nature of idioms, and (3) the basic opaque nature of these phrases. There is little that can be done about opacity other than use a dictionary, but there is some information about the other problems that can help the user. What follows will explain the organization of the dictionary and the way the peculiarities of English phrases have been handled here. It is not necessary to be able to understand the following discussion to use the dictionary.

**EXTRACTING THE IDIOMATIC PART OF A SENTENCE**

Idiomatic phrases are usually found included within a sentence, and it is difficult to extract the core of the idiom so that it can be looked up in a dictionary. These expressions are often learned in a list, and, unfortunately, the form of the expression presented in the list is probably only one of many variants. In the real world, these expressions are never seen or heard except in a complete sentence. In order to look them up in a dictionary, they have to be extracted from the sentence in which they are found. You cannot look up a
phrase that is found within a sentence unless you know the boundaries of the phrase. Here are some hints for extracting idiomatic phrases.

**Simplify the Grammar**

Entries in the dictionary and index use the singular form of the noun and the present tense (bare) verb. The index actually lists both regular and irregular forms when there are both. For instance, *old wives’ tale* is listed in the index under “old,” “wife,” “wives,” and “tale.” In order to look something up in either section, the user will save time by using the simplest form. There are more items to choose from at the simplest form.

**Look for Nonliteral Meanings**

Look for something in the sentence that is not understandable literally. For instance, “Sue is known for thinking ahead of her time.” How can Sue think ahead of or in front of time? Only figuratively. Mentally extract the nonliteral phrase, “thinking ahead of her time.” Try to match “think ahead of her time” to a phrase in the index by looking at “think” and scanning down to “think ahead” where you find *think ahead of one’s time* or the shorter *ahead of one’s time*.

**Ignore Immediate Context**

The parts of a sentence that refer to specific places, things, measurements, and activities are not likely to be items you can look up in the index. Examine the sentence “It’s almost 6:00, and you, Tom, and I have to thrash this contract out before we can meet the President of Acme Widgets for dinner at 8:00.” Ignore the specifics that relate only to this time and place: “6:00,” “Tom,” “you,” “I,” “President of Acme Widgets,” “dinner at 8:00.” That leaves “thrash this contract out.” Look up “thrash” in the index and find *thrash something out*, and it seems to explain the meaning of the sentence perfectly. There are things that can cause confusion, though. “Dinner at 8:00” is a common and well-known phrase. “Acme” is a (once) common name for a company, and “widget” is a common imaginary name for a product. Those words are not in the index, however.

**Variation in Idiomatic Expressions**

Idioms are sometimes called *fixed phrases*. In the real world, many idiomatic expressions are found in many variations, and this makes them hard to use and even harder to find in a dictionary. What follows is a discussion of the seven kinds of variation shown in this dictionary. Unfortunately, many idiomatic expressions exhibit more than one kind of variation. Fortunately, use of the Phrase-Finder Index to find a particular idiom will eliminate most of the problems caused by variation. It is important to know how the variants are related to each other so you do not think that three variants of a single phrase might have three different meanings. Knowing what the core of an idiomatic expression is, and how it can vary, makes it possible to recognize it and use its variants in a far greater number of contexts.

**Grammatical Variation**

In idioms in general, nouns can be plural or singular and verbs can occur in a variety of tenses and aspects. Many phrases can appear equally well in the negative or affirmative and undergo question inversion. Use the index to find the simplest form. This will lead you to the appropriate entry, even if the entry contains nouns or verbs that do not vary, such as *old wives’ tale*, which is never singular. Here are some sentence examples of grammatical variation:

The tape wouldn’t adhere to the door.
Why won’t this glue adhere to the doors?
The adhesive adhered to the door easily.
That old glue has adhered to the front of the door nicely.
That old tape has adhered to it nicely.

The thing that all the example sentences have in common is that they all have the verb *adhere* plus a prepositional phrase beginning with *to*. The
object of to can be a variety of nouns or pronouns. The elements each example shares are: adhere to something, and that is the form of the entry in this dictionary. The general rule is to simply reduce the noun to singular and the verbs to present tense and look up the results in the index.

The Transposable Adverb

Adverbs in certain phrases can swap places with the direct object of a transitive verb. This cannot be done if the object of the verb is a pronoun. Although the result may, in some instances, look like a prepositional phrase, it is not. In the following example containing “down the door,” the word down is an adverb that stands between the verb and its direct object:

She broke down the door with an axe.
She broke the door down with an axe.

Please hammer the nail in.
Please hammer in the nail.

But you cannot say:

*She broke down it.
*Please hammer in it.

The entry head break something down† contains a dagger (†) that indicates that the “down” can be transposed to a position just after the verb. Any word marked with the dagger can be transposed to a position immediately following the verb except when the object of the verb is a pronoun. Only the adverbs followed by † can be swapped in this manner.

Prepositions That Become Adverbs

There is both a noun hammer and a verb hammer. Similarly, some particles can function as either prepositions or adverbs, depending on how they are used. Prepositions have objects. Out is a preposition in “Run out the door.” It is an adverb in “Put the cat out.” Some prepositional verbs (verb + prepositional phrase) can become phrasal verbs (verb + adverb) by “losing” the object of the preposition. In the phrase add something into something, add has both an object of the verb and a prepositional phrase. Without the object of the preposition, the remaining preposition, in this case in, functions as an adverb, as in add something in. Examine the following sets of sentences. Note the transposable adverb in the second and third examples.

Add the flour into the eggs.
Add the flour in.
Add in the flour.

Boil the wax out of the cloth.
Boil the wax out.
Boil out the wax.

In this dictionary, these pairs are presented as variants of the same entry. Usually it is necessary to express this variation in two parts. Then, the cross-referencing or the index will lead the user to the longer entry, which is then followed by the shorter one. Note that the adverb is marked transposable in the entry heads below. The relationship between these two varieties of phrasal verb is very common in English around the world. The pairs of entries are listed as follows:

add something into something and add something in†
boil something out of something and boil something out†

Note that the prepositions into and out do not have daggers, indicating that they cannot be transposed to the position immediately after the verb.

Idioms with a Limited Verb Choice

There are a number of expressions in the dictionary that consist of a phrase that is likely to be preceded by one of a limited list of verbs. These expressions can usually stand alone, at least in casual conversations. The core meaning is the same regardless of the choice of initial verb. The members of the limited set of verbs that can come before the expression are not predictable. This kind
of variation is similar to wild card terms. Here are examples of the sets of limited sets of verbs.

- be ahead of Tom
- get ahead of Tom
- keep ahead of Tom
- remain ahead of Tom
- stay ahead of Tom

- keep clear of the doors
- remain clear of the doors
- stand clear of the doors

If each of these idiomatic expressions were a separate entry, it would be repetitious and difficult for the user to see that they include the same basic phrase. Therefore, the core of the entry is preceded by an asterisk (*), as with *ahead of someone and *clear of something. Within the entry, a list of the appropriate verbs is given at the asterisk (*). The index lists all of the variations, and the most common ones are given cross-references in the dictionary itself. Many of them are found after be, get, and have and are cross-referenced from the index only. There are some expressions that must begin with be, get, or have and these are alphabetized in the dictionary under their initial word.

**Optional Elements**

Various additional words or phrases can be used optionally within a single idiomatic expression. These words or phrases occur often with the idiom in question, but they are not required. They are included as part of the idiomatic pattern since they are so typical of conventional usage. Often, idiomatic expressions seem difficult simply because they are shortened versions of a longer expression that would be easier to understand in its full form. There are many instances of optional prepositional phrases. The following examples illustrate optional words:

- At last, I am able to breathe freely again.
- At last, I am able to breathe again.

- all joking aside
- joking aside

In this dictionary, optional elements are enclosed in parentheses.

The word freely is the optional element in the first pair of examples, and all is optional in the second set. Their entries are:

- able to breathe (freely) again
- (all) joking aside

**Variable Classes or Wild Card Terms**

Idiomatic phrases include both fixed and variable classes of words. The variable classes can be very broad, such as someone, which refers to any person, or something, which refers to any thing, object, or group. Many idiomatic phrases are very particular as to whether they include either someone or something. Others can refer to people or things, someone or something, without distinction. In this dictionary, these groups are called wild card terms. They can be thought of as aliases or proxies for the members of the classes of words they describe. Wild card terms appear in a unique type style. In a few instances, the expression always contains the real word someone or something and in these instances, special type is not used, as with pick on someone your own size. The following examples show the kinds of things that wild card terms can stand for:

- associate with new friends (someone)
- associate with them (someone)
- associate with a bunch of different people (someone)
- associate with the Smiths (someone)
- play the radio at full blast (something)
- play my new record at full blast (something)
- play his huge stereo at full blast (something)
- play all the audio stuff in the whole dorm at full blast (something)

The variable classes are represented in these examples by someone or something as in associate with someone or play something at full blast. The wild card term indicates that any member of the specified class can be used. There are dozens of wild card terms of this kind. All of the wild card
terms are descriptive of the kind of words or phrases they can stand for. Here are some of the most common wild card terms with one example of each:

- a direction “east by northeast”
- a period of time “about an hour”
- doing something “eating bread and butter”
- some amount of money “about three bucks”
- somehow “without much effort”
- someone “Fred”
- some place “the kitchen”
- something “a toaster”
- sometime “at noon”

and someone or something, which can be either someone or something.

Note: Wild card terms are mostly nouns, pronouns, and noun phrases. There is no way that these variables could be listed in an index. Therefore, the user is advised to save time by first looking up a verb, adverb, or preposition rather than a noun or pronoun.

Random and Unpatterned Variation

Some expressions differ by only a word or two and are otherwise essentially synonymous. This is more confusing when not all the senses in an entry share the same synonyms, as in the first example where the full entry is quoted. In this entry, only the first sense has a variant.

\[
\text{give someone a lift 1. and give someone a ride} \quad \text{Fig. to provide transportation for someone.}\quad \Box \text{I’ve got to get into town. Can you give me a lift? 2. Fig. to raise someone’s spirits; to make a person feel better.} \quad \Box \text{It was a good conversation, and her kind words really gave me a lift.}
\]

Other entries with variants of this type are:

\[
\text{ache for someone or something} \quad \text{and hurt for someone or something}
\]

\[
\text{amount to the same thing} \quad \text{and come to the same thing}
\]

Equivalent forms of an idiomatic expression are combined into a single entry where possible. The second and any subsequent expression are joined by and to the first. Sometimes a numbered sense has additional variants. These are introduced by and.

If the variants apply to all senses, they are listed at the beginning of the entry. If they apply only to some senses, the restricted form appears after the sense number, as with give someone a ride above.
This page intentionally left blank.
The compiler has included idiomatic phrases drawn from or suggested by Anne Bertram in the McGraw-Hill publications, *NTC’s Dictionary of Proverbs and Clichés*, *NTC’s Dictionary of Euphemisms*, and *NTC’s Dictionary of Folksy, Regional, and Rural Sayings*, as well as other McGraw-Hill special-purpose dictionaries. In addition, I am very grateful for help from my coworkers for their counseling, writing, and editing skills, as applied to various components and stages of this dictionary. They are Carla (White) Kirschenbaum, Nancy L. Dray, Michelle Davidson, Garret Lemoi, Steven R. Kleinedler, and Frank Abate. I also wish to thank Mark and William Pattis for providing appropriate atmosphere, support, and encouragement for the creation of specialized dictionaries.
This page intentionally left blank.
Terms and Symbols

☐ is a box that marks the beginning of an example.
¬ is a “swung dash” that is an abbreviation for the entry head.
† is a “dagger” that is seen in some entry heads. It shows that the adverb that precedes is one that can occur instead just after the verb in the same entry head. This means that the out in ace someone out† can also be ace out someone.
[....] enclose a partial entry that is followed by an instruction about where to find the whole entry or a comment. These brackets are also used to enclose information needed to understand a definition.
and indicates that an entry head has variant forms that are the same or very similar in meaning as the entry head. One or more variant forms are preceded by and.
Cliché refers to an overused expression that is trite and tiresome.
Entry head is the first phrase or word, in bold-face type, of an entry. It is the phrase or word that the definition explains.
Euph. means “euphemistic,” making something sound or seem “nicer” than some other word might.
Fig. means “figurative.” When the meaning of an entry head is not literal, it is marked Fig. Some are more figurative than others. Some entries contain both literal and figurative senses.
Go to means to search for and read the entry indicated. Go to previous means to read the entry immediately above. Go to next means to read the entry that follows.
Inf. means “informal.” This is used for expressions that are casual but not as intrusive as those marked Sl., “slang.”
Jocular refers to an expression that is said in a joking or humorous way.
Lit. means “literal,” the normal or expected interpretation of a word or phrase. Some entries contain both literal and figurative senses.
Prov. means “proverbial,” in the manner or nature of a proverb.
Rur. means “rural” and refers to country or folksy expressions.
See also means to consult the entry indicated for additional information or to find expressions similar in form or meaning to the entry containing the See also instruction.
Simile refers to expressions containing as or like, such as dry as dust.
Sl. means “slang,” very informal, colorful, playful, or intrusive alternates for more common words.
Variable is an element that stands for a class of items, usually nouns or pronouns. Many expressions must include a noun that is a person, a noun that is a thing, or both. These classes are indicated in the entry head as someone, something, or someone or something. There are many other variables, such as some place or sometime, whose meaning is obvious.
Wild card term is a term that represents a variable, such as someone, something, or someone or something.
*An A for effort* Fig. acknowledgement for having tried to do something, even if it was not successful. (Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ The plan didn’t work, but I’ll give you an A for effort for trying.

A man’s gotta do what a man’s gotta do. Go to You got to do what you got to do.

Abandon hope, all ye who enter here. *Prov.* If you come in, be prepared for the worst. (Describes a hopeless situation or one somehow similar to hell. Often used jocally. This is the English translation of the words on the gate of Hell in Dante’s *Inferno.*) □ This is our cafeteria. Abandon hope, all ye who enter here!

abandon oneself to something to yield to the comforts or delights of something. □ The children abandoned themselves to the delights of the warm summer day.

abandon ship 1. *Lit.* to leave a sinking ship. □ The captain ordered the crew and passengers to abandon ship. 2. *Fig.* to leave a failing enterprise. □ A lot of the younger people are abandoning ship because they can get jobs elsewhere easily.

abandon someone or something to someone or something to leave a person, living creature, or thing to the care of someone or something; to give up someone or something to someone or something. (Usually with the thought that the abandoned person or thing will not receive the best of care.) □ They had to abandon the dogs to the storm.

abbreviate something to something 1. and abbreviate something as something to make specific initials or an acronym out of a word or phrase. □ The phrase was abbreviated to ABC. 2. to make something into a shorter version of itself. □ The act has been abbreviated to just a few minutes.

the ABCs of something Fig. the basic facts or principles of something. □ I have never mastered the ABCs of car maintenance.

abduct someone from someone or something to take away or kidnap a person from someone or from a particular place, usually in secret. □ The thugs abducted the child from her mother.

abet someone in something to help someone in some deed; to help someone do something illegal. □ Surely you do not expect me to abet you in this crime!

abide by something to follow the rules of something; to obey someone’s orders. □ John felt that he had to abide by his father’s wishes.

abide with someone to remain with someone; to stay with someone. (Old and stilted. Primarily heard in the church hymn *Eventide.*) □ You are welcome to abide with me for a while, young man.

able to breathe (easily) again and able to breathe (freely) again 1. *Lit.* to be able to breathe clean, fresh air with no restriction or obstruction. □ After I got out of the dank basement, I was able to breathe easily again. 2. *Fig.* to be able to relax and recover from a busy or stressful time; able to catch one’s breath. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ Final exams are over, so I can breathe easily again.

able to breathe (freely) again Go to previous.

able to cut something Fig. to be able to manage or execute something. (Often negative. Able to can be replaced with can.) □ We thought he could handle the new account, but he is simply not able to cut it.

able to do something to have the strength or skill to do something. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ Are you able to carry those bags by yourself?

able to do something blindfolded and able to do something standing on one’s head Fig. able to do something very easily, possibly without even looking. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ Bill boasted that he could pass his driver’s test blindfolded.

able to do something standing on one’s head Go to previous.

able to do something with one’s eyes closed Fig. able to do something very easily, even without having to think about it or look at it. (Always affirmative. Able to can be replaced with can.) □ It’s easy. I can do it with my eyes closed.

able to fog a mirror Fig. *Inf.* alive, even if just barely. (Usually jocular. Alludes to the use of a small mirror placed under the nose to tell if a person is breathing or not. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ Look, I don’t need an athlete to do this job! Anybody able to fog a mirror will do fine!

able to make an event able to attend an event. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ I don’t think I’ll be able to make your party, but thanks for asking me.

able to take a joke to be able to accept ridicule good-naturedly; to be able to be the object or butt of a joke willingly. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ Better not tease Ann. She can’t take a joke.

able to take just so much and able to take only so much able to endure only a limited amount of discomfort or unpleasantness. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ Please stop hurtling my feelings. I’m able to take just so much.

able to take only so much Go to previous.

abound in something to be rich and abundant in something; to have plenty of something. (A bit formal.) □ The entire area abounds in game and fish.

abound with someone or something to be plentiful with someone or something. (Often negative. Able to can be replaced with can.) □ They had to abandon the dogs to the storm.

Able to answer someone and something to be able to answer someone and something. (Old and stilted. Primarily heard in the church hymn *Eventide.*) □ You are welcome to abide with me for a while, young man.

able to breathe (easily) again and able to breathe (freely) again 1. *Lit.* to be able to breathe clean, fresh air with no restriction or obstruction. □ After I got out of the dank basement, I was able to breathe easily again. 2. *Fig.* to be able to relax and recover from a busy or stressful time; able to catch one's breath. (Able to can be replaced with can.) □ Final exams are over, so I can breathe easily again.

able to breathe (freely) again Go to previous.

able to cut something Fig. to be able to manage or execute something. (Often negative. Able to can be replaced with can.) □ We thought he could handle the new account, but he is simply not able to cut it.
about as exciting as watching (the) paint dry Go to exciting as watching (the) paint dry.

*about one's business busy doing something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; go ~) □ Why are you still in the house? It’s time to be about your business. □ Why are you just standing there? You’d better get busy doing something!

*about to do something in the process of doing something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~) □ I'd better be about my yard work.

*an about-face (on someone or something) Fig. a reversal of attitude or action. (*Typically: do ~; have ~) □ She did an about-face on her rule about not eating in the living room. Now we can do it if we want.

*above and beyond (something) more than is required; greater than the required amount. (*Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ The English teacher helped students after school every day, even though it was beyond the call of duty.

above average higher or better than the average. □ Max's grades are always above average.

above (doing) something [of someone] too mature or honorable to do something. □ I thought you were above doing something so thoughtless.

above one's bend and above one's huckleberry Rur. beyond one's ability. □ Fixing those new cars with computers in them is above my bend. □ Joe's a good cook, but fancy desserts are above his huckleberry.

above one's huckleberry Go to previous.

above par better than average or normal. □ His work is above par, so he should get paid better.

above reproach not deserving of blame or criticism. □ Some politicians behave as though they are above reproach.

above someone at a higher rank than someone else; serving as someone's supervisor. □ Ron is above Ginney, but he treats her like an equal.

above someone or something to be in a position that is higher than someone or something. □ The plane is now directly above us.

*above suspicion [for one] to be honest enough that no one would suspect one; in a position where one could not be suspected. (This is a translation of words attributed to Julius Caesar, who divorced his wife, Pompeia, on the grounds of her possible involvement in a public scandal; Caesar stated, “Caesar's wife must be above suspicion.”) (*Typically: be ~; keep oneself ~; remain ~) □ The general is a fine old man, completely above suspicion.

above the law not subject to the law; immune to the law. □ None of us is above the law. We have to obey all of them.

aboveboard in the open; visible to the public; honest. □ Don't keep it a secret. Let's make certain that everything is aboveboard.

*abreast of someone or something 1. Lit. keeping even with someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; keep ~; stay ~) □ I had to run hard to stay abreast of Sally. 2. Fig. knowing the news about someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; keep ~; stay ~) □ The press corps has to keep abreast of the president.

abscend with someone or something to steal or run away with someone or something; to make off with someone or something in secret. □ The boys absconded with all the dessert.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Prov. You will like someone or something better if that person or thing is far away. □ Ever since Carla's boyfriend moved away, she can't stop thinking about him. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

abscend oneself from someone or something to remain away from or avoid someone or some place. □ Fred absconded himself from the meeting, which he was certain would be boring.

*absent without leave absent from a military unit without permission; absent from anything without permission. (AWOL is an abbreviation. This is a serious offense in the military. *Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ The soldier was taken away by the military police because he was absent without leave.

an absent-minded professor a bumbling professor who overlooks everyday things. □ Fred is such an absent-minded professor. He'd forget his head if it wasn't screwed on.

Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Prov. One who has total authority is very likely to abuse his position. (This phrase was used by the British historian Lord Acton: “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”) □ We thought that Johnson would be a responsible mayor, but within a year of taking office, he was as bad as all the rest. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Absolutely not! a strong denial or refusal. (Compare this with Definitely not!) □ Bob: Can I please have the car again tonight? Father: Absolutely not! You can't have the car every night!

absolve someone from something and absolve someone of something to prove that an accused person is innocent of something; to demonstrate that someone is not responsible for something. □ Bob attempted to absolve himself of the crime.

absorb oneself in someone or something Fig. [for someone] to become very interested or preoccupied with something or someone else's interests. □ Tom would often absorb himself in his children's activities on weekends.

absorb someone in(to) something [of a person or a group of people] to include someone in all the activities of the group; to integrate someone into something. □ The club absorbed the new members into the organization.

absorb something in(to) something [of matter or substance] to draw something into itself. □ The sponge absorbed all the moisture into its fibers.

absorb something with something to soak up a fluid with something. □ Henry absorbed the spilled milk with a sponge.

abstain from something to avoid some activity or the use of some substance, such as alcohol, drugs, sex, or food. □ They abstained from hard liquor and any other kind of intoxicants.

abstain from voting to choose not to vote either for or against a proposition or nominee. □ I will have to abstain from voting since I cannot make up my mind.
abduce something from someone or something to steal something from someone or something. (Formal.)  □ The officer was found guilty of abstracting a rather large amount of money from the company.

abstract something from something to take the important information from a longer document; to extract the essentials or the gist from a piece of complicated writing. □ Can you abstract a shorter article from this material?

abut on something [particularly of the edge of an area of land] to meet or touch something along one boundary or at one point. □ Our land abuts on the shopping center’s parking lot.

abut (up) against something to rest firmly against something solid. □ The end of the board abutted against the foundation.

accede to something 1. to agree to the terms or demands that someone has stated. □ We cannot accede to your demands. 2. to assume a position of power or authority; to begin serving in one’s official capacity. □ She acceded to the office of mayor in January.

accept someone as something to consent to receive or consider someone as a particular type of person or a person who can serve a particular role. □ Sally finally accepted herself as the only possible peacemaker in the dispute.

accept something as something 1. to agree that something will serve in payment of a debt or in return for something. □ This receipt shows that we have accepted your money as payment on your debt. □ This money has been accepted as reimbursement for the expenditure. 2. to resign [oneself] to something that cannot be changed. □ I must accept what you say as the final decision.

accept the blame for something Go to the blame for something.

acceptable damage and acceptable losses Euph. casualties or destruction inflicted by an enemy that is considered minor or tolerable. □ At present, the enemy’s first-strike capability would produce acceptable damage. □ The general indicated that the fifty thousand casualties were within the range of acceptable losses.

acceptable losses Go to previous.

*access to someone or something permission to approach someone or something; the right to use someone or something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Can you get access to a computer?

accidentally-on-purpose Inf. deliberate, but meant to look like an accident. □ Then, I accidentally-on-purpose spilled water on him.

Accidents will happen. Prov. It is impossible to completely prevent things from going wrong. (Often used to console someone who has made a mistake or caused an accident.) □ Child: Mommy, I spilled grape juice all over the carpet! Mother: Don’t cry, honey. Accidents will happen. □ Jill: I’m so embarrassed. I was just tapping on your window to wake you up. I didn’t mean to break it. Jane: Accidents will happen.

acclimate someone or an animal to something and acclimate someone or an animal to something to cause a person or other living thing to become used to a different climate or environment. □ We will help acclimate Henry to the new building. □ We need to acclimatize the fish to the new aquarium.

acclimatize someone or an animal to something Go to previous.

accommodate oneself to something to adapt oneself to something, such as someone else’s needs or a new environment. □ Please try to accommodate yourself to our routine.

accommodate someone with something to provide something special for someone; to do something that provides for someone’s needs or desires. □ We will try to accommodate you with an earlier flight.

accompanied by something with something extra to go along with something else; with something to complement something else. □ Dessert was accompanied by a fine white wine.

accompany someone on a journey 1. [for someone] to go with someone on a trip, journey, adventure, etc. □ Would you please accompany me on my next trip? 2. [for something] to be brought with someone on a trip, journey, etc. □ My cameras always accompany me on my travels.

accompany someone on a musical instrument to provide complementary instrumental music for someone’s musical performance. □ Sally accompanied the singer on the piano.

accompany someone with something to use a particular musical instrument to play music that goes along with someone else’s musical performance. □ She accompanied Mary with her flute.

accord with something to agree with or match up with something; to jibe with something. □ Does this accord with what you heard?

according to all accounts and by all accounts from all the reports [that are available]; according to what everyone is saying. □ According to all accounts, the police were on the scene immediately. □ By all accounts, it was a very poor performance.

according to Hoyle according to the rules; in keeping with the way something is normally done. (Alludes to the rules for playing games. Edmond Hoyle wrote a widely used book with rules for card games. This expression is usually used for something other than games.) □ That’s wrong. According to Hoyle, this is the way to do it.

according to one’s own lights according to the way one believes; according to the way one’s conscience or inclinations lead one. □ John may have been wrong, but he did what he did according to his own lights.

according to someone or something as said or indicated by someone or something. □ According to the weather forecast, this should be a beautiful day.

according to something in proportion to something. □ You will get paid according to the number of hours that you work.

account for someone or something to know the state of or whereabouts of someone or something. (Usually in reference to some person or thing placed in one’s charge.) □ They cannot account for three of the passengers.

account for something to explain something. □ Your explanation accounts for everything that has happened.
acknowledge something to someone to assign or attribute a deed to someone; to assign or attribute praise to someone. (Often passive.) □ We can accredit this great success to Fred and his committee.

accrue to someone or something [used of interest paid on money] to be credited to an account or to a person's account. □ Interest will accrue to your account as long as the account is active.

accuse someone of something to charge someone with a crime, a violation of rules or instructions, or doing something wrong. □ Please don't accuse me of forgetting to lock the door.

accustom someone to something or someone to get someone used to someone or something. □ I think we can accustom Fred to the new rules without difficulty.

*accustomed to someone or something and *accustomed to doing something used to someone or something; used to or in the habit of doing something. (Typically: be ~; become ~; grow ~.) □ The children are accustomed to eating late in the evening.

ace in the hole and someone's ace in the hole Fig. something important held in reserve. □ The twenty-dollar bill I keep in my shoe is my ace in the hole.

ace in(to something) to be lucky in getting admitted to something. □ I aced into the history class at the last minute.

ace out to be fortunate or lucky. □ Freddy aced out at the dentist's office with only one cavity.

ace out of something to get out of something through luck; to evade or avoid something narrowly. □ I just aced out of having to take the math test!

ace someone out to maneuver someone out; to win out over someone. □ Martha aced out Rebecca to win the first place trophy.

ache for someone or something and hurt for someone or something Fig. to desire someone or something very much. (So much that it "hurts.") □ I ache for the sight of Mary, whom he loved deeply.

Achilles' heel Fig. a weak point or fault in someone or something otherwise perfect or excellent. (From the leg- of Greek hero Achilles, who had only one vulnerable part of his body, his heel; as an infant his mother had held him by one heel to dip him in the River Styx to make him invulnerable.) □ He was very brave, but fear of spiders was his Achilles' heel.

aching heart Fig. the feeling of pain because of love that is lost or has faded away. (Described as being in the heart, where love is said to reside.) □ I try to tell my aching heart that I don't love him.

the acid test Fig. a test whose findings are beyond doubt or dispute. □ The senator doesn't look too popular just now, but the acid test will be if he gets reelected.

acknowledge someone as something to agree or announce publicly that a person holds a particular office or station, or that a person has particular qualities. □ She found it difficult to acknowledge herself as a failure.

acknowledge someone to be right to admit or state that someone is correct about something. □ Bill said that the car was useless, and the mechanic acknowledged him to be right.

acknowledge something as something to agree or announce publicly that something is as previously stated. □ The president acknowledged the statement as the truth.

acknowledge (the) receipt of something to report receiving something, such as a package, letter, or notice. □ The company acknowledged receipt of the merchandise I returned.

acquaint someone with something to introduce someone to an unfamiliar thing; to become familiar with something; to get to know something; to tell someone the facts [about someone or something]. (See also acquainted with someone; acquainted with something.) □ It took a month for the new attorney to acquaint herself with the facts in the case.

*acquainted with someone [of a person] known to someone; [of a person] having been introduced to someone. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ We are only acquainted with each other. We are certainly not what you would call close friends.

*acquainted with something familiar with something; able to understand or recognize something. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ Tom is fully acquainted with the way we do things.

acquiesce to someone or something to give in to someone or someone's wishes; to agree, perhaps reluctantly, to someone's ideas or requests. □ We are willing to acquiesce to your demands.

acquire a taste for something Go to a taste for something.

acquit someone of something to establish someone's innocence of a criminal charge or the blame for some wrongdoing. □ The investigator acquitted Wally of the charges.

across the board Fig. [distributed] equally for everyone or everything. □ The school board raised the pay of all the teachers across the board.

act as one Go to as one.

act as someone to perform in the capacity of someone, temporarily or permanently; to serve in some special capacity, possibly temporarily. □ This is Mr. Smith. He'll act as manager from now on.

act for someone 1. to represent someone in an official capacity; to represent the interests of someone. □ Don't worry. I am acting for the owner. I am his real estate agent. 2. to take action when the proper person fails to take action. □ I had to act for her since she was out of town.

act full of oneself Go to full of oneself.

act high-and-mighty Go to high-and-mighty.

act in earnest Go to in earnest.

act like a cold fish Go to a cold fish.

act like oneself again Go to oneself again.

an act of faith an act or deed demonstrating religious faith; an act or deed showing trust in someone or something. □ For him to trust you with his safety was a real act of faith.

an act of God an occurrence or an event for which no human is responsible; an act of nature such as a storm, an earthquake, or a wildfire. □ Will your insurance comp-
party pay for damage caused by earthquakes and other acts of God?

**an act of war 1. Lit.** an international act of warlike violence for which war is considered a suitable response. [**To bomb a ship is an act of war.** 2. **Fig.** any hostile act between two people. ](“You just broke my stereo!” yelled John. “That’s an act of war!”)

**act out to** behave badly. (Usually used to describe young people.) [**Your son has been acting out in the classroom, and his teacher feels that professional intervention is desirable.**)

**act something out** 1. to perform in real life a role that one has imagined in a fantasy. [**When I was onstage, I was really acting an old fantasy out.**] 2. to convert one’s bad feelings into action rather than words. [**Don’t act your aggressions out on me!**] 3. to demonstrate or communicate something through gestures or action rather than words. [**Act your request out, if you can’t say it.**] 4. She had a sore throat and had to act out her request. [**She acted out her aggression.**]

**act within one’s rights** Go to *within one’s rights*. 1. to act within legal or moral limits. 2. to act within someone’s authority. 3. to act within a person’s natural abilities. 4. to act within one’s own means. 5. to act within one’s own power. 6. to act within one’s own rights. 7. to act within one’s own strength.

**Act your age!** Behave more maturely! (A rebuke for someone who is acting like an even younger child.) [**Child: Aw, come on! Let me see your book! Mary: Be quiet and act your age. Don’t be such a baby!**]

**Actions speak louder than words.** Prov. Cliché What you do is more significant than what you say. [**You keep saying that you’ll do your fair share of the housework. Remember that actions speak louder than words.**]

**adapt** someone or something to something to cause someone or something to change, adjust to, or get used to something else. [**Can’t you adapt yourself to my way of doing things?**]

**adapt something for something** to change or alter something for use with something else. [Has this furnace been adapted for natural gas?]

**adapt something from something** to derive something from something else; to create by modifying something else. [**I adapted my new musical from a novel.**]

**adapt something to something** to convert something to fit or work with something else. [**We converted our furnace to natural gas.**]

**adapt to something** to adapt or get used to someone or something. [**Please try to adapt to our routine.**]

**add fuel to the fire** and **add fuel to the flame** Fig. to make a problem worse; to say or do something that makes a bad situation worse; to make an angry person get even angrier. (Alludes to causing a flame to grow larger when fuel is added.) [**Shouting at a crying child just adds fuel to the fire.**]

**add fuel to the flame** Go to previous.

**add insult to injury** Fig. Cliché to make a bad situation worse; to hurt the feelings of a person who has already been hurt. [**First, the basement flooded, and then, to add insult to injury, a pipe burst in the kitchen.**] 1. My car barely started this morning, and to add insult to injury, I got a flat tire in the driveway.

**add something into something and add something in** 1. to introduce something into something else. [**Now, add the eggs into the mixture.**] 2. Add in some more eggs.

**add (something) on (to) something and add (something) on** 1. to extend something by providing more (of something). (This use of on is colloquial.) [**You added nearly one thousand dollars onto the total.**] 2. You added a thousand dollars to the total! [You added too much on.]

**add (something) to something** to increase the intensity or amount of something by giving more (of something) to it. [**You added too much sugar to my coffee.**]

**add something together** to sum or total two or more things. [**Add these two together and tell me what you get.**]

**add something up** 1. to sum or total a set of figures. (See also **add up to**.) 2. Please add these figures up again. [**I didn’t add up these figures!**]

**add up (to something)** 1. Lit. [for a set of figures] to equal a total. [**These figures don’t add up to the right total!**] 2. Fig. [for facts or explanations] to make sense. (Considering facts as if they were figures.) [**Your explanation just doesn’t add up!**]

**add up to the same thing** Go to *amount to the same thing*. 1. to make something equal to something else. 2. to say or do something that amounts to the same thing.

**addict someone to something** to cause someone to become habituated to something, usually alcohol or some another drug. [**The hospital personnel were thought to have addicted John to morphine.**] 1. She ended up addicting herself to the substance.

**address comments or remarks to someone** to say something directly to a specific person or group of persons. (See also **address oneself to someone**.) 1. **George addressed his remarks to everyone.**

**address oneself to someone** to speak directly to a particular person, rather than someone else. [**I did not address myself to you!**]

**address oneself to something** to turn one’s complete attention to something, such as a problem or an issue. (See also **address something to someone.** [**Please address yourself to these current, pressing problems.**]

**address someone as a specific title or attribute 1. to talk to or write to a person, using a particular title.** 2. **They addressed Abraham Lincoln as “Mr. President.”** 3. **to treat a person you are talking with in a particular manner.** 4. **You should address him as your equal.**

**address something to someone** to write someone’s name and address on an envelope, package, letter, etc. [**Gilbert addressed the envelope to Walter.**]
adhere to something 1. Lit. to stick to something. □ The stamp won’t adhere to the envelope. 2. Fig. to follow or “stick to” a particular course of action, plan, or set of beliefs. □ If you don’t adhere to the proper routine, you will confuse the other workers.

adjourn for a time to bring a meeting to a temporary close so the participants can take part in some other activity. □ We must adjourn for the day.

adjourn to some place to bring a meeting to a temporary close so the participants can move to another place (where the meeting will be started again). □ We adjourned to the sitting room.

adjust (oneself) to someone or something to make something fit something else; to alter something to make it suitable for something else. □ The builder adjusted the plans for the new house to the requirements of the fire marshal.

administer something to someone or an animal to present or apply something to a person or an animal. □ The vet administered the drug to the cow.

admire someone for something to have a positive feeling toward someone because of something. □ I really admire you for your courage.

admire to do something Rur. to want to do something, to be happy to do something. □ He asked her to the dance. She said she would admire to go with him.

admit someone (in)to some place to allow someone to enter some place. □ They refused to admit us into the theater.

admit something into something to allow something to be introduced into something else. □ You cannot admit this document into the body of evidence!

admit something to someone to confess something to someone. □ Harry admitted his error to his uncle.

admit to something to acknowledge or confess something; to acknowledge or confess to having done something. □ Max would not admit to anything.

admonish someone for something to warn or scold someone mildly for doing something. □ The nurse admonished the patient for not eating her dinner.

adopt someone as something to choose someone as something. □ The committee will adopt Jane as its candidate.

adopt something as something to take on something, such as a policy or principle, as one’s own. □ I will adopt this policy as my own.

adore someone for doing something to be in awe of someone for doing something well. □ Everyone adores Sally for her wonderful sense of humor.

adore someone for having something to be in awe of someone because of a particular trait or feature. □ Robert adores Mary for her smiling eyes.

adorn someone or something with something to decorate or ornament someone or something with something. □ They adorned the room with garlands of flowers.

adulterate something with something to dilute or taint something with some other substance. □ They adulterated the wine with some sort of drug.

advance something to someone or something (against something) to make an early payment of a sum of money promised or owed to a person or organization. □ We advanced the money to Tom against his next month’s salary.

advance to(ward) someone or something to move forward in the direction of someone or something. □ The line of people slowly advanced to the door of the theater.

advance (up)on someone or something to move toward someone or something. (Typically in military maneuvers or in team sports, such as American football. Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) □ They advanced upon the town, firing their rifles and shouting.

advanced in years Go to up in years.

*the advantage of someone and *the advantage over someone; *an advantage over someone; *the advantage over someone; *the edge on someone; *the edge over someone a position superior to that of someone else; a status wherein one controls or has superiority or authority over someone else. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; have ~) □ She’d gotten an advantage over me at the start of the competition. □ I got an edge on Sally, too, and she came in second.

advertise for someone or something to advertise one’s intention to purchase something or hire a particular type of person. □ Did you advertise for a new receptionist?

advertise something for a price to make known by public notice that something is to be sold at a particular price. □ Is this the one that was advertised for a dollar?

advertise something for something to make known by public notice, such as broadcast or print notice, that something is available for purchase or rent. □ Was this apartment advertised for rent?

advise against something to suggest that something not be done. □ Lisa always advises against hasty actions.

advise someone about someone or something to inform someone about someone or something; to counsel someone about someone or something. □ Bill needs to advise the committee about Karen’s request.

advise someone against doing something to encourage or counsel someone not to do something. □ I advised Bill against quitting his job.

advise someone of something to inform someone of specific facts or some other information. □ I hope you will advise Larry of the details of the proposal.

advise someone on someone or something to provide someone with specific advice about someone or something. □ Would you please advise me on what kind of computer to buy?

affiliate (someone or something) to someone or something and affiliate (someone or something) with someone or something to cause a person or thing to be associated with some other person or thing. □ He did not want to affiliate his club to the other clubs. □ We tried to affiliate John with other people who shared his interests.
affiliate (someone or something) with someone or something
Go to affiliate (someone or something) to someone or something.

affinity for someone or something a strong preference for something; a strong liking for something. □ Mary’s affinity for classical music accounts for her large collection of recordings.

affix one’s signature to something to sign one’s name on something. □ I affixed my signature to each of the documents.

affix something to someone or something to fasten or attach something to someone or something. □ Please affix these tags to your luggage.

afflict someone with something to burden someone with something. □ I was foolish enough to afflict myself with my young cousin for the weekend.

afflict someone with something 1. Lit. to cause someone to suffer from a disease or disability. □ The virus has afflicted everyone in the valley. 2. Fig. to burden someone with trouble. □ We were afflicted with all the worry that comes with raising a teenager.

afraid of one’s own shadow Fig. easily frightened; always frightened, timid, or suspicious. (An exaggeration.) □ After Tom was robbed, he was even afraid of his own shadow.

after a fashion in a manner that is just barely adequate; poorly. □ He thanked me—after a fashion—for my help. □ Oh, yes, I can swim, after a fashion.

After a storm comes a calm. and After the storm comes a calm. The calm after a storm. Prov. Things are often calm after an upheaval. □ Jill: I can’t believe how peaceful the office is today, when yesterday believe how peaceful the office is today, when yesterday everything was either being fired or threatening to quit. Jane: After a storm comes a calm.

after all 1. anyway; in spite of what had been decided. (Often refers to a change in plans or a reversal of plans.) □ It looks like Tom will go to law school after all. 2. recalling or considering the fact that. □ Don’t punish Tommy! After all, he’s only three years old!

after all is said and done Cliché when everything is settled or concluded; finally. □ After all is said and done, it will turn out just as I said.

after hours after the regular closing time; after any normal or regular time, such as one’s bedtime. □ John got a job sweeping floors in the library after hours.

*after someone or something 1. Lit. following someone or something. (Typically: be ~; come ~.) □ Tom comes after Mary in the line. 2. Fig. in pursuit of someone or something. (Typically: be ~; chase ~; run ~.) □ The dog is after a rabbit.

after the fact after something has happened; after something, such as a crime, has taken place. (Originally a legal phrase.) □ John is always making excuses after the fact.

after the fashion of someone or something and after the style of someone or something in the manner or style of someone or something. □ She walks down the street after the fashion of a grand lady. □ The parish church was built after the style of a French cathedral.

after the fashion of someone or something Go to after the fashion of someone or something.

After while(, crocodile). Inf. Good-bye till later.; See you later. (The word crocodile is used only for the sake of the rhyme. It is the response to See you later, alligator.) □ Mary: See you later, alligator. Bill: After while, crocodile.

After you. Please go ahead of me.; Please pass through ahead of me. □ Bob stepped back and made a motion with his hand indicating that Mary should go first. “After you,” smiled Bob.

again and again repeatedly; again and even more [times]. □ He knocked on the door again and again until I finally answered.

Again(, please). Say it one more time, please. □ Tom: I need some money. I’ll pay you back. Bill (pretending not to hear): Again, please. Tom: I said I need some money: How many times do I have to say it?

against all odds despite very low probability; in a most unlikely way. □ Against all odds, she managed to win the trophy.

*against someone or something 1. in opposition to someone or something; in competition with someone or something. (Typically: be ~; run ~; stand ~.) □ I am against everything you stand for. □ She ran against me in the election. 2. to the disadvantage of someone or something; in opposition to someone or something. (Typically: be ~; go ~; run ~; turn ~.) □ When did the trial go against us?

against someone’s will without a person’s consent or agreement. □ You cannot force me to come with you against my will!

against the clock Fig. in a race with time; in a great hurry to get something done before a particular time. □ In a race against the clock, they rushed the accident victim to the hospital.

*against the grain 1. Lit. across the alignment of the fibers of a piece of wood. (Typically: be ~; cut ~; go ~; run ~; saw ~.) □ You saved it wrong. You saved against the grain when you should have cut with grain. □ You went against the grain and made a mess of your sanding. 2. Fig. running counter to one’s feelings or ideas. (Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ The idea of my actually taking something that is not mine goes against the grain.

Age before beauty. A jocular and slightly rude way of encouraging someone to go ahead of oneself; a comical, teasing, and slightly grudging way of indicating that someone else should or can go first. □ “No, no. Please, you take the next available seat,” smiled Tom. “Age before beauty, you know.”

The age of miracles is past. Prov. Miracles do not happen nowadays. □ I’m afraid this old vacuum cleaner can’t be fixed. The age of miracles is past.

age out (of something) [for an adult] to grow [mentally or in years] out of certain behavior or out of a group or classification that is based on age. (Jargon.) □ Most of them tend to age out at about 35.

agitrate against someone or something to stir up active dissatisfaction about someone or something. □ The students were agitating against the closing of the old cafeteria.
agitator for something to stir up active support for something. □ The committee agitated for a change, but nothing was done.

agonize (oneself) over someone or something to fret or anguish about someone or something. □ Now, now, don't agonize yourself over the situation. Time cures all.

agree to disagree Cliché [for two or more parties] to calmly agree not to come to an agreement in a dispute. □ We have accomplished nothing except that we agree to disagree.

agree to something to consent to something; to allow something to be done; to approve something. □ If you don't agree to my leaving early, I'll just do it anyway.

agree (upon) someone or something to agree to the choice of someone or something. □ Let's try to agree upon a date.

agree with someone 1. Lit. to hold the same opinion or judgment as someone else. □ I simply do not agree with you! 2. Fig. [for something] to be acceptable to someone as food. (Usually negative, referring to the disagreeable consequences of eating bad food.) □ Onions do not agree with me.

agree (with someone) (about someone or something) and agree (with someone) [(upon) someone or something] [for two or more parties] to agree with one another about the facts concerning someone or something. □ I agree with you about Judy; she is brilliant. □ He agreed with Sam upon a time for the meeting.

agree with something 1. Fig. [for something] to look good or go well with something else. □ This dress does not agree with these shoes, does it? 2. Fig. [for something] to be in accord with something else. □ Your analysis agrees with mine.

agree (with something) (in something) [for grammatical features] to match or go together with other grammatical features. □ The subject and the verb agree in number.

(Ah) shucks! and (Ah) shoot! Rur. Darn! (A mild oath.) □ Ah, shucks! I forgot to call Grandma. □ Tom: We can't get chocolate ice cream. The store's all out. Jane: Shucks. □ Ah, shoot! I missed my favorite TV show.

*ahead of one's time Fig. having ideas or attitudes that are too advanced to be acceptable in the present. (Typically: be ~; think ~.) □ Sue's grandmother was ahead of her time in wanting to study medicine.

*ahead of schedule Fig. having done something before the time given on a schedule or before the expected time. (Typically: be ~; finish ~.) □ I want to be able to finish the job ahead of schedule.

*ahead of someone or something farther forward than someone or something. (Typically: be ~; get ~; keep ~; remain ~; stay ~.) □ I managed to get ahead of everyone else in line and get tickets for everyone. □ Try to stay ahead of that big truck we just passed.

*ahead of something ahead or on target with one's work schedule or responsibilities. (Typically: be ~; get ~; keep ~; remain ~; stay ~.) □ By the end of the week, I usually can get ahead of my duties, but not by much. □ Jerry can't seem to get ahead of his work.

*ahead of the game being early; having an advantage in a competitive situation; having done more than necessary. (Typically: be ~; get ~; keep ~; remain ~; stay ~.) □ Without the full cooperation of my office staff, I find it hard to stay ahead of the game. □ If being ahead of the game is important to you and to your business, lease a mobile phone from us.

*ahead of time beforehand; before the announced time. (Typically: arrive ~; get there ~; leave ~; show up ~.) □ If you show up ahead of time, you will have to wait. □ Be there ahead of time if you want to get a good seat.

*(a)hold of someone or something 1. Lit. [get/have] a grasp of someone or something. (Typically: get ~; have ~; take ~.) □ I got hold of him and dragged him back from the edge just in time. □ I took ahold of his hand and held on tight. 2. Fig. [get/have] contact with someone or something; [get/have] the location of someone or something. (Typically: get ~.) □ I got hold of a replacement part in Peoria. They are shipping it to us today. □ Try to get ahold of a plumber, would you? 3. Fig. [get/have] contact with someone or a group on the telephone. (Typically: get ~.) □ I got hold of her just as she was going out the door. □ I was able to ahold of the factory and cancel the order.

aid and abet someone Cliché to help someone; to incite someone to do something, possibly something that is wrong. (Originally a legal phrase.) □ He was scolded for aiding and abetting the boys who were fighting.

aid someone in doing something to help someone do something. □ He aided her in fixing up the back bedroom.

aid someone in something to help someone in some kind of trouble. □ Will you aid me in this difficulty?

aim for something and aim at something to strive toward a particular goal; to direct oneself or one's energies toward something. □ You should aim for success. □ Aim at getting this done on time.

aim for the sky Go to reach for the sky.

Aim for the stars! and Reach for the stars! Aspire to something! Set one's goals high! □ Aim for the stars, son! Don't settle for second best. □ Set your sights high. Reach for the stars!

aim something at someone or something to point or direct something at someone or something. □ Wally aimed the hose at Sarah and tried to soak her.

aim to do something Rur. to intend to do something. □ I didn't aim to hurt your feelings, sugar, you know I didn't.

ain't fittin' to roll with a pig Rur. is or are filthy or uncouth. □ After a day's work in the hot sun, Clyde ain't fittin' to roll with a pig.

ain't got a grain of sense and ain't got a lick of sense Rur. is or are foolish. □ Mary spends money like there's no tomorrow. She sure ain't got a grain of sense. □ I wouldn't trust Jim to take care of my kids. He ain't got a lick of sense.

ain't got a lick of sense Go to previous.

ain't got the brains God gave a squirrel and ain't got the sense God gave geese Rur. is or are very foolish. □ There goes John, running around barefooted in the snow. He ain't got the brains God gave a squirrel. □ No use trying to explain anything to Jane. She ain't got the sense God gave geese.
ain't got the sense God gave geese Go to previous.

Ain't it the truth? Rur. or jocular That is true.; Isn't that true? (Used to agree with a statement someone has made.) ∎ Jane: I swear, life can be a trial sometimes. Bill: Yes, Lordy. Ain't it the truth?

ain't particular 1. Rur. doesn't or don't care. ∎ Tom: Would you rather have ice cream or cheese on your apple pie? Mary: Whatever you're having. I ain't particular.

2. Rur. doesn't or don't have a preference. ∎ Jane ain't particular. She'll use any old brand of soap.

*the air Fig. a dismissal. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) ∎ Whenever I get around Tom, I end up getting the air.

air one's belly Fig. Sl. to empty one's stomach; to vomit.

I had a bad case of food poisoning and was airin' my belly for most of the night.

air one's dirty linen in public and wash one's dirty linen in public Fig. to discuss private or embarrassing matters in public, especially when quarreling. (This linen refers to sheets and tablecloths or other soiled clothes.) ∎ They are arguing again. Why must they always air their dirty linen in public? ∎ She will talk to anyone about her problems. Why does she wash her dirty linen in public?

air one's grievances Fig. to complain; to make a public complaint. ∎ I know how you feel, John, but it isn't necessary to air your grievances over and over.

air one's lungs 1. Rur. to swear. ∎ Don't pay those old cowboys no mind. They're just airin' the lungs. ∎ I could tell John was working on his old car 'cause I could hear him out in the garage, airin' his lungs. 2. Rur. to talk, gossip, or brag. ∎ The ladies just love to air their lungs whenever they get together.

air one's paunch Sl. to vomit. ∎ He got so nauseous that he spent much of the night airin' his paunch.

air one's pores Sl. to undress oneself; to become naked. ∎ Me and Wilbur, that's my brother, both fell in the creek and had to air our pores a while so our pants could dry out.

air out [for something] to remain in the fresh air and become fresher. ∎ The pillows are airing out on the balcony.

air something out to freshen something up by placing it in the open air; to freshen a room by letting outside air move through it. ∎ I'll have to air out the car. Someone has been smoking in it.

alert someone to something to make someone aware of trouble or potential trouble. ∎ The auditors alerted us to some problems with the accounts.

alienate someone from someone or something to cause someone to feel negative about someone or something. ∎ The teacher alienated the entire class from the subject of calculus.

align from something to get off something; to get down off something. ∎ Almost three hundred people alighted from the plane.

align (up)on someone or something to land on something; [for a bird or other flying animal] to come to rest on something. (Upon is more formal than on.) ∎ A small bird alighted on the branch directly over my head. ∎ It alighted upon the branch and began to sing.

align oneself with someone or something Fig. to bring oneself into agreement with someone or someone's ideas; to associate oneself with someone or someone's cause. ∎ She sought to align herself with the older members.

align something with something to adjust, straighten, or arrange something in reference to something else. ∎ Try to align this piece with the one next to it.

*allike as (two) peas in a pod very similar. (Compare this with like (two) peas in a pod. *Also: as ~.) ∎ These two books are as alike as peas in a pod.

alive and kicking and alive and well Fig. well and healthy. ∎ Jane: How is Bill since his illness last month? Mary: Oh; he's alive and kicking. ∎ The last time I saw Tom, he was alive and well.

alive and well Go to previous.

alive with people or things Fig. covered with, filled with, or active with people or creatures. ∎ Look! Ants everywhere. The floor is alive with ants!

all agog surprised and amazed. ∎ He sat there, all agog, as the master of ceremonies read his name as the winner of first prize.

all and sundry Cliché everyone; one and all. ∎ Cold drinks were served to all and sundry.

all around Robin Hood's barn going somewhere by an indirect route; going way out of the way [to get somewhere]; by a long and circuitous route. ∎ We had to go all around Robin Hood's barn to get to the little town.

all at once 1. Lit. all at the same time. ∎ The entire group spoke all at once. 2. Fig. suddenly. ∎ All at once the little girl fell out of her chair.

(all) at sea (about something) Fig. to be confused; to be lost and bewildered. (Alludes to being lost at sea.) ∎ When it comes to higher math, John is totally at sea.

*all) balled up troubled; confused; in a mess. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) ∎ John is all balled up because his car was stolen.

(all) beer and skittles all fun and pleasure; easy and pleasant. (Skittles is the game of ninepins, a game similar to bowling. Fixed phrase.) ∎ For Sam, college was beer and skittles. He wasted a lot of time and money.

all better (now) improved or cured. (Juvenile.) ∎ I fell off my tricycle and bumped my knee. Mommy kissed it, and it's all better now.

all by one's lonesome Rur. all alone; by oneself. ∎ Mary's folks went out and left her all by her lonesome.

All cats are gray in the dark. Prov. When in the dark, appearances are meaningless, since everything is hard to see or unseen. ∎ I don't care if my date is ugly. All cats are gray in the dark.

all day long throughout the day; during the entire day. ∎ We waited for you at the station all day long.

*all) dolled up Fig. dressed up and well-groomed. (Usually used of females. *Typically: be ~; get ~.) ∎ I have to get all dolled up for the dance tonight.

*all) dressed up dressed in one's best clothes; dressed formally. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; get someone ~.) ∎ I really hate to get all dressed up just to go somewhere to eat.
all dressed up and nowhere to go and all dressed up with nowhere to go completely ready for something that has been postponed or has failed to materialize. (May be literal or figurative.) □ Tom: I just heard that your company is closed today. Fred: Gee, I’m all dressed up and nowhere to go. □ The space shot was cancelled, so all the astronauts are all dressed up with nowhere to go.

all ears Fig. listening eagerly and carefully. □ Well, hurry up and tell me. I’m all ears.

all eyes and ears Fig. listening and watching eagerly and carefully. □ Be careful what you say. The children are all eyes and ears. □ Tell us quick. We are all eyes and ears!

(all) for someone or something Fig. (completely) in favor of someone or something; supporting someone or something. □ I’m all for your candidacy. □ I’m for the incumbent in the upcoming election.

(all) for the best good in spite of the way it seems; better than you think or than it appears to be. (Often said when someone dies after a painful illness.) □ I’m very sorry to hear of the death of your aunt. Perhaps it’s for the best. □ I didn’t get into the college I wanted, but I couldn’t afford it anyway. It’s probably all for the best.

all gone used up; finished; over with. □ Jelly is all gone.

all good things must (come to an) end. Prov. All experiences, even pleasant ones, eventually end. □ It’s time to leave the party, honey. All good things must end. □ We’ve had a lovely visit, but all good things must come to an end.

all hell broke loose all sorts of wild or terrible things happened. □ When the boss left early for the weekend, all hell broke loose.

*all in good time and all in good time; all in good time; in good time; soon. (This phrase is used to encourage people to be patient and wait quietly.) □ When will the baby be born? All in good time. □ Mary: I’m starved! When will Bill get here with the pizza? Tom: All in good time, Mary, all in good time.

(all) in one breath Fig. spoken very rapidly, usually while one is very excited. □ Ann said all in one breath, “Hurry, quick! The parade is coming!” □ Jane was in a play, and she was so excited that she said her whole speech in one breath.

all in one piece Fig. safely; without damage. □ Her son came home from school all in one piece, even though he had been in a fight. □ The package was handled carelessly, but the vase inside arrived all in one piece.

(all) in the family restricted to one’s own family, as with private or embarrassing information. □ Don’t tell anyone else. Please keep it all in the family. □ He only told his brother because he wanted it to remain in the family.

(all) joking aside and (all) kidding aside being serious for a moment; in all seriousness. □ I know I laugh at him but, joking aside, he’s a very clever scientist. □ I know I threatened to leave and go round the world, but, joking aside, I do need a vacation.

(all) kidding aside Go to previous.

*all kinds of someone or something Fig. a great number of people or things; a great amount of something, especially money. (*Typically: be ~; have ~.) □ There were all kinds of people there, probably thousands. □ The Smith family has all kinds of money.

all manner of someone or something Fig. all types of people or things. □ We saw all manner of people there. They came from every country in the world. □ They were selling all manner of things in the country store.

all my eye (and Betty Martin) nonsense; not true. □ Jane is always talking about her wonderful childhood, but it’s all my eye. □ He pretends to have great plans, but they’re all my eye and Betty Martin.

all night long throughout the whole night. □ I couldn’t sleep all night long. □ John was sick all night long.

all oak and iron bound and *sound as a barrel Rur. in good health; feeling good. (*Also: as ~.) □ Tom: How are you today? Bill: All oak and iron bound, thank you. □ Jane made a wonderful recovery from her surgery, and now she’s as sound as a barrel.

all of a size Rur. all of the same size. □ I tried to pick out the biggest tomato, but they were pretty much all of a size.

*all of the same size and (all) of the same size all of the same size. □ The houses in that neighborhood are all of a size.

all of a sudden suddenly. □ All of a sudden lightning struck the tree we were sitting under. □ I felt a sharp pain in my side all of a sudden.

all or nothing 1. Lit. everything or nothing at all. □ Sally would not accept only part of the money. She wanted all or nothing. □ I can’t bargain over trifles. I will have to have all or nothing. 2. Fig. [the best] time to choose to do something or not to do it. □ It was all or nothing. Tim had to jump off the truck or risk drowning when the truck went into the water. □ Jane stood at the door of the airplane and...
all over creation and all over hell and half of Georgia; all over hell and gone; to hell and gone Rur. everywhere. ☐ Little Billy had his toys spread out all over creation. It took forever to clean up after him. ☐ They're looking all over creation, trying to find the missing man. ☐ Tom has traveled all over hell and half of Georgia trying to find the man who done him wrong.

all over hell and gone Go to previous.

all over hell and half of Georgia Go to all over creation.

*all over (some place) found in every place; available in all locations. (*Typically: be ~; spread ~.) ☐ The window shattered and shards of glass were all over the place. ☐ There are ants all over the cake!

all over the earth and all over the world Fig. everywhere. ☐ Gravity acts the same all over the earth. ☐ Human nature is the same all over the world.

all over the world Go to previous.

all over town 1. Lit. in many places in town. ☐ Our dog got loose and ran all over town. ☐ Jane looked all over town for a dress to wear to the party. 2. Fig. known to many; widely known. ☐ Now keep this a secret. I don't want it all over town. ☐ In a short time the secret was known all over town.

all right 1. an indication of agreement or acquiescence. (Often pronounced aright in familiar conversation.) ☐ Father: Do it now, before you forget. Bill: All right. ☐ Tom: Please remember to bring me back a pizza. Sally: All right, but I get some of it. Please remember to bring me back a pizza. Sally: All right, but I get some of it. 2. Inf. a shout of agreement or encouragement. (Usually All right!) ☐ Alice: Come on, let's give Sally some encouragement. Fred: All right, Sally! Keep it up! You can do it! ☐ “That’s the way to go! All right!” shouted various members of the audience. 3. well, good, or okay, but not excellent. (This phrase has all the uses that okay has.) ☐ I was a little sick, but now I’m all right. ☐ His work is all right, but nothing to brag about. ☐ All right, it’s time to go. 4. beyond a doubt; as the evidence shows. ☐ The dog’s dead all right. It hasn’t moved at all. ☐ The train’s late all right. There must be a problem up the line.

All right for you! That’s the end of being friendly with you! That’s the last chance for you! (Usually said by a child who is angry with a playmate.) ☐ All right for you, John. See if I ever play with you again. ☐ All right for you! I’m telling your mother what you did.

all right with someone agreeable to someone. ☐ If you want to ruin your life and marry Tom, it’s all right with me. ☐ I’ll see if using the car is all right with my father.

All righty. Inf. All right.; OK. ☐ Tom: Let’s go to the state fair. Bill: All righty, let’s do that. ☐ Everybody ready? All righty, then, let’s get started.

All right(y) already! Inf. an impatient way of indicating agreement or acquiescence. ☐ Alice: All right already! Stop pushing me! Mary: I didn’t do anything! ☐ Bill: Come on! Get over here! Bob: All righty already! Don’t rush me!

All roads lead to Rome. Prov. There are many different routes to the same goal. ☐ Mary was criticizing the way that Jane was planting the flowers. John said, “Never mind, Mary, all roads lead to Rome.” ☐ Some people learn by doing. Others have to be taught. In the long run, all roads lead to Rome.

All’s fair in love and war. Prov. Cliché In some situations, such as when you are in love or waging war, you are allowed to be deceitful in order to get what you want. (Often said as an excuse for deception.) ☐ I cheated on the entrance exam, but I really want to get into that school, and all’s fair in love and war. ☐ To get Judy to go out with him, Bob lied and told her that her boyfriend was seeing another woman. All’s fair in love and war.

All’s well that ends well. Prov. Cliché An event that has a good ending is good even if some things went wrong along the way. (This is the name of a play by Shakespeare.) ☐ I’m glad you finally got here, even though your car had a flat tire on the way. Oh, well. All’s well that ends well. ☐ The gown was late for the wedding, but everything worked out all right. All’s well that ends well.

*(all) set (to do something) prepared or ready to do something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) ☐ Are you set to cook the steak? ☐ Yes, the fire is ready, and I’m all set to start.

*all shook up Sl. excited; disturbed and upset. (See also shake up.) ☐ That shiny car of Jim’s is all show and no go. ☐ He’s mighty handsome, but I hear he’s all show and no go.

(all) skin and bones Go to nothing but skin and bones.

*all spruced up freshened up; tidied up; cleaned up. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; get someone or something ~.) ☐ Let’s get the yard all spruced up for spring.

all sweetness and light Cliché very kind, innocent, and helpful. ☐ She was mad at first, but after a while, she was all sweetness and light. ☐ At the reception, the whole family was all sweetness and light, but they argued and fought after the guests left.

All systems (are) go. Cliché Everything is ready. (Originally said when preparing to launch a rocket.) ☐ The rocket is ready to blast-off—all systems are go. ☐ Tom: Are you guys ready to start playing? Bill: Sure, Tom, all systems go.

all talk (and no action) talking often about doing something, but never actually doing it. ☐ The car needs washing, but Bill is all talk and no action on this matter. ☐ Bill keeps saying he’ll get a job soon, but he’s all talk and no action. ☐ Bill won’t do it. He’s just all talk.

All that glistens is not gold. Go to next.

All that glistens is not gold. and All that glistens is not gold. Prov. Just because something looks attractive does not mean it is genuine or valuable. (Often said as a warning.) ☐ Hollywood may look like an exciting place to live, but I don’t think you should move there. All that glitters is not gold. ☐ I know Susie is popular and pretty, but don’t be fooled by that. All that glitters is not gold.

All the best to someone. Go to Give my best to someone.

all the livelong day all day long. ☐ Well, of course you get to feeling stiff, sitting in front of a computer all the livelong day. ☐ I’d go crazy if I had to stay at home all the livelong day.
all the marbles Fig. all the winnings, spoils, or rewards. (*Typically: end up with ~; get ~; win ~; give someone ~.) □ Somehow Fred always seems to end up with all the marbles. I don’t think he plays fair.

all the more reason for doing something and all the more reason to do something with even better reason or cause for doing something. (Can be included in a number of grammatical constructions.) □ Bill: I don’t do well in calculus because I don’t like the stuff. Father: All the more reason for working harder at it. □ Bob: I’m tired of painting this fence. It’s so old it’s rotting! Sally: All the more reason to paint it.

all the rage Fig. in current fashion; being a current fad. □ A new dance called the “flossy disc” is all the rage. □ Wearing a rope instead of a belt was all the rage in those days.

all the same and just the same nevertheless; anyhow. □ They were told not to bring presents, but they brought them all the same. □ His parents told him to stay home, but John went out just the same.

all the same (to someone) and just the same (to someone) of no consequence to someone—one way or the other; [of a choice] immaterial to someone. □ It’s all the same to me whether we win or lose. □ If it’s just the same to you, I’d rather walk than ride. □ If it’s all the same, I’d rather you didn’t smoke.

all the time 1. Lit. throughout a specific period of time. □ Bill was stealing money for the last two years, and Tom knew it all the time. □ All the time through December and January, Jane held down two jobs. 2. Fig. at all times; continuously. □ Your blood keeps flowing all the time. □ That electric motor runs all the time. 3. Fig. repeatedly; habitually. □ She keeps a handkerchief in her hand all the time. □ He whistles all the time. It drives me crazy.

all the way 1. Lit. from the beginning to the end; the entire distance, from start to finish. □ The ladder reaches all the way to the top of the house. □ I walked all the way home. 2. Fig. with everything on it, as with a hamburger with pickles, onion, catsup, mustard, lettuce, etc. □ I’d like one double cheeseburger—all the way. □ Make mine all the way. 3. Sl. [progressing] up to and including sexual intercourse. □ They went all the way on their date last night.

all the way live Sl. very exciting; excellent. □ Man, this place is all the way live. □ Oh, Tiffany is just like, all the way live!

all there Fig. alert, aware, and mentally sound. (Usually negative.) □ After talking with Larry today, I get the feeling that he’s not quite all there. □ You do such foolish things sometimes! I wonder if you’re all there.

all things being equal Go to other things being equal.

All things must pass. and All things will pass. Fig. Everything comes to an end eventually. □ You’ll get over this setback. All things must pass.

all things to all men and all things to all people Fig. [for someone or something] liked or used by all people; [for someone or something] everything that is wanted by all people. □ You simply can’t be all things to all people. □ The candidate set out to be all things to all men and came off looking very wishy-washy.
allocate something to someone or something and allocate something between someone or something; allocate something among someone or something to give or assign something to someone or something. (Between with two, among with three or more.) ☐ The committee allocated the surplus cheese to the elderly people in the community. ☐ David allocated the money among all the members. ☐ He allocated the work between Fred and George. ☐ We had to allocate the money between the philanthropy and social committees.

allow something to someone or something to give or assign something to someone or something. ☐ We will allot a share of the proceeds to charity. ☐ I allotted a small portion of the work to Fred.

*an all-out effort a very good and thorough effort. (*Typically: begin ~; have ~; make ~; start ~.) ☐ We need to make an all-out effort to get this job done on time. ☐ The government began an all-out effort to reduce the federal budget.

all-out war total war, as opposed to limited military actions or threats of war. ☐ We are now concerned about all-out war in the Middle East. ☐ Threats of all-out war caused many tourists to leave the country immediately.

allow for someone or something 1. to plan on having enough of something (such as food, space, etc.) for someone. ☐ Mary is bringing Bill on the picnic, so be sure to allow for him when buying the food. ☐ Allow for an extra person when setting the table tonight. 2. to plan on the possibility of something. ☐ Allow for a few rainy days on your vacation. ☐ Be sure to allow for future growth when you plant the rosebushes.

Allow me. and Permit me. Please let me help you. (Typically said by someone politely assisting another person, as by opening a door or providing some personal service. In Allow me, the stress is usually on me. In Permit me, the stress is usually on -mit.) ☐ Tom and Jane approached the door. “Allow me,” said Tom, grabbing the doorknob. ☐ “Permit me,” said Fred, pulling out a gold-plated lighter and lighting Jane’s cigarette.

allow some elbow room Go to some elbow room.

allow someone or something in1 Go to next.

allow someone or something into a place and allow someone or something in1 to permit someone or something to enter some place. ☐ Will they allow you in the restaurant without a tie? ☐ They won’t allow in too many visitors.

allow someone up (from something) to permit someone to arise or get up. (Fixed phrase.) ☐ He knocked Peter down and would not allow him up from the ground. ☐ The doctor won’t allow you up!

allow something for something 1. to allocate a share or a suitable amount of something, such as time, money, space, etc., for some activity or goal. ☐ I allowed only an hour for lunch. ☐ They did not allow enough money for their expenditures this month. 2. to give consideration to circumstances or contingencies. ☐ We allowed room for expansion when we designed the building. ☐ Allowing for his youth and lack of experience, I forgave him completely for his oversight.

alloy something with something 1. Lit. to combine one molten metal into another molten metal. ☐ Is it possible to alloy copper with nickel? ☐ The copper has been alloyed with nickel. 2. Fig. to combine one quality or attribute with another. ☐ She alloyed her courage with a helping of wisdom. ☐ Her courage has been alloyed with wisdom.

allude to someone or something to refer to someone or something; to make an implication about someone or something. ☐ I did not mean to allude to someone you disliked so much. ☐ I alluded to the accident only once.

ally oneself to someone or something to unite or affiliate oneself with someone or something. ☐ She sought to ally herself to the older members. ☐ Jane allied herself to the teacher almost immediately.

ally (oneself) (with someone) (against someone or something) to unite with someone in opposition to someone or something. ☐ Sally allied herself with John against the committee. ☐ We allied with the older ones against the younger ones. ☐ They allied themselves against the attackers.

the almighty dollar Fig. the U.S. dollar, or the acquisition of money, when viewed as more important than anything else. ☐ Bill was a slave to the almighty dollar. ☐ It’s the almighty dollar that drives Wall Street thinking.

(almost) jump out of one’s skin and nearly jump out of one’s skin Fig. to react strongly to shock or surprise. ☐ Oh! You really scared me. I nearly jumped out of my skin. ☐ Bill was so startled he almost jumped out of his skin.

almost lost it Fig. to nearly lose one’s temper, composure, or control, as out of anger. ☐ I was so mad, I almost lost it. ☐ When he saw the dent in his fender, he almost lost it.

(a)long about a certain time near a particular time. ☐ We arrived in town long about midnight and went right to the hotel. ☐ Along about his thirteenth birthday, Tom decided he was old enough to leave home.

along in years Go to up in years.

along similar lines Go to along those lines.

along these lines Go to next.

along those lines and along these lines; along similar lines similarly; in nearly the same way. ☐ We will deal with the other students along similar lines.

along with someone or something in addition to someone or something; together with someone or something. ☐ Jane went to the mall along with David. ☐ I ate some chocolates along with some fruit.

alongside (of) someone or something as compared with a person or a thing. (The things being compared need not be beside one another. Of is normally used before pronouns.) ☐ Our car looks quite small alongside of theirs. ☐ My power of concentration is quite limited alongside of yours.

*aloof from someone or something being remote or distant from someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; keep ~; remain ~; stay ~.) ☐ She tends to keep aloof from the rest of us. ☐ Ken stays aloof from other committee members between meetings.

alpha and omega both the beginning and the end; the essentials, from the beginning to the end; everything, from the beginning to the end. ☐ He was forced to learn the alpha and omega of corporate law in order to even talk to the lawyers. ☐ He loved her deeply. She was his alpha and omega.
alphabet soup

initialisms and acronyms, especially when used excessively. □ The names of these government agencies are just alphabet soup. □ Just look at the telephone book! You can’t find anything because it’s filled with alphabet soup.

also-ran someone of no significance. (From horse racing, used of a horse that finishes a race but that does not finish among the money winners.) □ Oh, he’s just another also-ran. □ Ignore the also-rans.

alternate between someone and someone else and alternate between something and something else to choose or change between two persons or things alternately. □ The job will alternate between Gil and Ed. □ The maid will alternate between the first floor and the second floor.

alternate with something 1. [for someone] to serve as a substitute for someone. □ I alternated with Fred as the lead in the school play. □ They asked Harry to alternate with Ron on the team. 2. [for something] to appear repetitively and regularly in a sequence with something else. (For instance, A alternates with B in the sequence ABABAB.) □ In this design the straight lines alternate with the circles. □ The red dots alternate with the blue ones.

always chasing rainbows tending to look for something (more) exciting and (more) rewarding but without realistic expectations. □ He can’t seem to settle down and enjoy life. He’s always chasing rainbows.

Am I glad to see you! I am very glad to see you! (Not a question. There is a stress on I and another on you.) □ Bill: Well, I finally got here! John: Wow! Am I glad to see you! □ Tom (as Bill opens the door): Here I am, Bill. What’s wrong? Bill: Boy, am I glad to see you! I need your help right now.

Am I my brother’s keeper? To go to I am not my brother’s keeper.


amalgamate something with something to unite something with something else; to merge two things. □ We will amalgamate this company with another firm. □ How long has our local been amalgamated with the national union?

amalgamate with something to join with something; to merge with something. □ Our group decided to amalgamate with another group. □ The groups did not amalgamate after all.

amble along (something) to walk along slowly and casually somewhere. □ They ambled along the path. □ I was just ambling along, minding my own business, when I tripped.

ambulance chaser a lawyer who hurries to the scene of an accident to try to get business from injured persons. □ The insurance companies are cracking down on ambulance chasers.

*American as apple pie Cliché quintessentially American. (*Also: as ~.) □ A small house with a white picket fence is supposed to be as American as apple pie.

amount to much to be as good as something; to be any good. □ His fine plans don’t amount to much, since he won’t

work for them. (Usually negative.) □ She’s a nice girl, but she’ll never amount to much.

amount to something 1. Lit. [for someone or something] to become worthwhile or successful. □ I hope Charles amounts to something some day. □ I doubt that this business will ever amount to anything really profitable. 2. Fig. [for something] to be the equivalent of something. □ Why, doing this amounts to cheating! □ Your comments amount to treason. 3. and amount (up) to something [for a sum of money] to increase [to a large amount]. □ Is that everything you want to buy? That amounts to twenty dollars. □ These charges amount up to a lot.

amount to the same thing and come to the same thing; add up to the same thing Fig. to be the same [as something]. □ Borrowing can be the same as stealing. If the owner does not know what you have borrowed, it amounts to the same thing. □ With cars—whether they’re red or blue—it comes to the same thing.

amount (up) to something Go to amount to something.

amuse someone with something to entertain or interest someone with something. □ Try to amuse the child with this little toy. □ She was able to amuse herself with the puzzle for a while.

ancient history Fig. someone or something from so long ago as to be completely forgotten or no longer important, as a former relationship. □ Bob? I never think about Bob anymore. He’s ancient history. □ His interest in joining the army is now ancient history.

and all that jazz and all that stuff; and all that nonsense. □ I need some glue, paper, string, and all that jazz to make this little toy. □ She told me I was selfish, hateful, rude, ugly, and all that jazz.

and change plus a few cents; plus a few hundredths. (Used in citing a price or other decimal figure to indicate an additional fraction of a full unit.) □ This one only costs ten bucks and change. □ The New York Stock Exchange was up seven points and change for the third broken record this week.

And how! Inf. I agree! □ I am really excited you are here. □ And how? □ Bill: I am pleased you are here. Bob: Me, too! And how?

and so forth and and so on with additional related or similar things mentioned (but not specified). □ She told me everything about her kids and so forth. □ I heard about problems at work and so forth. □ He told me about all his health problems, including his arthritis and so on. □ I need some help getting ready for dinner, setting the table, and so on.

and so on Go to and so forth.

and something to spare and with something to spare Fig. with extra left over; with more than is needed. □ I had as much flour as I needed with some to spare. □ Fred said he should have enough cash to last the week—with money to spare.

and that’s a fact Fig. and that’s true. (Used to emphasize a statement.) □ John ain’t no friend of mine, and that’s a fact. □ I’ll be glad when this day is over, and that’s a fact.

And that’s that. That is final and nothing more needs to be said. □ I refuse to go with you and that’s that!
and the like and other similar things. □ Whenever we go on a picnic, we take potato chips, hot dogs, soda pop, and the like. □ I’m very tired of being yelled at, pushed around, and the like.

and them Go to and those.

and then some and even more; and more than has been mentioned. □ John is going to have to run like a deer and then some to win this race. □ The cook put the amount of salt called for into the soup and then some.

and this and that and more; and other miscellaneous things. □ Mam sent me some pillowcases, some sheets, a couple of blankets, and this and that. □ The repairman tightened some screws, fiddled with some bolts, and this and that.

and those and and them Rur. and some other people; and other friends or family members. □ But if we invite Jill, Mary and them will want to come. □ Jim and those was sayin’ nasty things about me.

and what have you and more things; and other various things. □ Their garage is full of bikes, sleds, old boots, and what have you. □ The merchant sells writing paper, pens, string, and what have you.


angle for something 1. Lit. to fish for something, as with a fishhook and line. □ Fred was angling for a big bass. □ I am angling for whatever I can catch. 2. Fig. to scheme or plan to get something; to “fish” for something. □ She is just angling for a larger settlement from her former employer. □ Are you angling for a raise in pay?

angle off (to)ward something to turn or move toward something at an angle. □ The road angles off to the right. □ The sailboat angled off toward the direction the wind was blowing.

angry enough to chew nails Go to mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets).

annex something to something [for a governmental body of a town or city] to attach a parcel of land onto an existing parcel of land through legal proceedings. □ The village annexed some adjacent land to itself. □ The adjoining lot was annexed to the site to allow for a bigger building.

annex to something [for the owner of a parcel of land] to have land attached to an adjacent town or city. □ Our community doesn’t want to annex to Adamsville. □ The town voted to annex to the neighboring city of Smithton.

announce (one’s support) for someone or something to declare one’s political support for someone or something. □ The senator announced for the Supreme Court nominee. □ Our club announced for the incumbent candidate.

announce something to someone to tell something publicly to someone. □ The president announced his nominee for attorney general to the media. □ When was the news announced to the public?

anoint someone with something to pour or rub oil on a person’s head as an honor or blessing; to put a liquid onto oneself. (Mostly in biblical references.) □ They anointed the king with oil and praised him greatly. □ He anointed himself with a menthol rub that was meant to help his cold symptoms.

another country heard from Fig. yet another person adds to the conversation. Used when someone joins a discussion other people are having, especially unexpectedly. (Used sarcastically, implying that the new speaker is not welcome in the discussion.) □ Alan: You ought to take a vacation tomorrow. You really look tired. Fred: I am not tired and I don’t need a vacation. Jane: But you do seem awfully short-tempered. Fred: Well, well, another country heard from! □ Brother: Let’s go to the movies. Father: I’m too busy to drive you to the movies. Sister: I want to go to the movies, too. Let’s go to the movies! Father: Oh, splendid. Another country heard from.

(another) nail in someone’s or something’s coffin Fig. something that will harm or destroy someone or something. (Alludes to the sealing of a coffin with nails.) □ Every word of criticism that Bob said about the boss was another nail in his coffin. □ Losing their biggest customer was the final nail in the company’s coffin.

another pair of eyes and a fresh pair of eyes Fig. another person to examine something closely in addition to anyone previously. □ As soon as we can get a fresh pair of eyes on this manuscript, we will find the last of the typos.

answer back (to someone) and answer someone back to talk back (to someone); to argue (with someone). (Fixed phrase.) □ I wish you wouldn’t answer back to me that way. □ Please don’t answer me back like that! □ Don’t answer back or I’ll ground you for a week!

answer for someone 1. Lit. to speak for another person. □ I can’t answer for Chuck, but I do have my own opinion. □ I will answer for my friend in his absence. 2. Fig. to vouch for someone; to tell of the goodness of someone’s character. □ Mr. Jones, who had known the girl all her life, answered for her. He knew she was innocent. □ I will answer for Ted. He could not hurt a flea.

answer for someone or something Fig. to explain or justify the actions of someone or some act; to take responsibility or blame for someone or something. □ You will have to answer for your children’s bad behavior. □ I will answer only for my own misdeeds.

answer someone back Go to answer back (to someone).

answer someone’s purpose and serve someone’s purpose to fit or suit someone’s aim or goal. □ This piece of wood will answer my purpose quite nicely. □ The new car serves our purpose perfectly.

answer the call 1. Euph. to die. □ Our dear brother answered the call and has gone to his eternal rest. 2. and answer the call of nature Euph. to find and use the toilet. □ We stopped the car long enough for Jed to answer the call of nature. □ You had better answer the call of nature when you feel it coming.

answer the call of nature Go to Previous.

answer the door Fig. [after hearing the doorbell or a knock] to go to the door to see who is there. □ Would you please answer the door. I am busy. □ I wish someone would answer the door. I can’t stand to hear the knocking.

answer to someone 1. Fig. to explain or justify one’s actions to someone. (Usually with have to.) □ If John can-
answer to the description of someone

not behave properly, he’ll have to answer to me. □ The car thief will have to answer to the judge. 2. Fig. [in the hierarchy of the workplace] to be under the supervision of someone; to report to someone. (See also report to (some-one or something).) □ You will answer directly to Mr. Wright. □ I answer only to the boss.

answer to the description of someone Fig. to match a particular set of physical or facial characteristics. □ Chuck answers to the description his sister gave us. □ The man in police custody answers to the description of the burglar.

answer to the name (of) something to respond to a particular name. □ I answer to the name Walter. □ She answers to the name of Claire.

*ants in one’s pants Fig. nervousness and agitation. (on the image of someone suffering great discomfort as if having actual ants in the pants. “Typically: get →; have →; give one →.) □ I always get ants in my pants before a test. □ I wonder if all actors get ants in their pants before they go onstage.

any fool thing any ridiculous thing; anything that should be viewed as unimportant. □ He’ll buy his wife any fool thing she wants. □ Bill can get distracted by any fool thing.

Any friend of someone(s) (is a friend of mine). Cliché. I am always pleased to meet a friend of someone I know. (A pleasant response when meeting or being introduced to a friend of a friend.) □ Fred: Well, nice to meet you, Tom. Any friend of my brother is a friend of mine. Tom: Thanks, Fred. Nice to meet you too. □ John: Thank you so much for helping me find Sue’s address. Sally: You’re welcome. Any friend of Sue’s.

any number of someone or something Fig. a large number; a sufficiently large number. (Used when the exact number is not important.) □ Any number of people can vouch for my honesty. □ I can give you any number of reasons why I should join the army. □ I ate at that diner any number of times and never became ill.

any old thing Fig. just anything, not necessarily old. □ Just give me one. I don’t care which. Just give me any old thing.

any port in a storm Fig. when one is having serious trouble, one must accept any solution, whether one likes the solution or not. □ I don’t want to live with my parents, but it’s a case of any port in a storm. I can’t find an apartment I can afford. □ He hates his job, but he can’t get another. Any port in a storm, you know.

any Tom, Dick, and Harry Go to (every) Tom, Dick, and Harry.

Anyone I know? and Anybody I know? a coy way of asking who? □ Sally: Where were you last night? Jane: I had a date. Sally: Anyone I know? □ Bill: I’ve got a date for the formal next month. Henry: Anybody I know?


Anything you say. Fig. Yes; I agree. □ Mary: Will you please take these blouses over to the cleaners? Bill: Sure, anything you say. □ Mother: You’re going to finish your home-work before you watch TV, right? Child: Anything you say, Mom.

Anytime you are ready, and Anytime you’re ready. a phrase indicating that the speaker is waiting for the person spoken to to make the appropriate move or action. □ Mary: I think it’s about time to go. Bill: Anytime you’re ready. □ Surgeon: Shall we begin the operation? Nurse: Anytime you’re ready, Doctor.

apologize (to someone) (for someone) to make an apology to someone for someone else’s actions. □ Would you please apologize to Wally for Tom? □ I apologized for Frank to the hostess. □ I had to apologize to Frank. □ I had to apologize to the hostess. □ He was never able to apologize to himself for his past errors.

appeal against something to ask a court of appeals to change a ruling made by a lower court. □ My lawyer appealed against the judgment. □ We will file an appeal against the court ruling.

appeal to someone to please or attract someone. □ Fast food doesn’t appeal to me. □ The idea of a vacation to Florida this winter appeals to me a lot.

appear as something 1. to act a certain part in a play, opera, etc. □ Madame Smith-Franklin appeared as Carmen at the City Opera last season. □ The actor refused to appear as a villain in the play. 2. [for something] to be seen or occur in a particular form or with particular characteristics. □ The tumors appear as shadows on the X-ray. □ The first signs of the disease appear as a fever and a rash.

appear at some place to perform at a particular place. □ She is appearing at the Bijou all month. □ I will appear at Carnegie Hall soon.

appear at some time to arrive at a particular time. □ I am due to appear at the council at noon. □ I will appear at the meeting whenever my plane gets in.

appear before someone 1. to show up in the presence of someone, suddenly. □ The deer appeared before us with no sound or other warning. □ A frightful specter appeared before me. 2. to have a trial or hearing with a particular judge or court. □ You have to appear before Judge Cahill tomorrow. □ Have you ever appeared before the Supreme Court?

appear before something to arrive in advance of the appointed time or before some event. □ Please appear at least ten minutes before you are due. □ It is best to appear shortly before the time of your interview.

appear for someone to represent or substitute for a person who is absent. □ I will appear for you in the council. □ Who is going to appear for my lawyer, who is ill?

appear in court to go to a court of law as a participant. □ She has to appear in court tomorrow. □ I have to appear in court for my traffic violation.

appear in something 1. to be seen in some performance. □ The singer will appear in the opera with the rest of the chorus. □ I will appear in Aida. 2. to be seen wearing something. □ I wouldn’t appear in that in public! □ Would you want to appear in a wrinkled suit?
appear out of nowhere Go to out of nowhere.

appear to be rooted to the spot Go to rooted to the spot.

appear to someone [for something] to make an appearance before someone. ☐ My late grandmother appeared to me in a dream.

appear to someone that... Fig. to seem to someone that... ☐ It appears to me that you are always late.

appear to the naked eye Go to the naked eye.

appear under the name of some name [for an actor] to perform under a special name. ☐ She is appearing under the name of Fifi. ☐ I appeared under the stage name Rex Righteous.

appear (up)on something to arrive and be seen on something. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) ☐ A fly appeared on the sterile bandages. ☐ A small bird appeared on our mailbox.

Appearances can be deceiving. Prov. Things can look different from the way they really are. ☐ Edward seems like a very nice boy, but appearances can be deceiving. ☐ Jane may look like she doesn’t understand you, but she’s really extremely bright. Appearances can be deceiving.

append something (on) to something to attach something to something; to hang something onto something. ☐ Please append these tassels onto the hem of your coat. ☐ Append this sentence to the last paragraph.

appertain to something [of a responsibility or privilege] to belong to something as a right. ☐ Do these rights appertain to a third cousin of the deceased? ☐ The statement doesn’t make sense. It appertains to no one as it is stated.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away. Prov. Apples are so nutritious that if you eat an apple every day, you will not ever need to go to a doctor. ☐ Remember to take an apple in your lunch today. An apple a day keeps the doctor away. ☐ Grandma always fed us lots of apples when we visited her. She believed that an apple a day keeps the doctor away.

the apple of someone’s eye Fig. someone’s favorite person or thing; a boyfriend or a girlfriend. ☐ Tom is the apple of Mary’s eye. She thinks he’s the greatest. ☐ John’s new car is the apple of his eye.

apple-polisher Fig. a flatterer. ☐ Doesn’t that wimpy apple-polisher know how stupid he looks? ☐ Everybody at my office seems to be an apple-polisher but me.

apples and oranges Fig. two entities that are not similar. (Used especially in reference to comparisons of unlike things.) ☐ You can’t talk about Fred and Ted in the same breath! They’re like apples and oranges. ☐ Talking about her current book and her previous bestseller is like comparing apples and oranges.

apply oneself to something to work hard and diligently at something. ☐ You should apply yourself to your studies. ☐ She applied herself to her work and the time passed very rapidly.

apply something to something 1. Lit. to put something onto the surface of something. ☐ Apply the decal to the surface of the glass. ☐ Apply the paint evenly to each surface. 2. Fig. to use something, such as force, effort, etc., on something or in the performance of some task. ☐ Apply more effort in your school work. ☐ An even greater effort has been applied to make sure we finish on time.

apply to someone or something [for rules, laws, etc.] to affect someone or something; to be relevant to someone or something. ☐ Does this rule apply to me? ☐ These policies apply only to very large companies.

apply (to someone or something) (for something) to ask for something from someone or an organization. ☐ You must apply to the proper office for permission. ☐ I applied to seven colleges for admission.

apply within to ask about something [inside some place]. (Usually part of a sign or announcement posted outside a place.) ☐ The sign outside the office read, “Apply within.” ☐ If you are interested in working here, please apply within.

appoint someone to something to select or assign someone to serve in a particular role. (Usually focusing on the role of the person or on a group of persons with similar roles.) ☐ I am going to appoint you to the position of treasurer. ☐ Fred tried to appoint himself to the board of directors, but it violated the by-laws.

apportion something out! (among some people) to divide something and distribute it among people. ☐ He apportioned the cake out among the guests. ☐ He apportioned out the applications among all those in the waiting room.

appraise something at something to study something and place a monetary value on it. ☐ They appraised the house at twice what it is worth. ☐ The diamond ring was appraised at a very high price.

apprentice someone to someone to assign someone to work at a certain trade and learn it from someone experienced. ☐ She apprenticed her son to a local diesel mechanic. ☐ I apprenticed myself to a printer and learned what it means to get really dirty.

apprise someone of something to inform someone of something. ☐ I hope you will apprise me of any change. ☐ Have you been apprised of the new rule?

approach someone about something to ask someone about someone or something, usually with tact and caution. ☐ Wally has been acting strangely. I will approach Judy about him. ☐ She approached Tom about the broken window.

appropriate something for something 1. to allot a certain amount of money for a particular purpose. ☐ They will appropriate $10,000 for the exhibit at the fair. ☐ A large sum was appropriated for the expenses. 2. Euph. to take something [from someone else] and use it as something else or for a purpose different from what was intended. ☐ Walter appropriated a truck for an ambulance. ☐ It was necessary to appropriate your laptop for connecting to the Internet.

approve of someone or something to take a favorable view of someone or something. ☐ I approve of the way you have remodeled the kitchen. ☐ I don’t approve of your foul language.

April showers bring May flowers. Prov. Although rain in April is annoying, it starts the flowers growing. ☐ Child: I hate all this rain. Why does it have to rain? Mother: April showers bring May flowers. ☐ Although it was a dreary, rainy day, we felt cheerful, since April showers bring May flowers.
arbitrate between someone and someone else to mediate between two disagreeing parties; to help two disagreeing parties to resolve their differences. □ Jane was called upon to arbitrate between the workers and the manager. □ I arbitrated between Fred and his ex-wife.

arbitrate in a dispute to mediate or negotiate a settlement in a dispute. □ She refuses to arbitrate in this dispute. □ I will arbitrate in this little disagreement.

arch (oneself) over to bend or curve over. (Oneself includes itself.) □ The tree arched over in the wind. □ Arch yourself over gracefully and then straighten up. □ The tree arched itself over in the windstorm.

arch over someone or something to bend or curve over someone or something; to stand or remain bent or curved over someone or something. □ The trees arched gracefully over the walkway. □ A lovely bowser of roses arched over the bride.

arch something over someone or something to place something above someone or something to form an arch or archway. □ The cadets arched their swords over the bridal couple. □ The willow arched its long drooping branches over the tiny cabin.


(Are you) feeling okay? Do you feel well? □ Tom: Are you feeling okay? Bill: Oh, fair to middling. □ Susan: Are you feeling okay? Mary: I’m still a little dizzy, but it will pass.

(Are you) going my way? If you are traveling in the direction of my destination, could I please go with you or can I have a ride in your car? □ Mary: Are you going my way? Sally: Sure. Get in. □ “Going my way?” said Tom as he saw Mary turn toward him.

(Are you) leaving so soon? and You leaving so soon? a polite inquiry made to a guest who has announced a departure. (Appropriate only for the first few guests to leave. It would seem sarcastic to say this to the last guest to leave or one who is leaving very late at night.) □ Sue: We really must go. Sally: Leaving so soon? Sue: Fred has to catch a plane at five in the morning. □ John (seeing Tom at the door): You leaving so soon? Tom: Yes, thanks for inviting me. I really have to go. John: Well, good night, then.

(Are you) ready for this? a way of presenting a piece of news or information that is expected to excite or surprise the person spoken to. □ Tom: Boy, do I have something to tell you! Are you ready for this? Mary: Sure. Let me have it! □ Tom: Now, here’s a great joke! Are you ready for this? It is so funny! Alice: I can hardly wait.

(Are you) ready to order? Would you please tell me what you want as your meal? (A standard phrase used in eating establishments to find out what a customer wants to eat.) □ The waitress came over and asked, “Are you ready to order?” □ Tom: I know what I want. What about you, Sally? Are you ready to order? Sally: Don’t rush me!

(Are you) sorry you asked? Now that you have heard (the unpleasant answer), do you regret having asked the question? (Compare this with You’ll be sorry you asked.) □ Father: How are you doing in school? Bill: I’m flunking out. Sorry you asked? □ Mother: You’ve been looking a little down lately. Is there anything wrong? Bill: I probably have the flu. Are you sorry you asked?

argue against someone or something 1. Lit. [for someone] to make a case against someone or something; to oppose the choice of someone or something in an argument. □ I am preparing myself to argue against the case. □ Liz argued against Tom as the new president, but we chose him anyway. 2. Fig. [for something, such as facts] to support a case against someone or something in an argument; [for something, such as facts] to support a case against the choice of someone or something in an argument. □ I have uncovered something that argues against continuing this friendship. □ His own remarks argue against his qualifications for the office, but he probably will be elected anyway.

argue back to argue with or oppose someone; to answer back (to someone); to talk back (to someone). (Usually said of persons who are supposed to listen and obey without comment.) □ Please don’t argue back all the time. □ I wish you children did not argue back so much.

argue for someone or something to make a case in favor of someone or something; to speak on behalf of someone or something in an argument. □ Are you prepared to argue strongly for this proposal? □ We will argue for our candidate in the debate.

argue one’s way out of something and argue one’s way out to talk and get oneself free of a problem. □ You can’t argue your way out of this! □ It’s a problem, and there is no way that you can argue your way out.

argue someone down to defeat someone in a debate. □ Sally could always argue him down if she had to. □ She tries to argue down everyone she meets.

argue someone into doing something to convince or persuade someone to do something. □ She was unable to argue the manager into attending. □ She was unable to argue herself into doing something so unpleasant.

argue something down to reduce something, such as a bill or a price, by arguing. □ I tried to argue the price down, but it did no good. □ Tom could not argue down the bill. 2. Fig. to urge the defeat of a proposal or a motion in a meeting through discussion. □ I am prepared to argue the proposal down in court. □ She will argue down the proposal in the council meeting.

argue something out to settle something by discussing all the important points. □ We are going to have to argue this out some other time. □ Must we argue out every single detail of this contract?

argue (with someone) over someone or something and argue (with someone) about someone or something to dispute or quarrel over someone or something with someone. □ Are you going to argue with her over something so simple? □ I wish you wouldn’t argue over money with me.
argue with something to challenge or dispute something; to dispute someone’s statement of fact. □ I won’t argue with your conclusions. □ It is not a good idea to argue with the facts.

arguing for the sake of arguing and arguing for the sake of argument arguing simply to be difficult or contrary. □ You are just arguing for the sake of arguing. You don’t even know what the issue is. □ He is annoying, because he is always arguing for the sake of argument.

arguing for the sake of argument Go to previous.
arise from something and arise out of something 1. Lit. to get up from something. □ What time did you arise from bed? □ I arose out of my slumber at dawn. 2. Lit. [for something] to drift upward from something. □ The smoke arose from the burning oil wells. □ The smoke arose out of the exhaust pipe. 3. Fig. to be due to something; to be caused by something. □ This whole problem arose from your stubbornness. □ The labor problem arose out of mismanagement. 4. Fig. [for someone] to come from poor or unfortunate circumstances. □ She arose from poverty to attain great wealth. □ She arose out of squalor through her own hard work.

*arm in arm Fig. [of persons] linked or hooked together by the arms. (Typically: go ~; stroll ~; walk ~.) □ They skated arm in arm around the rink.

arm (someone against something) (with something) to equip someone with whatever is needed to fight against someone or something. □ They armed themselves against the enemy with guns and ammunition. □ The government armed the soldiers with the new guns.

*armed and dangerous Cliché [of someone who is suspected of a crime] having a gun or other lethal weapon and not being reluctant to use it. (This is part of a warning to police officers who might try to capture an armed suspect. □ Typically: be ~; be regarded as ~; be presumed to be ~.) □ The murderer is at large, presumed to be armed and dangerous. □ The suspect has killed once and is armed and dangerous.

armed to the teeth Fig. heavily armed with deadly weapons. □ The bank robber was armed to the teeth when he was caught. □ There are too many guns around. The entire country is armed to the teeth.

An army marches on its stomach. Prov. An army needs a regular supply of food in order to keep on fighting. □ The invading army will soon have to pull back. An army marches on its stomach, and they’re out of food.

*around something or something 1. enclosing something or something. (Typically: be ~; go ~; circle ~.) □ The white picket fence is around the house and the yard. □ Jimmy was crying loudly. A ring of children circled around him, singing ”Happy Birthday.” 2. near someone or something in this vicinity. (Typically: be ~; hang ~; live ~.) □ How long have you been around here? □ I don’t like people like that hanging around me.

*(a)round the bend 1. Fig. crazy; having lost sanity. (Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ I think this job is sending me around the bend. □ She sounds like she’s round the bend already. 2. intoxicated from alcohol or drugs. (Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ One more of those, and you’ll be around the bend. □ From the glazy look in her eyes, I’d say she is completely round the bend now.

(arrive) around the clock Fig. continuously for twenty-four hours at a time. □ The priceless jewels were guarded around the clock. □ Grandfather was so sick that he had to have nurses round the clock.

arouse someone from something to activate a person out of a state of rest, sleep, or inaction. □ I could not arouse her from her sleep. □ She aroused herself from a deep sleep.

arrange for someone to do something to make plans for someone to do something. □ I will arrange for Charles to fix what he broke. □ I arranged for the plumber to install a new water heater.

arrange for something to prepare or plan for something. □ We will arrange for a celebration. □ John arranged for it.

arrange some music for something to prepare or adapt music for particular instruments or for a particular musical key. □ Paul arranged the piece for piano. □ This piece was arranged for the guitar by Frank’s brother.

arrange something for some time to plan something for a particular time. □ We will arrange a picnic for the afternoon. □ I will arrange an appointment for the noon hour.

arrange something for someone or something to prepare or plan something for someone or something. □ They arranged a reception for Frank. □ We arranged a dance for the holiday.

arrange something with someone or something to prepare or plan something that will include someone or something. □ We arranged entertainment with clowns and a musician. □ I will arrange a fancy dinner with wine and cloth napkins. □ Paul arranged a meeting with the opposition.

arrive ahead of time Go to ahead of time.

arrive at a decision and reach a decision to make a decision; decide. □ Have you arrived at a decision yet? □ We will reach a decision tomorrow.

arrive back (some place) Go to back (some place).

arrive in force Go to in force.

arrive in the (very) nick of time Go to in the (very) nick of time.

arrive on a wing and a prayer Go to on a wing and a prayer.

arrive on the scene Go to come on the scene.

arrive (some place) at some time to reach some place at a particular time. □ We will arrive at the border at noon. □ They arrived at seven o’clock in the evening.

arrive (some place) from some other place to reach or come to a place from another place. (If the first some place is missing, the place is either here or must be inferred.) □ They arrived here from New York yesterday. □ They arrived from Charleston last week.

arrive (some place) in something to reach or come to a place in a particular kind of vehicle. □ They arrived here in their car. □ We arrived at the museum in a bus.

arrive some place in a body Go to in a body.
arrive (somewhere) at the stroke of some time Go to arrive (somewhere) (up)on the stroke of some time.

arrive (somewhere) (up)on the stroke of some time and arrive (somewhere) at the stroke of some time to reach a place at a particular instant of time. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) □ She arrived home on the stroke of midnight. □ We all arrived at the stroke of two.

arrive (up)on the scene (of something) and arrive at the scene (of something) to reach the location of an event in progress. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on and at.) □ The police arrived on the scene of the crime. □ They arrived upon the scene of a frightening accident. □ What did they do when they arrived at the scene?

Art is long and life is short. Prov. Works of art last much longer than human lives.; Life is too short to learn everything you need to know about a particular discipline. □ Alan: You ought to do something besides paint pictures in your spare time. Come out with us, have some fun. Bob: Having fun will not win me immortality. Only my paintings can do that. Art is long and life is short. □ I always feel a sense of awe when I look at the Babylonian statues in the art museum. They were made thousands of years ago. Art is long and life is short.

as a duck takes to water Cliché easily and naturally. □ She took to singing just as a duck takes to water. □ The baby adapted to the bottle as a duck takes to water.

as a (general) rule usually; almost always. □ He can be found in his office as a general rule. □ As a general rule, Jane plays golf on Wednesdays. □ As a rule, things tend to get less busy after supper time.

as a last resort as the last choice; if everything else fails. □ Call me at home only as a last resort. □ As a last resort, the doctor will perform surgery.

As a man sows, so shall he reap. Go to As you sow, as shall you reap.

as a matter of course normally; as a normal procedure. □ The nurse takes your temperature as a matter of course. □ You are expected to make your own bed as a matter of course.

as a matter of fact actually; in addition to what has been said; in reference to what has been said. □ As a matter of fact, John came into the room while you were talking about him. □ I’m not a poor worker. As a matter of fact, I’m very efficient.

as a result (of something) because of something that has happened. □ As a result of the accident, Tom couldn’t walk for six months. □ We couldn’t afford to borrow money for the house as a result of the rise in interest rates.

as a rule in general; usually. □ As a rule, men should wear tuxedos at formal dinners. □ As a rule, the bus picks me up at 7:30 every morning.

as a token (of something) symbolic of something, especially of gratitude; as a memento of something. □ He gave me a rose as a token of his esteem. □ Here, take this gift as a token of my appreciation.

as all get out [ruar, veru much; as much as can be. □ I’m tired as all get out.

as an aside [said] as a comment that is not supposed to be heard by everyone. □ At the wedding, Tom said an aside, “The bride doesn’t look well.” □ At the ballet, Billy said as an aside to his mother, “I hope the dancers fall off the stage!”

as bad as all that as bad as reported; as bad as it seems. (Usually expressed in the negative.) □ Come on! Nothing could be as bad as all that. □ Stop crying. It can’t be as bad as all that.

as far as anyone knows and so far as anyone knows; to the best of one’s knowledge to the limits of anyone’s knowledge. (The anyone can be replaced with a more specific noun or pronoun.) □ As far as anyone knows, this is the last of the great herds of buffalo. □ Far as I know, this is the best spot to sit. □ Q: Are the trains on time? A: To the best of my knowledge, all the trains are on time today.

as far as it goes as much as something does, covers, or accomplishes. (Usually said of something that is inadequate.) □ Your plan is fine as far as it goes. It doesn’t seem to take care of everything, though. □ As far as it goes, this law is a good one. It should set stiffer penalties, however.

as far as possible and so far as possible as much as possible; to whatever degree is possible. □ We must try, as far as possible, to get people to stop smoking in buses. □ As far as possible, the police will issue tickets to all speeding drivers. □ I’ll follow your instructions so far as possible.

as far as someone is concerned and so far as someone is concerned from the point of view of someone. □ Bob: Isn’t this cake good? Alice: Yes, indeed. This is the best cake I have ever eaten as far as I’m concerned. □ As far as we are concerned, anything at all would be fine for dinner.

as far as something is concerned and so far as something is concerned having to do with something; pertaining to something; as for something. □ This bill? As far as that’s concerned, the committee will have to take care of it. □ As far as the roof’s concerned, it will just have to last another year.

as for someone or something and as to someone or something regarding someone or something. □ As for the mayor, he can pay for his own dinner. □ As for this chair, there is nothing to do but throw it away.

as good as one’s word obedient to one’s promise; dependable in keeping one’s promises. □ He was as good as his word. He lent me the books as he said he would. □ She said she would babysit and she was as good as her word.

As I live and breathe! Fig. How amazing! (Said on seeing or experiencing something surprising.) □ As I live and breathe, here we are again! □ Well, as I live and breathe, it’s Harry Smith!

as I see it and in my opinion; in my view Fig. the way I think about it. □ Tom: This matter is not as bad as some would make it out to be. Alice: Yes. This whole affair has been overblown, as I see it. □ Bob: You’re as wrong as can be. John: In my view, you are wrong.

as I was saying and like I was saying to repeat what I’ve been saying; to continue with what I was saying. (The first form is appropriate in any conversation. The second form is colloquial, informal, and familiar. In addition, this use of like for as, in the second form, is objected to by many people.) □ Bill: Now, Mary, this is one of the round
ones that attaches to the wire here. Bob (passing through the room): Hello, you two! I’ll talk to you later. Bill: Yeah, see you around. Now, as I was saying, Mary, this goes here on this wire. □ Tom: I hate to interrupt, but someone’s car is being broken into down on the street. Fred: As I was saying, these illegal practices must stop.

as it is the way things are; the way it is now. □ “I wish I could get a better job,” remarked Tom. “I’m just getting by as it is.” □ Mary: Can we afford a new refrigerator? Fred: As it is, it would have to be a very small one.

as it were as one might say; as could be said. (Sometimes used to qualify an assertion that may not sound reasonable.) □ He carefully constructed, as it were, a huge submarine sandwich. □ The Franklins live in a small and, as it were, exquisite house.

as long as 1. and so long as since; because. □ As long as you’re going to the bakery, please buy some fresh bread. □ So long as you’re here, please stay for dinner. 2. and so long as if; only if. □ You may have dessert so long as you eat all your vegetables. □ You can go out this evening as long as you promise to be home by midnight. 3. for a specified length of time. □ You may stay out as long as you like. □ I didn’t go to school as long as Bill did.

as luck would have it by good or bad luck; as it turned out by chance. □ As luck would have it, we had a flat tire. □ As luck would have it, the check came in the mail today.

*as one as if acting or moving as a single person. (*Typically: act ~; move ~; speak ~.) □ All the dancers moved as one. □ The chorus spoke as one.

as soon as at the moment that; at the time that; when. □ I fell asleep as soon as I lay down. □ John ate dinner as soon as he came home.

as such in the way something is; as someone or something is. □ I cannot accept your manuscript as such. It needs revisions. □ You are new to this job, and as such, I will have to train you.

As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined. Prov. A grown person will act the way he or she was taught to act. □ Alice’s parents thought it was cute when she threw tantrums now that she’s grown up. As the twig is bent, so is it. □ You’ll be asking for punishment.

as usual as is the normal or typical situation. □ John ordered eggs for breakfast, as usual. □ He stood quietly as usual, waiting for the bus to come.

as we speak and even as we speak Cliché just now; at this very moment. □ “I’m sorry, sir,” consoled the agent at the gate, “the plane is taking off as we speak.” □ Tom: Waiter, where is my steak? It’s taking a long time. Waiter: It is being grilled even as we speak, sir—just as you requested.

as well also; in addition. □ Could I have a second helping of potatoes as well? □ I’m feeling tired, and dizzy as well.

as well as someone or something 1. in addition to someone or something. □ Mary and Jane are coming to the party, as well as Tom. □ I’m studying biology and chemistry, as well as history. 2. to the same high degree as someone or something; as much as someone or something else.

as you promise to be home by midnight.

as you promised to be home by midnight.

as it is. □ This wire.

as it is.

as it is.

as it is.

as it is.

as you sow, so shall you reap.

ask for something from someone or something to find out or learn with certainty information from someone or something. □ I need to ascertain some facts from you. □ A few facts have been ascertained from the interview.

ask after, will you? Find out what people are asking around about her.

ask around (about something) from a number of different sources. □ Hermione asked after you when I saw her today.

ask around (about something) to request information (about someone or something) from a number of different sources. □ I don’t know the answer. I’ll ask around about it. □ Ask about, will you? Find out what people are thinking. □ Please ask around about her.

ask for a knuckle sandwich Go to a knuckle sandwich.

ask for someone or something to request someone or something; to ask for something bad or dire to act badly, such that one will bring on bad consequences. □ If you keep misbehaving, you’ll be asking for punishment. □ You’re really asking for it!

ask for the moon Fig. to make outlandish requests or demands for something, such as a lot of money or special privileges. □ She’s asking for the moon, and she’s not going to get it. □ Don’t ask for the moon. Be reasonable!

ask for trouble and look for trouble Fig. to seem to be trying to get into trouble; to do something that would
cause trouble; to do or say something that will cause trouble. ☐ Stop talking to me that way, John. You're just asking for trouble. ☐ The guard asked me to leave unless I was looking for trouble.

Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies. Go to next.

Ask no questions and hear no lies, and Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies. If you ask me that, my answer might not be the truth. (Implies that you will likely tell a lie, because you do not want to tell the truth.) ☐ What am I going to give you for your birthday? Ask no questions and hear no lies. ☐ Maybe I like Greg, and maybe I don't. Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.

ask someone back 1. [for a host or hostess] to invite someone to come again (at a later time or to another similar event). ☐ After the way you behaved, they'll never ask us back. ☐ They had been asked back a number of times, but they never came. 2. [for someone who has been a guest] to invite a previous host or hostess to come to an event. ☐ We've had the Smiths to dinner five times. I think it's time they asked us back. ☐ I don't care if they ask us back or not.

ask someone down 1. to invite someone to come to one's home [for a visit]. (Usually said when someone must go to a lower level, travel south, down a hill, or into the country for the visit.) ☐ Sam asked us down for Friday evening. Shall we go? ☐ We asked down some old friends for the evening.

ask someone for something 1. to request something from someone. ☐ The diners asked the waiter for a type of wine the restaurant didn't have. ☐ A special wine was asked for by a number of patrons. 2. and ask someone to something to invite someone to something. ☐ Janet asked us to a party Friday evening. ☐ Janet asked us for dinner.

ask someone in Go to next.

ask someone in (to) some place and ask someone in to invite someone inside some place. ☐ We asked them into the house. ☐ We stopped our friends in the hallway and asked them in.

ask someone out 1. [for something] Go to next.

ask someone out (to something) 1. and ask someone out (for something) to invite someone to go out (to something or some place) [on a date]. ☐ He asked her out to dinner, but she had other plans. ☐ She couldn't go, so he asked out someone else. ☐ Liz asked Carl out for dinner. 2. to invite someone for a visit to a place in the country or some other location remote from the center of things. ☐ Tom must be tired of the city. Let's ask him out to our place. ☐ I don't want to ask out everyone in the whole family again. ☐ Oh, let's ask him out anyway.

ask someone over to invite someone who lives close by to come to one's home [for a visit]. (Either to a house or apartment.) ☐ Can we ask Tom over? ☐ He has been asked over a number of times.

ask someone to something Go to ask someone for something.

ask someone up 1 to ask someone to come to one's home for a visit. (Usually said when someone must travel north, up a hill, or to an apartment on a higher floor for the visit.) ☐ Let's ask Judy up for the weekend. ☐ We asked up a few old friends.

ask something of someone or something to request or demand something from someone, something, or a group. ☐ I want to ask something of you. ☐ We will ask that of the board of directors. ☐ You should ask that of your database.

asking price the price that someone puts on an item being offered for sale. ☐ I think your asking price is a little high.

• asleep at the switch Fig. not attending to one's job; failing to do one's duty at the proper time. (Alludes to a technician or engineer on a train sleeping instead of turning whatever switches are required. *Typically: be ~; fall ~.*) ☐ The security guard fell asleep at the switch and a robber broke in. ☐ If I hadn't been asleep at the switch, I'd have noticed the car being stolen.

aspire to something to seek or aim for something better. ☐ She aspires to a job more challenging than her current position. ☐ I aspire to far greater things.

assail someone with something 1. Lit. to attack someone with something, such as a weapon. ☐ The crook assailed the officer with the officer's own club. ☐ The riot police were assailed with stones and bottles. 2. Fig. to pester or annoy someone with questions, requests, demands, etc. ☐ Don't assail me with all your complaints. ☐ She assailed herself with constant guilty rebukes.

assault and battery a violent attack [upon someone] followed by a beating. (A technical legal charge.) ☐ Richard was charged with two counts of assault and battery. ☐ Dave does not go out at night because he does not want to be a victim of assault and battery.

assault the ear Fig. [for sound or speech] to be very loud or persistent. ☐ That loud music assaults the ears. ☐ I can't hear you with all that traffic noise assaulting my ears.

assent to something to agree to something. ☐ I assent to what you suggest. ☐ She will not assent to our request.

assess something at something to estimate or value something at some figure. ☐ They assess the value of our house at half what it would sell for. ☐ The house was assessed at far more than its true worth.

assign someone or something to someone or something to designate someone or something as belonging to someone or something else. ☐ They assigned the new car to Roger. ☐ They assigned the new worker to the mail room.

assign something to someone to attribute something to someone; to blame something on someone. ☐ We were forced to assign the blame to Robert. ☐ They assigned the responsibility for the accident to the driver of the car.

assimilate someone or something into something to cause someone or something to be absorbed into something. (As when a person or thing joins a group.) ☐ We sought to assimilate Arnold into the community. ☐ The manager had to assimilate the new policies into the list of current ones. ☐ They assimilated themselves into the general population.

assimilate with some people to join or mix in with people and become accepted by them. ☐ It's easy for Karen to assimilate with new people. ☐ I want to assimilate rapidly with the other people in my class.

assist in something to help with something. ☐ May I assist in this? ☐ Please assist in this task.

assist (someone) at something to serve as a helper or assistant in some procedure. (This usually refers to a surgical procedure.) ☐ Will you assist at surgery this morning? ☐ I would be happy to assist you at the procedure.
assist someone in something to help a particular person working on a task. □ Please assist Greg in the committee's assignment. □ We assisted him in the whole procedure.

assist someone with someone or something to help someone manage someone or something, especially with lifting or physical management. □ Assist me with Jane, won't you? □ Will you assist me with this heavy box? □ Sally assisted herself with the math problem. She did it on her own.

associate oneself with someone or something to join someone or something [in one's mind] to someone or something else. (Something and someone can occur in all possible combinations.) □ I always associate Walter with pizza for some reason. □ I associate pizza with stringy cheese.

associate with someone to be friendly with someone; to be acquainted with someone socially in a work setting. □ We seek to associate with persons like ourselves. □ I like to associate with interesting people.

assume a low profile Go to a low profile.

assume liability for something to accept the responsibility for paying a cost. □ Mr. Smith assumed liability for his son's student loans. □ The store assumed liability for the injured customer's hospital bills.

assure someone of something to guarantee something to someone; to promise someone that something will happen or that a particular state exists. □ I want to assure you of our good intentions. □ Frequently, she had to assure herself of her basic worth.

astound someone with something to shock or amaze someone with something. □ She astounded us with her skill.

at a dead end Fig. having reached an impasse; able to go no further forward. □ I can't go on. I'm at a dead end. □ We are at a dead end; the project is hopelessly stalled.

*at a fast clip Go to next.

*at a fast clip and at a fast clip rapidly. (*Typically: go ~; move ~; run ~; travel ~.) □ We were moving along at a good clip when a state trooper stopped us.

at a loss (for words) Fig. unable to speak; speechless or befuddled. □ I was so surprised that I was at a loss for words. □ Tom was terribly confused—really at a loss.

at a moment's notice and on a moment's notice with very little advance notice; with just a little bit of warning. □ They are always asking us to produce reports at a moment's notice.

at a premium at a high price; priced high because of something special. □ Sally bought the shoes at a premium because they were of very high quality. □ This new sports car sells at a premium because so many people want to buy it.

at a set time at a particular time; at an assigned time. □ Each person has to show up at a set time. □ Do I have to be there at a set time, or can I come whenever I want?

at a sitting at one time; during one period. (Usually refers to an activity that takes place while a person is seated.) □ The restaurant could feed only sixty people at a sitting. □ I can read about three hundred pages at a sitting.

at a snail's gallop Go to next.

at a snail's pace and at a snail's gallop very slowly. □ Things are moving along at a snail's pace here, but we'll finish on time—have no fear. □ Poor old Wally is creeping at a snail's gallop because his car has a flat tire.

at a stretch continuously; without stopping. □ We all had to do eight hours of duty at a stretch. □ The baby doesn't sleep for more than three hours at a stretch.

at all without qualification. (See the examples for word order variations.) □ It really wasn't very cold at all. □ It really wasn't at all cold. □ Tom will eat anything at all.

at all costs and at any cost Fig. regardless of the difficulty or cost; no matter what. □ I intend to have that car at all costs. □ Mary was going to get that job at any cost.

at all hours (of the day and night) Go to all hours (of the day and night).

at all times constantly; continuously. □ You must keep your passport handy at all times when you are traveling in a foreign country. □ When you're in a crowd, you must watch your child at all times.

at an early date soon; some day soon. □ The note said, "Please call me at an early date." □ You are expected to return the form to the office at an early date.

at an end having come to a stop; having reached the end. □ Things are now at an end. □ It's over between us. It's at an end. Good-bye.

at any cost Go to at all costs.

at any rate in any case; anyway. □ At any rate, what were we talking about? □ At any rate, I don't think you should quit your job.

*at bay Fig. at a distance. (*Typically: be ~; keep someone or something ~; remain ~.) □ I have to keep the bill collectors at bay until I get my paycheck. □ The mosquitoes will not remain at bay for very long.

at best and at most in the most favorable view; in the most positive judgment; as the best one can say. □ At best we found their visit pleasantly short. □ The dinner was not at all pleasant. At best the food was not burned. □ At most there were three people in line ahead of me.

at close range very near; in close proximity. (Usually used in regard to shooting.) □ The hunter fired at the deer at close range. □ The powder burns tell us that the gun was fired at close range.

at cross-purposes with opposing viewpoints; with goals that interfere with each other. □ We are arguing at cross-purposes. We aren't even discussing the same thing. □ Bill and Tom are working at cross-purposes. They'll never get the job done right.

at death's door very near the end of one's life. (Often an exaggeration.) □ I was so ill that I was at death's door for three days. □ The family dog was at death's door for three days, and then it finally died.
at ease without worry or anxiety. □ The performer is at ease on the stage. □ After she had met a few people, Mary felt at ease with the group.

at every turn everywhere; everywhere one looks. □ There is a new problem at every turn. □ Life holds exciting adventures at every turn.

at face value from outward appearance; from what something first appears to be. (From the value printed on the “face” of a coin or bank note.) □ Don’t just accept her offer at face value. Think of the implications. □ Joan tends to take people at face value and so she is always getting hurt.

at fault to blame [for something]; serving as the cause of something bad. □ I was not at fault in the accident. You cannot blame me.

at first initially; at the very beginning. □ He was shy at first. Then he became more friendly. □ At first we chose the red one. Later we switched to the blue one.

at first blush Go to next.

at first glance and at first blush when first examined; at an early stage. □ At first glance, the problem appeared quite simple. Later we learned just how complex it really was. □ He appeared quite healthy at first glance. □ At first blush, she appeared to be quite old.

at first light at dawn; when the first light of dawn appears. □ We will be ready to leave at first light.

*at full blast using full power; as loudly as possible. (Typically: be on ~; play ~; play something ~; run ~; run something ~.) □ The neighbors had their televisions on at full blast. □ The car radio was on at full blast. We couldn’t hear what the driver was saying.

at full speed and at full tilt; at full throttle as fast as possible. □ The motor was running at full speed. □ John finished his running at full tilt. □ When the horse reached the back stretch he was at full throttle.

at full strength at the strongest amount, dilation, power, loudness, etc. □ You should use this medicine at full strength, even if it tastes bad.

at full throttle Go to at full speed.

at full tilt Go to at full speed.

*at great length for a long period of time. (Typically: explain ~; question someone ~; speak ~.) □ The lawyer questioned the witness at great length.

at half-mast and at half-staff [of a flag] halfway up or down its flagpole. □ The flag was flying at half-mast because the general had died. □ Americans fly flags at half-staff on Memorial Day.

at half-staff Go to previous.

at hand close by in time or space. □ I don’t happen to have your application at hand at the moment. □ With the holiday season at hand, everyone is very excited.

at hazard in danger; at risk. □ He is not willing to have much of his money at hazard in the stock market. □ Your life is at hazard unless you wear a helmet when you ride your motorcycle.

at home at or in one’s dwelling. □ Is Mary at home, or is she still at work? □ What time will she be at home?

at home with someone or something 1. Lit. in one’s home with someone or something. □ She’s at home with her mother. □ Bob’s not alone. He’s at home with the cats.

2. Fig. comfortable with someone or something; comfortable doing something. □ Tom is very much at home with my parents. □ Mary seems to be at home with her job.

at it again doing something again. □ I asked Tom to stop playing his trumpet, but he’s at it again. □ They are at it again. Why are they always fighting?

at its best Go to at one’s best.

at large 1. free; uncaptured. (Usually said of criminals not in custody.) □ At noon, the day after the robbery, the thieves were still at large. □ There is a murderer at large in the city! 2. in general; according to a general sample. □ Truck drivers at large don’t like the new speed restriction on the highway. □ Students at large felt that discipline was too strict. 3. representing the whole group rather than its subsections. (Always refers to a special kind of elective office.) □ He ran for representative at large. □ She represented shareholders at large on the governing board.

at last finally; after a long wait. □ The train has come at last. □ At last, we have gotten something to eat.

at least anyway; in spite of difficulties. □ At least we had a good evening, even though the afternoon was rainy. □ At least we came away with some of our money left.

at least so many no less than; no fewer than. □ There were at least four people there that I knew. □ I want to spend at least three weeks in Mexico.

at leisure and at one’s leisure at one’s convenience. □ Choose one or the other at your leisure.

at liberty free; unrestrained. □ The criminal was set at liberty by the judge. □ You’re at liberty to go anywhere you wish. □ I’m not at liberty to discuss the matter.

at loggerheads (with someone) and at loggerheads over something Fig. in conflict with someone; having reached an impasse (about something). □ Tom is at loggerheads with Bill. □ We are at loggerheads with each other. □ The twins were at loggerheads over who should take the larger room.

at last (long) after a long wait; finally. □ At last the hostages were released. □ Sally earned her diploma at long last after six years in college.

at loose ends restless and unsettled; unemployed. (Typically: be ~; leave someone ~.) □ just before school starts, all the children are at loose ends. □ Jane has been at loose ends ever since she lost her job.

at most Go to at best.

at night during the night. □ Most people sleep at night. □ Mary studies at night.

at odds (with someone) and at odds over something in opposition to someone; at loggerheads (with someone). □ Mary is always at odds with her father about how late she can stay out. □ John and his father are always at odds over what to watch on TV.
at once immediately; right now.  □ We must leave at once!
  □ You must come here at once; it is an emergency.
at one fell swoop and in one fell swoop Fig. in a single incident; as a single event. (This phrase preserves the old word fell, meaning “terrible” or “deadly.”) □ The party guests ate up all the snacks at one fell swoop. □ When the stock market crashed, many large fortunes were wiped out in one fell swoop.
at one’s best 1. and at its best to the utmost; to the highest degree possible. □ This restaurant serves gourmet food at its best. □ The singer was at her best when she performed ballads. 2. in the best of health; displaying the most civilized behavior. (Often in the negative.) □ He’s at his best after a good nap. □ I’m not at my best when I’m angry.
at one’s leisure Go to at leisure.
at one’s wit’s end Fig. at the limits of one’s mental resources. □ I’m at my wit’s end with this problem. I cannot figure it out. □ Tom could do no more. He was at his wit’s end.
at peace 1. relaxed and happy. □ I am always at peace when I sit in my rocking chair. □ When the warm breeze is blowing, I am at peace. 2. Euph. dead. □ It was a long illness, but she is at peace now. □ At last, Uncle George is at peace.
at play [at this moment] involved in playing. (See also at work.) □ The children are at play, and I am doing household chores. □ Whether I am at work or at play, I try to be pleasant to people.
at present now; at this point in time. □ We are not able to do any more at present. □ We may be able to lend you money next week, but not at present.
at random by chance; haphazard. □ The lottery numbers are chosen at random. □ As a prank, the children dialed phone numbers at random.
at regular intervals [of things in a series] at points that are equally distant from each other. □ You will find service stations at regular intervals along the highway. □ There are street lights at regular intervals on the main street of town.
at rest 1. not moving; not active. □ After the hectic day, the office was finally at rest at 8:00 p.m. □ When the car is at rest, you can get into the backseat. 2. Euph. dead. □ After a long, weary life, Emily is at rest. □ There he is, at rest in his coffin.
*at risk in a situation where there is risk or hazard; in danger. (“Typically: be ~; put someone or something ~.) □ I refuse to put my family’s welfare at risk by quitting my job. □ Your whole future is at risk if you don’t stop smoking.
at sea 1. Lit. on the sea; away on a voyage on the ocean. □ The ship is at sea now, and you can’t disembark. □ I spent many happy days at sea on my cruise. 2. Fig. confused; at a loss. □ Bill was at sea over the calculus problem. □ Reading economic theory leaves me feeling at sea.
at sea level at the level of the surface of the ocean. □ It is easier to breathe at sea level than in the mountains. □ Boats on the ocean are at sea level, but those on rivers are not.
at sixes and sevens lost in bewilderment; at loose ends. □ Mrs. Smith is at sixes and sevens since the death of her husband. □ Bill is always at sixes and sevens when he’s home by himself.
at some length Go to at length.
at some time sharp exactly at the time named. □ You must be here at noon sharp. □ The plane is expected to arrive at seven forty-five sharp.
at someone being argumentative or contentious with someone. □ She is always at him about something. □ I wish you weren’t at me all the time over finances.
at someone’s beck and call ready to obey someone. □ What makes you think I wait around here at your beck and call? I have to leave for work, you know! □ It was a fine hotel. There were dozens of maids and waiters at our beck and call.
at someone’s doorstep and on someone’s doorstep Fig. in someone’s care; as someone’s responsibility. □ Why do you always have to lay your problems at my doorstep? □ I shall put this issue on someone else’s doorstep. □ I don’t want that problem on my doorstep.
at someone’s earliest convenience as soon as it is possible for someone to do something. (This is also a polite way of saying immediately.) □ Please stop by my office at your earliest convenience. □ Bill, please have the oil changed at your earliest convenience.
at someone’s mercy Go to at the mercy of someone.
at someone’s request due to someone’s request; on being asked by someone. □ At his mother’s request, Tom stopped playing the saxophone. □ At the request of the police officer, Bill pulled his car over to the side of the road.
at someone’s service Fig. ready to help someone in any way. □ The count greeted me warmly and said, “Welcome to my home. Just let me know what you need. I’m at your service.” □ The desk clerk said, “Good morning, madam. I’m at your service.”
at stake Fig. ready to be won or lost; at risk; hanging in the balance. □ That’s a very risky investment. How much money is at stake? □ I have everything at stake on this wager.
at that rate in that manner; at that speed. □ If things keep progressing at that rate, we’ll be rich by next year. □ At that rate we’ll never get the money that is owed us.
at the appointed time at the expected or assigned time. □ The cab pulled up in the driveway at the appointed time. □ We all met at the hotel at the appointed time.
at the bottom of the hour Fig. on the half hour; the opposite of at the top of the hour. (Alludes to the big hand of a clock pointing to the 6. Typically heard on television or the radio.) □ Hear the news headlines at the bottom of the hour. □ We will have an interview with Harry Kravitz at the bottom of the hour.
at the bottom of the ladder and on the bottom rung (of the ladder) Fig. at the lowest level of pay and status. (Alludes to the lowness of the bottom rung of a ladder.) □ Most people start work at the bottom of the ladder. □ After Ann got fired, she had to start all over again on the bottom rung.
at the break of dawn Go to next.
at the crack of dawn and at the break of dawn Fig. at the earliest light of the day. □ Jane was always awake at
at the drop of a hat

at the crack of dawn. □ The birds start singing at the break of dawn.

at the drop of a hat Fig. immediately; instantly; on the slightest signal or urging. (Alludes to the dropping of a hat as a signal.) □ John was always ready to go fishing at the drop of a hat. □ If you need help, just call on me. I can come at the drop of a hat.

at the eleventh hour Fig. at the last possible moment. (Just before the last clock hour, 12) □ She always turned her term papers in at the eleventh hour. □ We don’t worry about death until the eleventh hour.

at the end of nowhere Fig. at a remote place; at some distance from civilization. (An exaggeration.) □ They live way out in the country at the end of nowhere. □ The police will never find us here, at the end of nowhere.

at the end of one’s rope and at the end of one’s tether Fig. at the limits of one’s endurance. □ I’m at the end of my rope! I just can’t go on this way! □ These kids are driving me out of my mind. I’m at the end of my tether.

at the end of one’s tether Go to previous.

at the end of the day 1. Lit. at the time when work or one’s waking hours end. (See also by the end of the day.) □ I will have an answer at the end of the day. □ Will this be finished at the end of the day or before? □ Fig. when everything else has been taken into consideration. □ At the end of the day you will have to decide where you want to live. □ The committee interviewed many applicants for the post, but at the end of the day made no appointment.

at the expense of someone or something Fig. to the detriment of someone or something; to the harm of someone or something. □ He had a good laugh at the expense of his brother. □ He took a job in a better place at the expense of a larger income.

at the forefront (of something) and in the forefront (of something) Fig. at the place of greatest activity; vital or important to some activity. □ I interviewed Max Brown, the director who is in the forefront of the movie industry. □ The university I go to is at the forefront of computer technology.

at the height of something Fig. at the most intense or forceful aspect of something. □ At the height of his career, Tom was known around the world. □ At the height of the party, there were 50 people present.

at the helm (of something) Fig. in the position of being in control of something. □ The president is at the helm of the company. □ Things will go well with Anne at the helm.

at the last gasp Fig. at the very last; at the last chance; at the last minute. (Refers to someone’s last breath before death.) □ She finally showed up at the last gasp, bringing the papers that were needed. □ We got there at the last gasp, just before our names were called.

at the last minute Fig. at the last possible chance; in the last few minutes, hours, or days. (Often an exaggeration.) □ Please don’t make reservations at the last minute. □ Why do you ask all your questions at the last minute?

at the latest not beyond the time mentioned. □ Please pay this bill in ten days at the latest. □ I’ll be home by midnight at the latest.

at the mercy of someone and at someone’s mercy Fig. under the control of someone; without defense against someone. □ We were left at the mercy of the arresting officer. □ Mrs. Franklin wanted Mr. Franklin at her mercy.

at (the) most no more than the amount mentioned. □ A: How far away is the beach? □ B: Ten miles at most. □ At the most, there were only 15 people in the audience.

at the outset Fig. at the very beginning. □ At the outset, we were told everything we had to do. □ I learned at the outset of the project that I was to lead it.

at the point of doing something Go to on the point of doing something.

at the present time and at this point (in time) Cliché now; at present. (Used often as a wordy replacement for now.) □ We don’t know the location of the stolen car at the present time. □ The patient is doing nicely at the present time.

at the rear of something located at the back part of something. □ I keep my tools at the rear of my garage. □ There’s a stream at the rear of my property.

at the same time 1. Lit. during the same moment; simultaneously. □ We arrived at the same time. □ Too many things are happening at the same time, and I am confused. □ Fig. nevertheless; however; along with that. □ Bill was able to pay for the damage. At the same time, he was very angry about the accident. □ We agree to your demands. At the same time, we object strongly to your methods.

at the top of one’s game Fig. good and as good as one is likely to get. (Usually of sports.) □ I guess I was at the top of my game last year. This year, I stink.

at the top of one’s lungs Go to next.

at the top of one’s voice and at the top of one’s lungs Fig. very loudly. □ Bill called to Mary at the top of his voice. □ How can I drive safely when you’re all Screaming at the top of your lungs?

at the top of the hour Fig. at the exact beginning of an hour. (Alludes to the big hand on a clock pointing to the 12. Often heard on television or the radio. See also at the bottom of the hour.) □ Every class in my school starts at the top of the hour. □ Our next newscast will be at the top of the hour.

at the (very) outside at the very most. □ The car repairs will cost $300 at the very outside. □ I’m now on my way and I’ll be there in three hours at the outside.

at the wheel 1. operating the wheel that turns a ship’s rudder; at the helm. □ The cabin boy was at the wheel with the captain close by. □ operating the steering wheel of a car. □ Bobby was at the wheel when the car went off the road.

at (the) worst in the most negative or pessimistic view. □ At worst, Tom can be seen as greedy. □ Ann will receive a ticket for careless driving, at the worst.

at the zenith of something Fig. at the highest point of something; at the pinnacle of something. □ Tragically, at the zenith of his career, the teacher died suddenly. □ The scientist was at the zenith of her career when she made her discovery.
at this juncture at this point; at this pause. □ There is little more that I can say at this juncture. □ We can, if you wish, at this juncture, request a change in venue.

at this point (in time) Go to at the present time.

at this rate at this speed; if things continue in the same way. (Usually of a pessimistic view.) □ Hurry up! We'll never get there at this rate. □ At this rate, all the food will be gone before we get there.

at this stage (of the game) Fig. at the current point in some event or situation; currently. □ We'll have to wait and see. There isn't much we can do at this stage of the game. □ At this stage, we are better off not calling the doctor.

at times sometimes; occasionally. □ I feel quite sad at times. □ At times, I wish I had never come here.

at will whenever one wants; freely. □ You're free to come and go at will. □ The soldiers were told to fire their guns at will. □ You can eat anything you want at will.

at work 1. at one's place of work. □ I'm sorry to call you at work, but this is important. □ She's at work now. She'll be home at supper time. 2. working [at something]; busy [with something]. (See also at play.) □ Tom is presently at work on his project. He'll be finished in a half hour. □ Don't disturb me when I'm busy at work.

atone for something to make amends for an error. □ You must atone for the bad things you have done.

attach oneself to someone 1. Fig. to become emotionally involved with someone. □ Fred seems to have attached himself to a much older woman, who has captured his attention. □ Somehow, Susan has attached herself emotionally to Tom, and she is distraught over his being away. 2. Fig. to follow after someone; to become a constant companion to someone. □ Andy's little brother attached himself to Andy and his friends—much to Andy's distress. □ John attached himself to his older brother and drove him crazy.

attach oneself to something 1. Lit. to connect or secure oneself to something. □ During the storm, Tony attached himself to the helm and proceeded to steer the boat. □ The caterpillar attached itself to a branch and began to spin its cocoon. 2. Fig. to choose to associate with a particular thing, group, or organization. □ Ron attached himself to a volleyball team that practices at the school. □ The manager attached himself to the luncheon club and became a regular fixture there.

attach to someone Fig. [for blame, importance, guilt, fault, etc.] to become “fixed” onto someone or an organization. □ A lot of guilt attaches to Henry for his part in the plot. □ Most of the blame for the accident attaches to Roger.

attach to something [for something] to be meant to fit onto or into something. □ This one attaches to this other one right at this point. □ This part should have attached to the back of the desk, but it didn't fit.

attached to someone or something 1. Lit. connected to someone or something. □ The patient has a tube attached to his arm. □ A little shelf is attached to the wall. 2. Fig. fond of someone or something. □ John is really attached to his old-fashioned ideas. □ I'm really attached to my longtime girlfriend.

attack in force Go to in force.

* an attack (of an illness) a bout of some sickness; an instance or acute case of some disease. (Typically: have ~; produce ~; suffer ~.) □ Mr. Hodder had an attack of stomach upset that forced him to stay at home.

attend to someone to listen to someone. □ Please attend to your teacher's instructions. □ Attend to the announcement of the new flight departure time.

attend to someone or something to take care of the needs of someone or something; to respond to a request or demand from someone or something. □ Please attend to your wounded friend. □ Would you please attend to the action points of this memo?

attest to something to certify or bear witness to a fact. □ I cannot attest to what you have reported. □ The witness attested to the suspect's presence at the scene of the crime.

attire someone in something to dress someone in something. □ The mother attired her children in new, clean clothes. □ She attired herself in her finest garments.

attract someone or something to someone or something else to draw or pull someone or something to someone or something else. □ The poster attracted a large number of people to the concert. □ The shouting attracted a lot of attention from the people who were nearby.

attribute something to someone or something to ascribe something to someone or something; to believe that someone or something is the source of something. □ We attribute our success to your good advice. □ I attribute all these ill-mannered memos to Andrew.

attune someone or something to someone or something else Fig. to bring someone or something into accord with someone or something else; to adjust someone or something to someone or something else. (Usually metaphorical. Not used for musical tuning.) □ You should try to attune yourself to our needs and direction. □ Try to attune your comments to the level of your audience.

auction something off to sell something [to the highest bidder] at an auction. □ He auctioned his home off. □ He auctioned off his home. □ The duke was forced to auction off his ancestral home to pay his taxes.

audition for something to try out for a part in something. (In a setting in which one's singing, speaking, or playing is heard and judged.) □ I plan to audition for the lead role in the school play. □ Liz auditioned for The Mikado.

audition someone for something to allow someone to try out for a part in a performance; to judge someone's singing, speaking, or playing potential for a part in a performance. □ Will you audition anyone else for the part? □ Have you been auditioned for a part in the school play?

augur well for someone or something to indicate or predict good things for someone or something. (Usually in the negative.) □ This latest economic message does not augur well for the stock market. □ I am afraid that this poll data does not augur well for the incumbent in the election.

avail oneself of something to help oneself by making use of something that is available. □ We availed ourselves of Tom's goodwill and let him repair the fence. □ The campers availed themselves of the first chance in a week to take a shower.

avenge oneself (on someone or something) (for something) and avenge oneself against someone or something (for something)
something) to get even with, or take revenge against someone or something for some hurt or damage. □ They avenged themselves on the enemy for the surprise attack. □ He avenged himself against the storekeeper for the false charges. □ Mary avenged herself for her ex-husband’s neglect to pay child support. □ Tom avenged himself on Bill for Bill’s previous insults.

**avenue of escape** Fig. the pathway or route along which someone or something escapes. □ The open window was the bird’s only avenue of escape from the house. □ Bill saw that his one avenue of escape was through the back door.

**average out** (at something) and **average out** (to something) to equal something as the average of a set of figures. □ The figures averaged out at what was expected. □ Will the charges average out to a reasonable figure? □ Over time, our expenses will average out to a low monthly outlay.

**average something up**¹ to calculate the average of a set of figures. □ Please add these figures and average them up. □ Please average up all the monthly expenses for the previous year. □ Will you please average these figures up on the calculator?

**avert** something (away) from someone or something to turn or divert something away from someone or something. □ We will attempt to avert attention from the problems. □ She averted her eyes from Bill when he walked by.

**avoid** someone or something like the plague Fig. to ignore or keep away from someone or something totally. □ What’s wrong with Bob? Everyone avoids him like the plague. □ I don’t like opera. I avoid it like the plague.

(Aw) **shucks!** Rur. Gosh!; a mild oath. □ Shucks, ma’am. It wasn’t anything at all. □ Aw shucks, I ain’t never been this close to a woman before.

**awake(n)** from something to wake up from something, such as a dream or a deep sleep. □ Tom awakened from a deep sleep at the sound of the phone ringing. □ At dawn, she awoke from her slumbers.

**awake(n)** someone from something to cause someone to wake up from something. □ The crowing of the rooster awakened Sally from her slumbers. □ She awakened herself from a deep sleep when she fell out of bed.

**awake(n)** someone to something to make someone alert to something, such as a problem or a need. □ We need to awaken the voters to the need for more taxes. □ They awakened themselves to their callousness and began to treat other people better.

**awake(n) to** something to wake up while experiencing something. □ Mary awoke to the smell of freshly brewed coffee. □ I love to awaken to music.

**award** something (to someone) (for something) and **award** (someone) something (for something) to give a prize or reward to someone (for something). □ The committee awarded a plaque to Andy for his loyalty. □ They awarded prizes for efficiency to two different people.

**award** something to someone or something [for a judge or other legal entity] to decide in favor of a person or group. □ The judge awarded the judgment to the plaintiff. □ The jury awarded a large sum to the smaller company.

*away from it all* at a place where one can avoid completely what one is leaving behind. (Typically: **be ~; get ~**) □ I need a few days off to get away from it all. □ Everyone needs to get away from it all every now and then.

**away from one’s desk** Fig. not available for a telephone conversation; not available to be seen or spoken to. (Sometimes said by the person who answers a telephone in an office. It means that the person whom the caller wants is not immediately available due to personal or business reasons. (Typically: **be ~; step ~**) □ I’m sorry, but Ann is away from her desk just now. Can you come back later? □ Tom has stepped away from his desk, but if you leave your number, he will call you right back.

**away (from someone or something)** avoiding someone or something; maintaining a physical distance from someone or something. (Typically: **get ~; keep ~; stay ~**) □ Please keep away from me if you have a cold. □ Stay away from the construction site, Timmy.

**awkward as a bull in a china shop** Go to a bull in a china shop.

**awkward as a cow on a crutch** and **awkward as a cow on roller skates** very clumsy or off balance. (Also: **as ~**) □ When Lulu was overweight, she was awkward as a cow on a crutch. □ Tom will never be a gymnast. He’s as awkward as a cow on roller skates!

**awkward as a cow on roller skates** Go to previous. the ax Go to the sack.
a **babe in arms** 1. Lit. a very young baby that is carried by an adult. □ I have known that since I was a babe in arms! □ A young mother with a babe in arms stood in line with the rest of the students. 2. Fig. an innocent or naive person. □ He’s a babe in arms when it comes to taking girls out. □ Mary has no idea how to win the election. Politically she’s a babe in arms.

A **babe in the woods** Fig. a naive or innocent person; an inexperienced person. (Like a child lost in the woods.) □ Bill is a babe in the woods when it comes to dealing with plumbers. □ As a painter, Mary is fine, but she’s a babe in the woods as a musician.

**babysit for** someone and **babysit (with) someone** 1. to attend and care for a child for a period of time. □ I’m looking for babysitter for my cousin. □ Will you babysit with my cousin? 2. to attend and care for a child for a short period of time. □ Would you mind babysitting Roger for a few minutes? □ Sure, I will babysit for you.

**back and fill** Fig. to act indecisively; to change one’s direction repeatedly; to reverse one’s course. (Originally nautical, referring to trimming the sails so as to alternately fill them with wind and release the wind, in order to maneuver in a narrow space.) □ The president spent most of his speech backing and filling on the question of taxation. □ The other candidate was backing and filling on every issue, depending on whom she was addressing.

**back and forth** in one direction and then the other repeatedly; from one place to another repeatedly. □ We tossed the ball back and forth between us. □ The tiger paced back and forth in its cage.

**back at it (again)** doing something again. (Usually said in criticism.) □ I thought you stopped smoking, but I see you are back at it again.

*back (at someone)* repaying someone for a bad deed. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ Tom called me a jerk, but I’ll get back at him. □ I don’t know how I’ll get back for her insult, but I will.

**back away (from someone or something) and back off (from someone or something)** 1. Lit. to move backwards from a person or thing; to withdraw physically from someone or something. □ You should back away from the fire. □ Please back off from the man who is threatening you. 2. Fig. to begin to appear uninterested in someone or something; to withdraw one's interest from someone or something. □ The board of directors began to back away. □ The president spent most of his speech backing and filling on the question of taxation. □ The other candidate was backing and filling on every issue, depending on whom she was addressing.

**back down (from someone or something)** to yield to a person or a thing; to fail to carry through on a threat. □ Jane backed down from her position on the budget. □ It’s probably better to back down from this situation; looks like you are at a disadvantage.

**back down (on something)** to lessen or drop an earlier rigid position on something; to yield something in an argument. □ She backed down on her demands. □ In the end, she backed down.

**back down (something)** to go down something backwards, such as a ladder or inclined driveway. □ Harry backed down the ladder safely. □ Looking behind him, he backed down slowly.

**back East** to or from the eastern United States, especially the northeastern or New England states. (Used even by people who have never been in the East.) □ Sally felt that she had to get back East for a few days. □ Tom went to school back East, but his brother attended college in the Midwest.

*back in(to) (the) harness* Fig. back doing someone’s job. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ I don’t look forward to getting back into the harness next Monday. □ When my vacation is over, I have to get back into harness the very next day. □ I’m not looking forward to having to get back in harness after my trip abroad.

**back in(to) circulation** 1. Fig. back enjoying one’s social contacts; back continuing to make new friends and develop a social life. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ After her illness, Kristine looked forward to getting back into circulation. □ I want to get back in circulation and have some fun. 2. Fig. becoming available for dating again. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ Now that Fred and Amy are through, Amy is getting back into circulation. □ Now that you’re divorced, are you going to get back into circulation?

**back into someone or something** to move backwards, bumping into someone or something; to move a car backwards into something, such as a garage or a parking space. (See also back someone or something into someone or something.) □ I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to back into you. □ I backed into the potted plant.

the **back of the beyond** the most remote place; somewhere very remote. □ John hardly ever comes to the city. He lives at the back of the beyond. □ Mary likes city life, but her husband likes to live in the back of the beyond.

**back off (from someone or something)** Go to back away (from someone or something).

*back on one’s feet** 1. Lit. standing up again after a fall. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ She struggled to get back on her feet after she fell. 2. Fig. recovered from an illness and out of one’s sickbed. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ I will go back to work as soon as I get back on my feet. □ I want to get back on my feet as soon as possible. 3. Fig. recovered from anything, especially financial problems. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ I can’t afford to buy a car until I get a job and get back on my feet. □ I’ll get back on my feet as soon as I start working again.
back on track

*back on track Fig. running according to schedule again. (*Typically: get ~; get something ~; have something ~; put something ~.) □ I hope we can have this project back on track by the end of the week.

back oneself into a corner Fig. to manage to get oneself into a position where there is limited escape. (Ranging from literal to figurative.) □ He tells different stories to different people. Finally he backed himself into a corner and had to admit his lies.

back onto someone or something to go backwards, moving or rolling onto someone or something. □ The motorcycle backed onto my toe. □ Don’t back onto anything as you go down the driveway!

back-order something [for a merchant] to order something that is not in stock and make delivery to the customer when the goods become available. □ The store didn’t have the replacement part for my vacuum cleaner, so the manager back-ordered it for me. □ The shop had to back-order some of the items on my list.

back out (of something) 1. Lit. [for someone or something] to move out of something backwards. □ The rabbit tried to back out of its burrow. □ The rabbit backed out. 2. Fig. [for someone] to withdraw from something, such as an agreement, negotiations, an argument, etc. □ Are you going to try to back out of our agreement? □ You won’t back out, will you?

back over someone or something [for a car or other vehicle] to roll backwards over someone or something. □ Sandy backed over her brother’s bicycle. □ She almost backed over her brother.

*back (some place) returned to some place; at some place again. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; arrive ~.) □ I can’t wait till we get back home. □ When will we get back? Is it much farther?

back someone for something to support or endorse someone for something, such as a public office. □ We all back Tom for president. □ I am backing Jane for treasurer.

back someone or something into someone or something to guide or move someone or something backwards into someone or something. □ Don’t back your car into anyone. □ Using hand signals, the attendant backed all the cars into the parking spaces.

back someone or something off (from something) to guide or move someone or something a short distance from something. □ I backed the car off from the curb a tiny bit. □ Using signals, I backed the car off from the crushed bicycle.

back someone or something onto someone or something to guide or move someone or something backwards onto someone or something. □ I backed the car onto the flowerers accidentally. □ Using hand signals, the mechanic helped the driver back the car onto the ramp.

back someone or something out† (from something) to back someone or something out of something. □ Judy backed out of the garage. □ Please back out the car. □ Don backed Fred out of the garage.

back someone or something up to someone or something and back someone or something up† to guide or move someone or something backwards to someone or something. □ She backed the car up to the end of the street. □ Using hand signals, Todd helped back Mary up to the gas pump. □ He backed up the motor home carefully.

back someone up† to provide someone with help in reserve; to support someone. □ Don’t worry. I will back you up when you need me. □ Will you please back us up over the weekend?

back something up 1. Lit. to drive a car backwards. □ Will you back your car up a little? □ I will back up the car. 2. Lit. to cause objects to obstruct a pathway or channel and cause a slowdown in the flow. □ The wreck backed the cars up for a long way. □ Some dead branches and leaves backed the sewer up. 3. Fig. to give additional support or evidence about something. (To support or strengthen the facts.) □ My story of the crime will back your story up. □ That backs up my story, all right.

back the wrong horse Fig. to support someone or something that cannot win or succeed. □ I don’t want to back the wrong horse, but it seems to me that Fred is the better candidate. □ Fred backed the wrong horse in the budget hearings.

back to basics return to basic instruction; start the learning process over again. □ Class, you seem to have forgotten the simplest of facts, so it’s back to basics for the first week of classes.

back to square one Fig. back to the beginning. (As with a board game.) □ Negotiations have broken down, and it’s back to square one. □ We lost our appeal of the lower court decision, so back to square one.

back to the drawing board Fig. time to start from the start; it is time to plan something over again. (Plans or schematics are drawn on a drawing board. Note the variations shown in the examples.) □ It didn’t work. Back to the drawing board. □ I flunked English this semester. Well, back to the old drawing board.

back to the salt mines Cliché time to return to work, school, or something else that might be unpleasant. (The phrase implies that the speaker is a slave who works in the salt mines.) □ It’s one o’clock and lunch break is over. Back to the salt mines. □ School starts in the fall, so then it’s back to the salt mines again.

back up 1. Lit. [for objects] to obstruct and accumulate in a pathway or channel. □ Something clogged the sewer and it backed up. 2. Fig. to refuse to go through with something; to back out (of something). □ Fred backed up at the last minute, leaving me to do the job alone.

back up (to someone or something) to move backwards to someone or something. (See also back someone or something up to someone or something.) □ The bus backed up to the end of the parking space.

back up (to something) to go back to something said in a conversation. □ Wait—back up a little. What did you say that phone number was? □ Let’s back up to what you just said and go over that point again.
backfire on someone Fig. [for something, such as a plot] to fail unexpectedly; to fail with an undesired result. □ Your plot backfired on you. □ I was afraid that my scheme would backfire on me.

backhanded compliment and left-handed compliment an unintended or ambiguous compliment. □ Backhanded compliments are the only kind he ever gives! □ And I think his left-handed compliments are all given by accident, too!

the backroom boys Go to the boys in the back room.

backseat driver Fig. an annoying passenger who tells the driver how to drive; someone who tells others how to do things. □ I don’t need any backseat driver on this project. □ Stop pestering me with all your advice. Nobody likes a backseat driver!

back-to-back 1. Lit. adjacent and touching backs. □ They started the duel by standing back-to-back. □ Two people who stand back-to-back can manage to see in all directions.

2. Fig. following immediately. (Actually such things are front to back, with the “end” of one event followed in time by the beginning of another.) □ The doctor had appointments set up back-to-back all day long. □ I have three lecture courses back-to-back every day of the week.

*bad blood (between people) unpleasant feelings or animosity between people. (*Typically: be ~; have ~.) □ There is bad blood between Fred and Jim. They cannot be civil to one another. □ There is no bad blood between us. I don’t need why we should quarrel.

da bad egg Go to a rotten egg.

A bad excuse is better than none. Prov. If you offer some explanation for an unwanted action, there is a slight chance that it will be accepted and you will therefore not be in trouble, but if you have no explanation at all, you do not even have that slight chance. □ Fred: I can’t believe we played cards till midnight! What will I tell my wife when she asks why I’m so late getting home? Bill: Tell her something came up at the office. Fred: But that’s a lousy excuse. She’ll never believe it. Bill: A bad excuse is better than none.

da bad hair day a bad day in general. (As when one’s inability to groom one’s hair in the morning seems to color the events of the day.) □ I’m sorry I am so glum. This has been a real bad hair day. □ It’s just one bad hair day after another.

Bad money drives out good. Prov. If there is counterfeit or inflated currency in circulation, people will hoard their genuine currency; worthless things will drive valuable things out of circulation. (This principle is also known as Gresham’s Law.) □ When the government reduced the amount of copper in the pennies it produced, we saw that bad money drives out good; everyone saved copper pennies and only spent the less pure ones. □ Ever since cheap, flimsy furniture began to be manufactured in large quantities, it has been very difficult to find solid, well-made furniture. Bad craftsmanship, like bad money, drives out good.

Bad news travels fast. Prov. Information about trouble or misfortune disseminates quickly (more quickly than good news). □ John: Hi, Andy. I’m sorry to hear you got fired. Andy: How did you know about that already? It only happened this morning. John: Bad news travels fast. □ I called my mother to tell her about my car accident, but my aunt had already told her. Bad news travels fast.

a bad penny a worthless person. □ Wally is a bad penny. Someday he’ll end up in jail. □ My little brother is a real bad penny. Every time he shows up, he wants to borrow money.

A bad penny always turns up. Prov. A worthless person always comes back to the place he or she started out. □ Jill: I just found out that Tom left town after we fought last Saturday. What if I never see him again? Jane: Don’t worry. A bad penny always turns up.

a bad time Go to a hard time.

bad times and difficult times; trying times; hard times; tough times a period that offers difficulties, such as when there is not enough food, money, or work. □ We went through trying times when Perry was out of work, but we all banded back.

badger someone into something Fig. to pester someone into doing something. □ Don’t try to badger us into doing it. □ My brother and I were badgered into cleaning out the garage.

badger someone or something to death Fig. to bother and annoy someone or some group. □ If you don’t tell him what he wants to know, he will badger you to death until he finds out.

bad-mouth someone or something to say negative things about someone or something. □ Mr. Smith was always bad-mouthing Mrs. Smith. They just didn’t get along. □ John bad-mouths his car constantly because it is too small for him.

bag and baggage and part and parcel with one’s luggage; with all one’s possessions. □ Sally showed up at our door bag and baggage one Sunday morning. □ All right, if you won’t pay the rent, out with you, bag and baggage! □ Get all your stuff—part and parcel—out of here!

Bag it! and Bag your face! Sl. Be quiet!; Shut up and go away! □ Mary: Sally, you look just terrible! What happened? Sally: Bag it! Mary: Sorry I asked! □ Bill: Did I ever tell you about the time I went to Germany? Sue: Give it a rest, Bill. Bag it! □ Sue: Can I borrow your car again? Mary: Bag your face, Sue! Sue: Well, I never!

bag of bones an extremely skinny person or animal with bones showing. (The skin is the figurative bag.) □ I’ve lost so much weight that I’m just turning into a bag of bones. □ Get that old bag of bones off the racetrack!

bag of tricks Fig. a collection of special techniques or methods. □ What have you got in your bag of tricks that could help me with this problem? □ Here comes Mother with her bag of tricks. I’m sure she can help us.

bag on someone Sl. to criticize someone. □ Stop bagging on me! I’m tired of all your complaining. □ If you are going to bag on everyone all the time, I don’t want to hear about it.

bag some rays Go to catch some rays.

Bag that! Sl. Forget that! □ Bag that! The number I gave you was wrong. □ There are four—no, bag that!—six of the red ones and three blue ones.

Bag your face! Go to Bag it!

bail out (of something) 1. Lit. to jump out of an airplane with a parachute. □ John still remembers the first time he
bail someone or something out
Fig. to rescue someone or something from trouble or difficulty. (Based on bail someone out of jail.)
The proposed law was in trouble, but Senator Todd bailed out the bill at the last minute. I was going to be late with my report, but my roommate lent a hand and bailed me out at the last minute.

bail someone out of jail and bail someone out
1. Lit. to deposit a sum of money that allows someone to get out of jail while waiting for a trial. John was in jail. I had to go down to the police station to bail him out. I need some cash to bail out a friend! 2. Fig. to help someone who is having difficulties. When my brother went broke, I had to bail him out with a loan.

bail something out
1. to remove water from the bottom of a boat by dipping or scooping. Tom has to bail the boat out before we get in. You should always bail out a boat before using it. 2. to empty a boat of accumulated water. Would you bail this boat out? I will bail out the boat.

bait and switch
Fig. a deceptive merchandising practice where one product is advertised at a low price to get people's attention, but pressure is applied to get the customer to purchase a more expensive item. Walter described how the store used bait and switch, since they never seemed to have in stock the bargains that they advertised. Wilbur accused the merchant of bait and switch practices and stalked out of the store.

bake something from scratch
Go to from scratch.

a baker's dozen thirteen. (Bakers often added an extra item to an order for a dozen.) We ended up with a baker's dozen each of socks and undershirts on our shopping trip.

the balance of power the situation where the power held by one governing body or adversary is balanced by the power of another. The balance of power was threatened when China captured our airplane.

balance out to equal out; to become even or fair. These things all balance out in the end. Don't worry. Things will balance out.

balance something against something else to consider one thing in reference to another; to weigh one possibility against another possibility. We will have to balance all the good he did against all the bad. The good will be balanced against the bad in the final reckoning.

balance something with something else to offset something with something else; to balance something against something else. The teacher tends to balance a harsh grading scheme with a strong sense of fair play. Roger balanced the spicy soup with a bland first course. They balanced his bad behavior with the good, but still felt he was much too rude.

balance the accounts
1. Lit. and balance the books to determine through bookkeeping that accounts are in balance, that all money is accounted for. Jane was up all night balancing the accounts. The cashier was not allowed to leave the bank until the manager balanced the books.

bald as a baby's backside
Go to next.

bald as a coot and bald as a baby's backside completely bald. (Also: as ~.) I've got to get home to my ball and chain. My ball and chain is mad at me. a person's special burden; a job. (Prisoners sometimes were fettered with a chain attached to a leg on one end and to a heavy metal ball on the other.) Tom wanted to quit his job. He said he was tired of that old ball and chain. Mr. Franklin always referred to his wife as his ball and chain.

the ball is in someone's court
Fig. to be someone else's move, play, or turn. (From tennis.) The ball's in your court now. You do something. I can't do anything as long as the ball is in John's court.

ball of fire and fireball
an energetic and ambitious person; a go-getter. That guy is a real ball of fire when it comes to sales. I don't want to hire some young fireball. I need wisdom and thoughtfulness.

ball someone or something up
1. to interfere with someone or something; to mess someone or something up. Who balled this television up? Someone balled up the television.

ball something up
2. to roll something up into a ball. (Alluding to something, such as rope, being tangled up and useless.) She balled the clay up and stuck it to the clown's face as a nose. Why are you balling up the paper?

a ballpark figure
Fig. an estimate; an off-the-cuff guess. I don't need an exact number. A ballpark figure will do.

the balls of one's feet the bottom part of the feet just behind the toes. Mary got blisters on the balls of her feet from playing tennis. The dancer balanced on the balls of his feet.

ban someone from something
1. to prohibit someone from doing something. We banned everyone from smoking. Everyone has been banned from smoking. 2. to prohibit someone from entering something or some place. (The same as bar someone from some place.) They banned us from the building. The manager banned the children from the theater.

band together (against someone or something) to unite in opposition to someone or something; to unite against someone or something. We must band together against the enemy.

32
bandage someone or something up\textsuperscript{1} to wrap bandages on someone or on someone's wounds. \(\Box\) We should bandage the wounds up first. \(\Box\) We should bandage up the wounds first. \(\Box\) I have to bandage him up before we can move him. \(\Box\) She bandaged herself up with the supplies she kept in her backpack.

bandy something about\textsuperscript{1} to spread something, such as someone's good name, around in an unfavorable context; to toss words around in a gossipy fashion. (Bandy means to toss or hit something back and forth.) \(\Box\) Just stop bandying words about and start telling the truth! \(\Box\) There is no need to keep bandying about those rumors.

bandy with someone to argue [with someone]; to argue by "playing catch with words." (Bandy means to toss or hit something back and forth.) \(\Box\) Why are you bandying with me? \(\Box\) She has been bandied with enough. Give her a straight answer.

bang against someone or something to knock or strike against someone or something. \(\Box\) The board banged against the side of the house. \(\Box\) The shutter banged against me and hurt my shin.

bang (away) at something to hit at something repeatedly, causing harm or making noise. \(\Box\) Someone is banging away at the door. \(\Box\) Stop banging at the door.

(bang) dead to rights in the act; (guilty) without question. \(\Box\) We caught her dead to rights with the loot still on her. \(\Box\) There he was, bang dead to rights with the smoking gun still in his hands.

bang for the buck value for the money spent; excitement in the act; (guilty) without question. \(\Box\) We should bandage up the wounds first. \(\Box\) I have to bandage him up before we can move him. \(\Box\) She bandaged herself up with the supplies she kept in her backpack.

bang against someone or something to knock or strike against someone or something. \(\Box\) The board banged against the side of the house. \(\Box\) The shutter banged against me and hurt my shin.

bang (away) at something to hit at something repeatedly, causing harm or making noise. \(\Box\) Someone is banging away at the door. \(\Box\) Stop banging at the door.

(bang) dead to rights in the act; (guilty) without question. \(\Box\) We caught her dead to rights with the loot still on her. \(\Box\) There he was, bang dead to rights with the smoking gun still in his hands.

bang for the buck value for the money spent; excitement in the act; (guilty) without question. \(\Box\) We should bandage up the wounds first. \(\Box\) I have to bandage him up before we can move him. \(\Box\) She bandaged herself up with the supplies she kept in her backpack.

bang something in\textsuperscript{1} to crash something; to dent or collapse something. \(\Box\) Who banged the side of the washing machine in? \(\Box\) Who banged in the side of the washing machine?

bang something into someone or something to strike someone or something with something. \(\Box\) Mark banged his fist into the cushion and swore. \(\Box\) He banged the pole into Liz by accident.

bang something out\textsuperscript{1} to play something on the piano, loudly, banging on the keys; to type something on a keyboard by pounding on the keys. \(\Box\) Let me bang this melody out and see if you can guess who wrote it. \(\Box\) Please bang out the school song good and loud. \(\Box\) I banged out the newspaper story and just barely made my deadline.

bang something up\textsuperscript{1} to crash or wreck something; to damage something. \(\Box\) Don't bang my best skillet up! \(\Box\) Who banged up my best skillet?

bang the drum for someone or something Go to beat the drum for someone or something.

banish someone or something from some place to ban or evict someone or something from some place. \(\Box\) The town council banished motorcycles from all the parks in town. \(\Box\) The new law banished vagrants from the train station.

bank on something Fig. to be so sure of something that one can trust it as one might trust a bank with one's money. \(\Box\) I will be there on time. You can bank on it. \(\Box\) I need a promise of your help. I hope I can bank on it.

bank something up\textsuperscript{2} (against something) 1. to heap up something so that it presses against something. \(\Box\) Walter banked the coals up against the side of the furnace. \(\Box\) He banked up the coals against the side. \(\Box\) Tim banked the coals up. 2. to heap up something to guard against something. \(\Box\) They had to build barriers to hide behind. They banked dirt and rubble up against the oncoming attackers. \(\Box\) Who banked up this dirt against the flood? \(\Box\) The river was rising, so we banked some dirt up.

banker's hours Fig. short work hours: 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. \(\Box\) When did you start keeping banker's hours? \(\Box\) There aren't many bankers who keep banker's hours these days.

baptism of fire Fig. A first experience of something, usually something difficult or unpleasant. \(\Box\) My son's just had his first visit to the dentist. He stood up to this baptism of fire very well. \(\Box\) Mary's had her baptism of fire as a teacher. She was assigned to the worst class in the school.

bare one's teeth Go to show one's teeth.
the bare something the smallest or least possible. Bob did the bare minimum of work to pass the class. Food, clothing, and shelter are the bare necessities of life.

bare something to someone to reveal or disclose something to someone. I have to know a guy pretty well before I will bare my innermost thoughts to him. Our criminal involvement was bared to the judge.

bare-bones Cliché limited; stripped down; lacking refinements or extras. This one is the bare-bones model. It has no accessories at all.

barf out Sl. to become deranged, to a greater or lesser degree. Terry barfed out when he heard about the damage Nick had done to his car. Yuck! I thought I was going to barf out.

barf someone out Sl. to disgust someone. You just barf me out! I barf myself out every time I look at the mirror.

bargain (for someone or something) (with someone) Go to bargain (over someone or something) (with someone).

bargain for something and bargain on something to plan for something; to expect something. We knew the project would be difficult, but we didn’t bargain for this kind of trouble. I bargained on an easier time of it than this.

bargain on something Go to previous.

bargain (over someone or something) (with someone) and bargain (for someone or something) (with someone) to negotiate with someone about obtaining someone or something. I refuse to bargain over money with Dan. We will bargain with the supplier over prices. You can’t bargain over Claire with Jeff as if she were a car!

bargaining chip Fig. something to be used (traded) in negotiations. I want to use their refusal to meet our terms as a bargaining chip in future negotiations. I need to have a few bargaining chips ready when we get down to drawing up the contract.

barge in (on someone or something) Fig. to break in on someone or something; to interrupt someone or something. Oh! I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to barge in on you. They barged in on the church service and caused a commotion. Please don’t interrupt me! You can’t just barge in like that!

barge in(to some place) Fig. to go or come rudely into some place. (See also barge into someone or something.) He just barged right in without knocking. Don’t barge in like that, without letting us know you’re here!

barge into someone or something Fig. to bump or crash into someone or something, possibly on purpose. She just barged into me and nearly knocked me over. Tom tripped, barged into the water cooler, and hurt his knee.

bark at someone Fig. to speak harshly to someone. Don’t bark at me like that over such a trivial mistake! Ken barked at the children for being noisy.

bark at someone or something Lit. [for a dog] to make a characteristic sharp sound at someone or something. The dog is barking at the traffic again. Their guard dog was barking at me.

bark something out at someone and bark something at someone; bark something to someone; bark something out† (to someone) Fig. to say something harshly to someone. The sergeant barked the orders out at the recruits. He barked an order at his staff. The teacher barked a reprimand out to the class. He barked out the order clearly and loudly.

bark up the wrong tree Fig. to make the wrong choice; to ask the wrong person; to follow the wrong course. (Alludes to a dog in pursuit of an animal, where the animal is in one tree and the dog is barking at another tree.) If you think I’m the guilty person, you’re barking up the wrong tree. The hitters blamed the team’s bad record on the pitchers, but they were barking up the wrong tree.

A barking dog never bites. Prov. Someone who makes threats all the time seldom carries out the threats. Old Mrs. Smith keeps saying she’ll call the police if we walk on her lawn, but don’t worry. A barking dog never bites. My boss threatens to fire me at least once a week, but a barking dog never bites.

barrel along to move along rapidly. The car was barreling along at a fairly rapid clip. Don’t barrel along so fast that you miss the turn.

barrel in(to some place) Fig. to move into a place rapidly and with great force. Tony barreled into the room and interrupted the card game. He just barreled in without knocking.

a barrel of fun Fig. a tremendous amount of fun. Jill is just a barrel of fun in class. We had a barrel of fun at your party.

barrel out (of some place) to move rapidly out of a place; to burst out of a place. The kids barreled out of town as fast as they could go. They heard the police siren and quickly barreled out.

barter for something and barter over something to trade [something] for something else; to acquire something by exchanging goods or services, not by using money. I want to barter for a large amount of cloth. Will you barter for this month’s rent? We will not barter over what you owe us.

barter something away† to trade something away; to lose something of value in a trade. Don’t barter my car away! Don’t barter away anything of such high value.

barter something for something else to trade something for something else. He sought to barter the car for a large computer. She bartered the piano for a settee.

barter something off† to get rid of something by trading it for something else. See if you can barter that old desk off. She bartered off the used bookshelf.

barter with someone to enter into trading with someone without using money; to bargain with someone. Are you willing to barter with me, or is this strictly a cash transaction?

base one’s opinion on something to make a judgment or form an opinion from something. You must not base your opinion on one bad experience. I base my opinion on many years of studying the problem.

base something (up)on someone or something to ground something, such as one’s opinion, decision, or thinking, on someone or something; to found one’s ideas or attitude on something. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) I base my opinion on many, many facts. I based my opinion upon my own seasoned judgment.
bash someone or something around\(^1\) to treat someone or something roughly (physically or figuratively); to beat on or abuse someone or something (physically or otherwise).

bash something against someone or something to strike something against someone or something. \(\square\) He accidentally bashed his head against a beam. \(\square\) She bashed her sore elbow against Ted’s forehead and both of them were hurt.

bash something in\(^1\) to crush something inward or to the inside. \(\square\) Don’t bash the door in! \(\square\) It sounds like someone is bashing in the door.

bash something up\(^1\) to crush something; to strike something and damage it. \(\square\) She bashed the car up badly. \(\square\) How did she bash up the car?

bask in something Fig. to enjoy or revel in something, such as praise, fame, etc. (Alludes to a person or animal resting in the warming rays of the sun.) \(\square\) Alice enjoyed basking in her newfound fame. \(\square\) Lily loves basking in praise.

a basket case Fig. a person who is a nervous wreck. (Formerly referred to a person who is physically disabled in all four limbs because of paralysis or amputation.) \(\square\) After that all-day meeting, I was practically a basket case. \(\square\) My weeks of worry were so intense that I was a real basket case afterwards.

bat something around\(^1\) 1. Lit. to knock something around with a bat or something similar. \(\square\) Terry spent a little time batting a ball around, then he went home. \(\square\) Let’s bat around some balls before we go home. \(\square\) Fig. to discuss something back and forth. \(\square\) Let’s bat this around a little bit tomorrow at our meeting. \(\square\) Do you want to bat around this matter a little more?

ba(t)ch (it) to live alone like a bachelor. \(\square\) I tried to bach it for a while, but I got too lonely. \(\square\) I didn’t want to batch, but I had to.

bathe someone or something in something 1. Lit. to cleanse someone or something in something; to coat someone or something all over with some liquid. (In a container of liquid or the liquid itself.) \(\square\) She bathed the baby in warm water. \(\square\) Liz bathed her injured hand in cold water. \(\square\) She bathed herself in the warm spring water and took a long nap under a tree. 2. Fig. to blanket or spread over someone or something; to coat someone or something in something; to cover someone or something in the liquid or the liquid itself.) \(\square\) She bathed the baby in warm water. \(\square\) The candles bathed her in a soft glow. \(\square\) The red of the sunset bathed the trees in an eerie light.

batten down the hatches Fig. to prepare for difficult times. (From a nautical expression meaning, literally, to seal the hatches against the arrival of a storm. The word order is fixed.) \(\square\) Here comes that contentious Mrs. Jones. Batten down the hatches! \(\square\) Batten down the hatches, Congress is in session again.

batter someone or something up\(^1\) to damage or harm someone or something. \(\square\) Max threatened to batter Lefty up within an inch of his life. \(\square\) Who battered up this desk?

batter something down\(^1\) to smash or break down something, such as a wall, door, or any defensive structure. \(\square\) Do they have to batter anything down as part of the construction project? \(\square\) They battered down the wall as a first step in enlarging the house.

battle against someone or something 1. Lit. to wage a fight against someone or something; to attempt to defeat someone or something. \(\square\) The army battled against the enemy until both sides were exhausted. 2. Fig. to struggle with someone or something. \(\square\) We are battling against the ancient enemies of ignorance and hatred. \(\square\) I am tired of battling against Karen.

battle for something 1. Lit. to fight to gain something. \(\square\) The army battled for the town until they had defeated its defenders. 2. Fig. to attempt to win or gain something by struggling or arguing. \(\square\) Both of them battled for Kristina’s attention.

battle of the bulge the attempt to keep one’s waistline slim. (Jocular. Alludes to a World War II battle.) \(\square\) She appears to have lost the battle of the bulge. \(\square\) I’ve been fighting the battle of the bulge ever since I turned 35.

a battle royal a classic, hard-fought battle or argument.

bawl someone out\(^1\) to scold someone in a loud voice. \(\square\) The teacher bawled the student out for arriving late. \(\square\) Principals don’t usually bawl out students.

bay at something to howl at something. (Usually said of a dog, wolf, or coyote.) \(\square\) The dogs were baying at the moon.

be for doing something Go to next.

be for someone or something and be for doing something supporting or in favor of someone or something. \(\square\) I’m for abandoning the scheme. \(\square\) Mary is running for office, and the whole family is for her.

be game to be ready for action; to be agreeable to participating in something. \(\square\) “I’m game,” David replied when I suggested we go for a long hike. \(\square\) We’re going to the park to play football. Are you game?

be given precedence over someone or something Go to precedence over someone or something.

Be good. a departure response meaning “good-bye and behave yourself.” \(\square\) Jane: Well, we’re off. Be back in a week. Mary: Okay, have fun. Be good. Jane: Do I have to? \(\square\) Tom: Bye. Be good. Bill: See you next month.
Be happy to (do something). Go to (I’d be) happy to (do something).

be in aid of to be intended to help, cure, or resolve. □ What is all this in aid of? □ I don’t understand what your comments are in aid of.

Be just before you’re generous. Prov. Do what you ought to do before you do things that you want to do; pay your debts before you give money away. □ Jill: It’s payday! I can’t wait to go out and buy my niece that nice toy train set for her birthday. Jane: But, Jill, we have bills to pay. Be just before you’re generous.

Be my guest. Help yourself.; After you. (A polite way of indicating that someone else should go first, help himself or herself to something, or take the last one of something.) □ Mary: I would just love to have some more cake, but there is only one piece left. Sally: Be my guest. Mary: Wow! Thanks! □ Jane: Here’s the door. Who should go in first? Bill: Be my guest. I’ll wait out here. Jane: You’re so polite!

be one’s brother’s keeper to be responsible for someone else. (Used of others besides just real brothers.) □ I can’t force these kids to go to school and get an education so they can get jobs. I am not my brother’s keeper. □ They can get jobs. I am not my brother’s keeper.

be one’s own man and be one’s own master to be someone who is not controlled by other people; to be an independent person. □ Bert longed to be his own master, but at the same time feared losing the security he had as the employee of a large company. □ When I go away to college, I’ll be my own man. My parents won’t be able to tell me what to do anymore.

be one’s own master Go to previous.

Be quiet! Stop talking or making noise. (Regarded as a Cliché to dare to do something.) □ To dare to do something. □ Jane: This place is really crazy! Beam me up, Scotty! □ I’ve heard enough! Beam me up, Scotty!

beam someone or something up† (to some place) to transport someone or something (up) to something. (Originally in the context of a Star Trek adventure, but also used jocularly.) □ The captain asked the first mate to beam him up. □ Please beam up the crew, Roger. □ Beam me up so I can see your penthouse suite!

beam up Sl. to die. (Alluding to the television program Star Trek.) □ Pete Dead? I didn’t think he was old enough to beam up. □ I was so exhausted after climbing four flights that I was afraid I would beam up.

bear a grudge (against someone) and have a grudge (against someone); hold a grudge (against someone) to continue feeling an old resentment for someone; to harbor continual anger for someone. □ She bears a grudge against the judge who sentenced her. □ I have a grudge against my landlord for not fixing the leaky faucet.

bear a resemblance to someone or something to have a degree of similarity to someone or something. □ This wallet bears a strong resemblance to the one I lost last month. □ Do you think that Wally bears any resemblance to his sister Mary?

bear down (on someone or something) to press down on someone or something. □ Bear down on the pen. You have to make a lot of copies. □ Don’t bear down too hard or you’ll break it.

bear fruit 1. Lit. [for a plant or tree] to yield fruit. □ Our apple tree didn’t bear fruit this year. 2. Fig. to yield results. □ I hope your new plan bears fruit. □ We’ve had many good ideas, but none of them has borne fruit.

bear in mind that... to remember [something]; to consider [something]. □ Bear in mind that the trip will be expensive. □ I asked the teacher to bear in mind that I am just a beginner.

bear off (of something) to turn off a road or course. □ Bear off the main road to the left. □ Don’t bear off too sharply.

bear one’s cross and carry one’s cross Fig. to handle or cope with one’s burden; to endure one’s difficulties. (This is a biblical theme. It is always used figuratively except in the biblical context.) □ It’s a very painful disease, but I’ll bear my cross. □ I can’t help you with it. You’ll just have to carry your own cross.

bear someone or something in mind Go to keep someone or something in mind.

bear someone or something up† to hold someone or something up; to support someone or something. □ Will this bench bear me up? □ This bench is so sturdy it would bear up an elephant.

bear someone up† to sustain or encourage someone. □ Your encouragement bore me up through a very hard time. □ I will bear up the widow through the funeral service as well as I can.

bear something out† [for facts or evidence] to support or confirm a story or explanation. □ The facts don’t bear this out. □ Her story bears out exactly what you said.
beat someone or something off

beat the blame for something Go to the blame for something.

beat the brunt of something to withstand the worst part or the strongest part of something, such as an attack. □ I had to bear the brunt of her screaming and yelling. □ Why don't you talk with her the next time she complains? I'm tired of bearing the brunt of her objections.

beat up against something to withstand something. □ She was unable to bear up against the criticism. □ Ken bore up against the challenge of his disabling injury well.

beat up (under something) 1. Lit. to hold up under something; to sustain the weight of something. □ How is the new beam bearing up under the weight of the floor? □ It isn't bearing up. It broke. 2. Fig. [for someone] to remain brave under a mental or emotional burden. □ Jill did not bear up well under problems with her family. □ Jill bore up quite well amid serious difficulties.

beat (up)on something [for information or facts] to concern someone or be relevant to something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ How do those facts bear on this matter? □ They do not bear upon this matter at all.

bear watching to need close, attentive observation or monitoring. □ This problem will bear watching. □ This is a very serious disease, and it will bear watching for further developments.

bear with someone or something to be patient with someone or something; to wait upon someone or something. (Especially through difficulties.) □ Please bear with me a moment while I try to get this straightened out. □ Can you bear with the committee until it reaches a decision?

beard the lion in his den and beard someone in his den Prov. to confront someone on his or her own territory. □ We went out into the cold weather, but beat a retreat to the warmth of our fire. □ The dog beat a hasty retreat to its own yard.

beat a dead horse Go to flog a dead horse.

beat a (hasty) retreat to withdraw from a place very quickly. □ We went out into the cold weather, but beat a retreat to the warmth of our fire. □ The dog beat a hasty retreat to its own yard.

beat a path to someone's door Fig. [for people] to arrive at (at a person's place) in great numbers. (The image is that so many people will wish to come that they will wear down a pathway to the door.) □ I have a new product so good that everyone will beat a path to my door. □ If you really become famous, people will beat a path to your door.

beat about the bush Go to go around the bush.

beat against someone or something to strike against someone or something. □ The wind beat against the sides of the house. □ Max beat against Lefty's jaw with his quick jabs.

beat around the bush and beat about the bush Fig. to avoid answering a question; to stall; to waste time. □ Stop beating around the bush and answer my question. □ Let's stop beating about the bush and discuss this matter.

beat at something to strike out at something. □ He beat at his attacker to no avail. □ Lily beat at the snake, but didn't harm it.

beat down (on someone or something) to fall on someone or something. □ The rain beat down on us for an hour. □ The rock slide beat down on the car and totally ruined the body.


beat one's brains out (to do something) to try very hard to do something. □ If you think I'm going to beat my brains out to do this, you are crazy. □ I beat out my brains to do this for you! □ I won't beat my brains out again for you!

beat one's gums to waste time talking a great deal without results. (As if one were toothless.) □ I'm tired of beating my gums about this over and over. □ You're just beating your gums. No one is listening.

beat one's head against the wall and bang one's head against a brick wall Fig. to waste one's time trying to accomplish something that is completely hopeless. □ You're wasting your time trying to figure this puzzle out. You're just beating your head against the wall. □ You're banging your head against a brick wall trying to get that dog to behave properly.

beat oneself up Fig. to be overly critical of one's behavior or actions; to punish oneself with guilt and remorse over past actions. (Not a physical beating. Fixed order.) □ It's over and done with. There's no need to beat yourself up. □ He's beating himself up over his role in the accident.

beat someone down Fig. to defeat or demoralize someone. □ The constant bombing finally beat them down. □ The attackers beat down the defenders.

beat someone down to size and knock someone down to size Fig. to make a person more humble, sometime by actual physical beating. □ If you keep acting so arrogant, someone is going to beat you down to size. □ It's time someone knocked you down to size. □ I'll try to be less arrogant. I don't want anyone to beat me down to size.

beat someone into (doing) something to beat a person until the person agrees to do something or to assume a particular attitude. □ They had to beat John into submission before he gave up. □ Max threatened to beat Lefty into helping him rob the candy store.

beat someone into something Fig. to beat a person until the person turns into a particular physical state, such as a pulp, a mess, etc. □ Fred threatened to beat Mike into a pulp if he didn't do as he was asked. □ Mike beat Fred into a bloody mess.

beat someone or something back to drive someone or something back to where it came from. □ We beat them back to where they were before the war started. □ The army beat back the defenders and saved the town. □ They were able to beat the wolves back and make an escape.

beat someone or something off to drive someone or something away by beating. □ They beat the enemy off. □ The
beat someone or something out

Fig. to beat something out; to hit or batter someone severely. □ She threatened to beat my brains out. □ Those thugs nearly beat his brains out. 2. Fig. to outdistance someone; to perform better than someone. □ We have to beat the other company out, and then we'll have the contract. □ I beat out Walter in the foot race.

beat someone's brains out 1. to hit or batter someone severely. □ She threatened to beat my brains out. □ Those thugs nearly beat his brains out. 2. to drive oneself hard (to accomplish something). □ I beat my brains out all day to clean this house, and you come in and get dirt on the carpet! □ Don't beat your brains out. Just give it a good try.

beat someone to something to get to something before someone else; to claim something before someone else does. (See also beat someone into something.) □ You beat me to it and took the last cookie. □ Ken beat John to the door.

beat someone to the punch and beat someone to the draw Fig. to do something before someone else does it. □ I wanted to have the new car, but Sally beat me to the punch. □ I planned to write a book about using the new software program, but someone else beat me to the draw.

beat someone up1 to harm or subdue a person by striking him. □ The robber beat me up and took my money. □ I really wanted to beat up that intruder.

beat something down1 1. to break something in; to break through something. □ Don't beat the door down! I'm coming! □ Please don't beat the door down! 2. to flatten something. □ Sam beat the veil down to the thickness of a half an inch. □ First you beat down the meat to a very thin layer.

beat something into someone and beat something in1 Fig. to use physical abuse to get someone to learn something; to work very hard to get someone to learn something. (Beating something into someone's head.) □ Do I have to beat this into your head? Why can't you learn? □ Why do I have to beat in this information? □ Can't you learn by yourself? Does someone have to beat it in?

beat something into something to beat or whip something with a utensil, until it changes into something else. □ Beat the white of the egg into stiff peaks. □ Beat the batter into a smooth consistency.

beat something up1 1. to whip up something, such as an egg. □ Beat the egg up and pour it in the skillet. □ Beat up another egg and do the same. 2. to ruin something; to damage something. □ The banging of the door has really beat this wall up. □ The frequent pounding of the door handle beat the wall up.

beat the clock Fig. to do something before a deadline; to finish before the time is up. (Alludes to accomplishing a smooth consistency. □ They were afraid they would be late and hurried in order to beat the clock.

beat the drum for someone or something and bang the drum for someone or something Fig. to promote or support someone or something. (As if one were beating a drum to get attention.) □ I spent a lot of time beating the drum for our plans for the future. □ The senator is only banging the drum for his special interests.

beat the gun Fig. to manage to do something before the ending signal. (Originally from sports, referring to scoring in the last seconds of a game just before the referee fires a gun to signal the end of the game.) □ The field goal beat the gun and was in the air just in time. □ Tom tried to beat the gun, but he was one second too slow.

beat the hell out of someone and beat the living daylights out of someone; beat the pants off (of) someone; beat the shit out of someone; beat the socks off (of) someone; beat the stuffing out of someone; beat the tar out of someone 1. Fig. to defeat someone very badly. (Caution: the use of the word shit is considered vulgar and is offensive to many people. Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Our team beat the hell out of the other side. □ We beat the stuffing out of the other side.

2. Fig. Inf. to batter someone severely. (Alludes to physical violence, not the removal of someone's pants. Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The thugs beat the living daylights out of their victim. □ If you do that again, I'll beat the pants off of you. □ Before the boxing match Max said he would beat the socks off Lefty.

beat the (natural) stuffing out of someone Go to kick the (natural) stuffing out of someone.

beat the pants off (of) someone Go to beat the hell out of someone.

beat the rap Sl. to evade conviction and punishment (for a crime). □ He was charged with drunk driving, but he beat the rap. □ The police hauled Tom in and charged him with a crime. His lawyer helped him beat the rap.

beat the shit out of someone Go to beat the hell out of someone.

beat the socks off (of) someone Go to beat the hell out of someone.

beat the stuffing out of someone Go to beat the hell out of someone.

beat the tar out of someone Go to beat the hell out of someone.

beat up on someone to batter someone, usually physically. □ Lefty beat up on Max and made a mess of him. □ Don't beat up on me, you bully!

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Prov. Different people have different ideas about what is beautiful. □ Bob: I can't believe Ted bought that ugly old car. Fred: He loves it. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. □ Jill: Have you seen Mary's pictures of her new baby? He looks pretty ugly, to my eyes. Jane: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Beauty is only skin-deep. Prov. A person who looks beautiful may not have a pleasing personality; a person's good looks may not last. □ Fred: I hope Nancy will go out with me. She's so beautiful! Jane: I hate to disappoint you, but in Nancy's case, beauty is definitely only skin-deep. □ Don't be so proud of your pretty face. Beauty is only skin-deep.

beckon to someone to signal someone to come. □ Wally beckoned to Sally, and she came over to him. □ Lily beckoned to Max and he turned his back on her.
become of someone or something to happen or occur to someone or something. □ Whatever became of Joe and his friends? □ I don’t know what became of my other plaid sock.

*becoming on someone [of clothing] complimentary to someone; [of clothing] enhancing one’s good looks. (*Typically: be ~; look ~.) □ The dress you wore last night is not becoming on you. □ That color is very becoming on you.

bed down for something to lie down to sleep for a period of time. □ After she had bedded down for the night, the telephone rang. □ All the chickens bedded down hours ago.

bed down some place to sleep somewhere; to find a place to sleep somewhere. □ I need to bed down somewhere for the night. □ Can I bed down here with you?

a bed of roses a luxurious situation; an easy life. □ Who said life would be a bed of roses? □ If I had a million bucks, I would be in a bed of roses.

bed (someone or something) down† (some place) to put someone or something into a bed or on bedding some place. □ We bedded the kids down on mattresses on the floor. □ We bedded down the horses for the night.

bed-and-breakfast a type of lodging for travelers or tourists offering a place to sleep and breakfast the next morning, typically in a small inn or private home. □ We visited six European countries and stayed in a bed-and-breakfast every night. □ I had to take a bed-and-breakfast because the hotels in the city were too much too expensive.

bedeck someone or something with something to decorate someone or something with something. □ She bedecked herself with garlands of daisies. □ Karen bedecked the room with flowers.

*a bee in one’s bonnet a single idea or a thought that remains in one’s mind; an obsession. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give one ~.) □ I have a bee in my bonnet over that cool new car I saw, and I can’t stop thinking about it. □ I got a bee in my bonnet about swimming. I just wanted to go swimming all the time.

beef about someone or something Sl. to complain about someone or something. □ Stop beefing about Karen. □ He is always beefing about his working conditions.

beef something up† to add strength or substance to something. □ Let’s beef this music up with a little more on the drums. □ They befleeted the offer with another thousand dollars.

been around have had many experiences in life. □ You don’t need to warn me about anything! I’ve been around.

been had and was had; have had 1. (of a woman) been copulated with; been made pregnant. □ I’ve been had, and I’m going to have the baby. □ When she said she had been had, I didn’t know it happened on her honeymoon. 2. been mistreated, cheated, or dealt with badly. □ Look at this cheap shirt that I paid $30 for! I was had! □ I’ve been had by that lousy gyp joint.

beer up Sl. to drink a lot of beer. □ Those guys are out there beer up like mad. □ Stop beering up and go home!

before long soon. □ Billy will be grown-up before long. □ If we keep spending so much, before long we’ll be without any money.

*before someone ahead of or in front of someone in order. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; go ~.) □ Who is before Mary? □ I am before all of you.

*before someone’s time happening before someone was born or old enough to know what was going on. (*Typically: be ~; happen ~; occur ~.) □ Of course I don’t remember it. It was before my time. □ All that happened before your time.

before you can say Jack Robinson and quicker than you can say Jack Robinson Fig. almost immediately. (Often found in children’s stories.) □ And before you could say Jack Robinson, the bird flew away. □ I’ll catch a plane and be there quicker than you can say Jack Robinson.

before you know it almost immediately. □ I’ll be there before you know it. □ If you keep spending money like that, you’ll be broke before you know it.

beg for someone or something to plead to be given someone or something. □ He missed Jane a lot and was just begging for her to return to him. □ Jane begged for another helping of ice cream.

beg of someone to request earnestly of someone. (Usually added to a request.) □ Please help me. I beg of you. □ I beg of you to help me.

beg off (on something) to ask to be released from something; to refuse an invitation. □ I’m sorry, but I’ll be out of town on the day of your party. I’ll have to beg off on your invitation. □ I have an important meeting, so I’ll have to beg off.

beg something from someone to plead for something from someone. □ She begged the amount of a telephone call from someone who walked by. □ I begged a dollar from a kind lady who went by.

beg something of someone to request earnestly that someone do something or grant something. □ Please help me. I beg of you. □ She begged a favor of Max.

beg something off† to decline an invitation politely. □ She begged the trip to the zoo off. □ We all begged off the dinner invitation.

beg the question 1. to carry on a false argument where one assumes as proved the very point that is being argued, or more loosely, to evade the issue at hand. (Essentially a criticism of someone’s line of argument.) □ Stop arguing in circles. You’re begging the question. □ A: Why do two lines that are equidistant from one another never meet? B: Because they are parallel. A: You are begging the question. 2. to invite the (following) question. (This reinterpretation of beg the question is incorrect but is currently in widespread use.) □ His complaints beg the question: Didn’t he cause all of his problems himself?

beg to differ (with someone) Fig. to disagree with someone; to state one’s disagreement with someone in a polite way. (Usually used in a statement made to the person being disagreed with.) □ I beg to differ with you, but you have stated everything exactly backwards. □ If I may beg to differ, you have not expressed my position as well as you seem to think.

beggar (all) description to defy description; to be unable to be described. □ The house was a horrible mess. The place beggared description. □ Our reaction to the proposal beggars description. We were deeply disturbed for days.
Beggars can’t be choosers. *Prov. If someone gives you something you asked for, you should not complain about what you get. □ I asked Joe to lend me his bicycle, and he sent me this old, rusty one. But beggars can’t be choosers. □ Jill: Let me wear your green dress; I don’t like the blue one you lent me. Jane: Beggars can’t be choosers.

begin an all-out effort Go to an all-out effort.

begin by doing something to start out by doing something first. □ We will begin by painting the house. □ She began by opening the door.

begin to see daylight Fig. to begin to see the end of a long task. □ I’ve been working on my thesis for two years, and at last I’m beginning to see daylight. □ I’ve been so busy. Only in the last week have I begun to see daylight.

begin to see the light Fig. to begin to understand something. (See also see the light (at the end of the tunnel).) □ My algebra class has been hard for me, but I’m beginning to see the light. □ I was totally confused, but I began to see the light after your explanation.

begin with someone or something to start off a sequence with someone or something. □ Let’s have dinner begin with a nice clear soup. □ I will begin with Liz and take Frank next.

beginner’s luck absolute luck; the luck of an inexperienced person. (Referring to surprisingly good luck.) □ I could never have accomplished this if I had practiced a lot. My win was just beginner’s luck.

the beginning of the end Fig. the start of the termination of something or of someone’s death. □ When he stopped coughing and grew still, I knew it was the beginning of the end. □ The enormous debt we ran up marked the beginning of the end as far as our standard of living was concerned.

beguile someone into something to charm someone into doing something. □ You can’t beguile me into stealing for you! □ I beguiled Tom into driving me to the airport.

beguile someone out of something 1. to charm someone out of doing something. □ I will try to beguile them out of doing it. □ He beguiled her out of leaving. 2. to charm something away from someone. □ She’s trying to beguile the old man out of a substantial amount of his money. □ Max beguiled the old lady out of her rings.

beguile someone with something to charm or fascinate someone with something. □ She beguiled her date with tales of her luxurious lifestyle. □ He spent the evening beguiling her with stories of the Old West.

*behind bars in jail. (*Typically: be —; put someone —.) □ Very soon, you will be behind bars for your crimes. □ Max should be behind bars soon for his conviction on burglary charges.

behind closed doors in secret; away from observers, reporters, or intruders, usually in a closed room. □ They held the meeting behind closed doors, as the law allowed. □ Every important issue was decided behind closed doors.

*behind schedule having failed to do something by the appointed time, especially the time given on a written plan. (*Typically: be —; fall —; get —.) □ We have to hurry and finish soon or we will fall behind schedule. □ The project is behind schedule by six months.

behind someone’s back without someone’s knowledge; secret from someone. □ Please don’t talk about me behind my back. □ She sold the car behind his back, while he was away on vacation.

*behind the eight ball 1. Fig. in trouble; in a weak or losing position. (Alludes to the eight ball in pool, which in certain games cannot be touched without penalty. *Typically: be —; get —; have someone —; put someone —.) □ I’m behind the eight ball again and can’t see how to relieve my dilemma. □ John is behind the eight ball because he started writing his term paper far too late. 2. Fig. broke. □ Sorry, I’m really behind the eight ball this month. I can’t make a contribution. (*Typically: be —; get —; have someone —; put someone —.) □ I was behind the eight ball again and couldn’t make my car payment.

behind the scenes without receiving credit or fame; out of public view. (Referring originally to those who worked on a theatrical piece but do not appear on the stage.) □ The people who worked behind the scenes are the real heroes of this project. □ I worked behind the scenes in the play. □ We should thank the people who are behind the scenes of our success.

behind the times old-fashioned. □ Sarah is a bit behind the times. Her clothes are quite old-fashioned. □ Our 90-year-old state senator is a bit behind the times.

Behind you! Look behind you! There is danger behind you! □ “Behind you!” shouted Tom just as a car raced past and nearly knocked Mary over. □ Alice shouted, “Behind you!” just as the pickpocket made off with Fred’s wallet.

behoove one to do something Cliché [for someone] to be obliged to do something. □ It behooves you to apologize to her for how you insulted her. □ It behooves me to make up for all the help you have given me.

belabor the point to spend too much time on one item of discussion. □ I don’t want to belabor the point, but the sooner we get this matter settled, the better. □ If the speaker would agree not to belabor the point further, I will place it on the agenda for resolution at the next meeting.

belch out to burst, billow, or gush out. □ Smoke belched out of the chimney.

belch something up to cause the release of something that goes upward. □ The fire belched flames and smoke up. □ The volcano belched up clouds of poison gasses.

believe in someone or something to trust or have faith in someone or something; to accept a fact or what someone says as truth. □ You must believe in your own abilities. □ I believe in myself and my talent.

believe it or not (you may) choose to accept something as true or not; it may seem amazing but it’s true. □ It’s late, but believe it or not, I just got home from work. □ I’m over fifty years old, believe it or not.

Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see. *Prov. Rumors are usually false, and sometimes the things you see can be misleading as well; be very skeptical until there is proof. □ Jill: I heard the football team is losing its best player. He has not been at practice for two days. Jane: Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see. □ The paper reported that the city government is going bankrupt, but I believe nothing of what I hear, and only half of what I see.
believe something of someone to accept a statement about someone as truth. 1 What a terrible thing for Jill to do. I can’t believe it of her. 2 I can believe anything of Max. He’s such a convincing person.

Believe you me! Inf. You really should believe me!; You’d better take my word for it! 1 Alice: Is it hot in that room? Fred: It really is. Believe you me! 2 Sue: How do you like my cake? John: Believe you me, this is the best cake I’ve ever eaten!

bell, book, and candle things that are miraculous or that signal that something unusual or bizarre may soon happen. (Alluding originally to the items used when performing the rite of excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church.) 1 Look, I can’t work miracles! Do you expect me to show up at your house with bell, book, and candle, and make everything right? You have to take charge of your own destiny! 2 On the top shelf of the tiny used-book store, Jim saw a bell, book, and candle sitting in a row, and he knew he was going to find some very interesting reading material.

bellow something out† to cry something out loudly with great force. 1 Don’t just say it. Bellow it out! 2 Bellow out your name so we know who you are!

bells and whistles Fig. extra, fancy add-ons or gadgets. 1 I like cars that are loaded with all the bells and whistles. 2 All those bells and whistles add to the cost.

belly out [for a sheet of fabric, such as a ship’s sail] to fill out in the wind. 1 The sails bellied out as the ship turned to catch the wind. 2 When the sails bellied out, we began to move forward.

belly up 1. intoxicated by alcohol. 1 Fred was boiled—bellied up—glassy-eyed. 2 After four beers, I was belly up, for sure. 2 Sl. (of a business) bankrupt; dead. (Like a dead fish that floats belly up.) 3 That’s the end. This company is belly up. 4 After the fire the firm went belly up.

belly up (to something) to move up to something, often a bar. (Usually in reference to nudging one’s way to a bar.) 1 The man swaggered in and bellied up to the counter and demanded my immediate attention. 2 As he bellied up, he said, “Do you know who I am?”

belong to someone or something to be owned by someone or something. 1 This one belongs to me. 2 This desk belongs to the company. You can’t take it home!

belong under something to be classified under some general category. 1 This one belongs to me. 2 This desk belongs under the other category. 3 This file belongs under A.

below average lower or worse than average. 1 Tom’s strength is below average for a child his size. 2 Dad asked why my grades are below average.

below par not as good as average or normal. 1 I feel a little below par today. I think I am getting a cold. 2 His work is below par, and he is paid too much money.

below someone ranking below someone. 1 I am below Terri, but my scores are better than Carol’s. 2 I am above everyone in the class.

*below someone or something positioned under or lower than someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; lie ~; sink ~; sit ~.) 1 The sun is below the horizon. 2 The swimming hole is below the dam.

belt a drink down† Fig. to drink an alcoholic drink rapidly. (See also belt something or someone down.) 1 She belted a couple of drinks down and went out to face her guests. 2 How many drinks did Gloria belt down?

belt someone or something down† to secure someone or something with a belt or strap. 1 Please belt the child’s seat down and put the child in it. 2 Did you belt down the kids?

belt someone up† to secure someone with a belt, such as a seat belt in a car. 1 I had to belt her up because the seat belt was so complicated. 2 We belted up the kids securely.

belt something out† Fig. to sing or play a song loudly and with spirit. 1 When she’s playing the piano, she really belts the music out. 2 She really knows how to belt out a song.

belt the grape Sl. to drink wine or liquor heavily and become intoxicated. 1 He has a tendency to belt the grape—every afternoon after work. 2 She’s been belting the grape more than her husband wants.

belt up Go to buckle up.

bend back to lean or bend backwards. 1 He bent back to pick up the book, and he fell. 2 When she bent back, she ripped something.

bend before something to bend under the pressure of moving air. 1 The trees bent before the wind. 2 Our roses bent gracefully before the breeze.

bend down to curve downward; [for someone] to lean down. 1 Please bend down and pick up the little bits of paper you just dropped. 2 The snow-laden bushes bent down.

bend forward to lean forward; to curve forward. 1 The tree bent forward in the wind. 2 I bent forward to pick up the pencil.

bend in to curve or turn inward. 1 The shore bent in about a mile to the west. 2 The side of the shed bent in under the force of the wind.

bend one’s elbow and bend the elbow; lift one’s elbow to take a drink of an alcoholic beverage; to drink alcohol to excess. 1 He’s down at the tavern, bending his elbow. 2 Paul gets lots of exercise. I saw him bend his elbow thirty times at a bar yesterday.

bend over [for someone] to bend down at the waist. 1 I bent over and picked up the coin. 2 When he bent over, something ripped.

bend over backwards (to do something) Go to fall over backwards (to do something).

bend over backwards (to do something) (for someone) Fig. to work very hard to accomplish something for someone; to go out of one’s way (to do something) (for someone). (See also fall over backwards (to do something).) 1 He will bend over backwards to help you. 2 I bent over backwards for you, and you showed no thanks!

bend someone or something back† to curve or arch someone or something backward. 1 We bent the child back a little so we could examine the spider bite. 2 Ouch! Don’t bend back my hand! 3 Bend the branch back so we can get a better view.

bend someone out of shape Fig. to make someone angry. 1 The cheating that was going on really bent Joe out of shape. 2 Why do you let yourself get bent out of shape? Chill, man, chill.
bend someone's ear Fig. to talk to someone, perhaps annoyingly. (As if talking so much that the other person's ear is moved back.)  
□ Tom is over there, bending Jane's ear about something. □ I'm sorry. I didn't mean to bend your ear for an hour.

bend something out of shape to distort something by twisting or bending.  
□ I bent the coat hanger out of shape by hanging my leather jacket on it.

bend the elbow Go to bend one's elbow.

bend the law and bend the rules Fig. to cheat a little bit without breaking the law. (Jocular.)  
□ I didn't break the rules. I just bent the rules a little. □ Nobody ever got arrested for bending the law.

bend the rules Go to previous.

beneath contempt exceedingly contemptible.  
□ What you have done is beneath contempt. □ Your rude behavior is beneath contempt.

beneath one's dignity too rude or coarse for a polite person to do.  
□ That kind of thing is beneath my dignity, and I hope yours as well. □ I would have thought something like that to be beneath your dignity.

beneath someone too shameful for a polite person to do.  
□ That kind of thing is beneath Fred. I'm appalled that he did it. □ That sort of foul language is beneath you!

*beneath something under something. (*Typically: be ~; sit ~.)  
□ What is that beneath the table? □ The cat is beneath the piano.

benefit by something and benefit from something to profit or gain by something.  
□ We hope to benefit by the collapse of our competition. □ We will all benefit from the new tax laws.

benefit from something Go to previous.

*the benefit of the doubt a judgment in one's favor when the evidence is neither for one nor against one. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.)  
□ I was right between a B and an A. I got the benefit of the doubt—an A. □ I thought I should have had the benefit of the doubt, but the judge made me pay a fine.

bent on doing something Fig. determined to do something.  
□ I believe you are bent on destroying the entire country. □ I am bent on saving the planet.

bent out of shape 1. Fig. angry; insulted.  
□ Man, there is no reason to get so bent out of shape. I didn't mean any harm. □ I got bent out of shape because of the way I was treated. 2. intoxicated by alcohol or drugs.  
□ I was so bent out of shape I thought I'd never recover. □ I've been polluted, but never as bent out of shape as this.

bequeath something to someone to will something to someone; to leave something to someone.  
□ My uncle bequeathed some furniture to me. □ I will bequeath this watch to my grandson.

bereft of someone or something left without someone or something. (Bereft is the past participle of bereave, functioning here as an adjective.)  
□ Tom was bereft of all hope. □ The child was bereft of his parents.

beset someone with something to surround someone with harassment; to harass someone with something.  
□ Please do not beset them with problem after problem. □ They beset us with requests for money.

beside oneself (with something) Fig. in an extreme state of some emotion.  
□ I was beside myself with joy. □ Sarah could not speak. She was beside herself with anger.

beside the point and beside the question irrelevant; of no importance.  
□ That's very interesting, but beside the point. □ That's beside the point. You're evading the issue.

besiege someone or something with something 1. Lit. to attack someone or a group with something.  
□ We besieged the enemy with bombs and bullets. 2. Fig. to overwhelm someone or something with something. □ They besieged us with orders for the new book. □ We besieged the company with complaints.

besmirch someone or something with something to dirty or soil someone or someone's reputation with something.  
□ Please don't continue to besmirch Alice with that gossip. □ You have besmirched my reputation with your comments. □ He besmirched her with vile gossip in order to turn people against her.

The best defense is a good offense. Prov. If you attack your opponents, they will be so busy fighting off your attack that they will not be able to attack you. (Often associated with sports. Often pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, similar to offense.)  
□ The team mostly practiced offensive moves because the coach believed that the best defense is a good offense. □ Jim thought that the best defense is a good offense, so he always tried to pass other drivers before they could pass him.

The best is the enemy of the good. Prov. If you are too ambitious and try to make something better than you are capable of, you may ruin it.  
□ Bob: After I revise it a few more times, my novel will be the best ever written. Alan: I don't think you should revise it any more. Remember, the best is the enemy of the good. □ In fund-raising as in other areas, the best is the enemy of the good. If you ask someone for a larger contribution than he can possibly give, he may give you nothing at all.

*the best of both worlds a situation wherein one can enjoy two different opportunities. (*Typically: enjoy ~; have ~; live in ~.)  
□ When Don was a fellow at the university, he had the privileges of a professor and the freedom of a student. He had the best of both worlds. □ Donna hated to have to choose between retirement and continuing working. She wanted to do both so she could live in the best of both worlds.

the best of someone Go to the better of someone.

the best part of something almost all of something; a large part of something; the major part of something.  
□ The discussion took the best part of an hour. □ The best part of the meeting was taken up by budgetary matters.

The best things come in small packages. and Good things come in small packages. Prov. Small packages often contain valuable things. (Sometimes said of petite or short people.)  
The **best things in life are free.** *Prov.* The most satisfying experiences do not cost any money. ☐ Don’t be gloomy because you’re broke. The best things in life are free. ☐ Yesterday I took my children to the zoo. We didn’t spend a penny, but we had a wonderful time. The best things in life are free.

The **best-case scenario** *Cliché* the optimum outcome being considered. (Compare this with the **worst-case scenario.**) ☐ Now that we’ve seen the negative angle, let’s look at the best-case scenario. ☐ In the best-case scenario, we’re all dead eventually—but then that’s true of the worst-case scenario also.

The **best-laid plans of mice and men oft(en) go astray,** and The **best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft a-gley.** *Prov.* Things often go wrong even though you have carefully planned what you are going to do. (The *gang aft a-gley* version is Scots dialect, and comes from Robert Burns’ poem “To a Mouse.”) ☐ fill: I reserved a hotel room for us three weeks ago, but now the clerk says he has no record of our reservation. So much for our fun weekend in the city. Jane: Well, these things happen. The best-laid plans of mice and men oft go astray. ☐ I had all the arrangements made for my party, and then the guest of honor got sick and I had to call the whole thing off. The best-laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley. ☐ If a little rain can ruin the best-laid plans of mice and men, think what an earthquake might do!

**bestow** something on someone to give something to someone; to present something to someone. ☐ The mere presence of the queen bestowed wisdom and grace on the court.

**bet** on someone or something to wager on someone or something. ☐ Are you really going to bet on that horse? ☐ I bet on Paul. He is the fastest runner.

**bet one’s bottom dollar** and **bet one’s life** *Fig.* to be quite certain (about something). (A *bottom dollar* is the last dollar.) ☐ I’ll be there. You bet your bottom dollar. ☐ I bet my bottom dollar you can’t swim across the pool. ☐ You bet your life I can’t swim that far.

**bet one’s life** Go to previous.

**bet someone dollars to doughnuts** *Fig.* to bet something of value against something worth considerably less. ☐ I bet you dollars to doughnuts that she is on time. ☐ He bet me dollars to doughnuts that it would snow today.

**bet something on someone or something** to wager on someone or something. ☐ I bet one thousand dollars on that horse! ☐ Fred bet a few bucks on his favorite football team.

**bet the farm** Go to sell the farm.

**bet with someone** to make a bet or wager with someone. ☐ No, I won’t bet with you. That’s not my style. ☐ Max will bet with anyone.

**betroth someone to someone** to promise someone in marriage to someone else. ☐ The king betrothed his daughter to a prince from the neighboring kingdom. ☐ She betrothed herself to one of the peasant boys from the village.

**Better be an old man’s darling than a young man’s slave.** *Prov.* A young woman should prefer to marry an old man who dotes on her rather than a young man who may treat her badly. ☐ When Mr. Nash proposed to me, I thought he was too old, but my mother advised me, “Better be an old man’s darling than a young man’s slave.” ☐ When Marion’s friends objected that her fiancé was much too old for her, she said, “Better be an old man’s darling than a young man’s slave.”

**Better (be) safe than sorry.** *Prov.* *Cliché* You should be cautious—if you are not, you may regret it. ☐ It may be time-consuming to check the oil in your car every time you buy gasoline, but better safe than sorry. ☐ Bob: I don’t need a tetanus shot just because I stepped on a nail. Mary: I still think you should get one. Better be safe than sorry.

**Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.** *Prov.* It is better to be the leader of a less prestigious group than to be a subordinate in a more prestigious one. ☐ Joe: I can be the headmaster of a small secondary school, or I can be a teacher at a famous university. Which job offer do you think I should take? Nancy: Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion. ☐ A professional writing workshop had asked Bob to join, but he elected to stay with his amateur group, since he thought it better to be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.

**Better keep still about it.** and **Someone had better keep still about it.** Better keep quiet about it.; **Better keep quiet about it.**; **Someone better keep quiet about it.** A particular person ought not to tell about or discuss something. (The *someone* can stand for any person’s name, any pronoun, or even the word *someone* meaning “you-know-who.” If there is no *someone had*, the phrase is a mild admonition to keep quiet about something.) ☐ Mary: I saw you with Bill last night. Jane: You’d better keep quiet about it. ☐ Jane: Tom found out what you’re giving Sally for her birthday. Bill: He had better keep quiet about it!

**Better late than never.** *Prov.* *Cliché* Doing something late is better than not doing it. ☐ I’m sorry I’m late to the party. Better late than never, right? ☐ fill: Lisa’s birthday was two weeks ago. Should I send her a card now? Jane: Better late than never.

**better left unsaid** [refers to a topic that] should not be discussed; [refers to a thought that] everyone is thinking, but would cause difficulty if talked about in public. (A typical beginning for this phrase might be It is, That is, The details are, or even Someone things are. See the examples.) ☐ Mary: I really don’t know how to tell you this. Bob: Then don’t. Maybe it’s better left unsaid. ☐ Bill: I had such a terrible fight with Sally last night. I can’t believe what I said. Boly: I don’t need to hear all about it. Some things are better left unsaid.

**Better luck next time.** 1. an expression that comforts someone for a minor failure. (Said with a pleasant tone of voice.) ☐ Bill: That does it! I can’t run any farther. I lose! Bob: Too bad. Better luck next time. ☐ Mary: Well, that’s the end of my brand new weight lifting career. Jane: Better luck next time. 2. an expression that ridicules someone for a failure. (Said with rudeness or sarcasm. The tone of voice distinguishes 2 from 1.) ☐ Sally: I lost out to you, but I think you cheated. Mary: Better luck next time. ☐ Sue: You thought you could get ahead of me, you fool! Better luck next time! Joan: I still think you cheated.

*the better of someone and *the best of someone triumph over someone. (*Typically: get ~; have ~.) ☐ Bill got
the best of John in the boxing match. □ I tried to get the better of Tom in the golf match, but he won anyway.

**better off (doing something) and better off (if something were done)** in a better position if something were done. □ She’d be better off selling her house. □ They are better off flying to Detroit than driving.

**better off (somewhere) and better off (if one were somewhere else)** in a better position somewhere else. □ They would be better off in a cheaper apartment. □ We’d all be better off if we were in Florida. □ I know I’d be better off in a warmer climate.

**Better the devil you know than the devil you don’t know.** Prov. If you have to choose between a familiar but unpleasant situation and an unfamiliar situation, choose the familiar one because the unfamiliar situation may turn out to be worse. □ Jill: I hate my job so much that I’m thinking of asking for a transfer. Jane: I’d advise against it. Better the devil you know than the devil you don’t know. □ Although she was unhappy in her marriage, Donna never considered pursuing romances with other men. “Better the devil you know than the devil you don’t know,” was her philosophy.

**between a rock and a hard place and between the devil and the deep blue sea** Fig. in a very difficult position; facing a hard decision. □ I couldn’t make up my mind. I was caught between a rock and a hard place. □ He had a dilemma on his hands. He was clearly between the devil and the deep blue sea.

**between jobs and between projects** Euph. unemployed. □ Interviewer: Tell me about your current position. Job candidate: I’m between jobs right now. □ When Jill was between projects, she took a computer class at the community college.

**between life and death** Fig. in a position where living or dying is an even possibility. (Especially with caught or hovering.) □ And there I was on the operating table, hovering between life and death. □ The mountain climber hung by his rope, caught between life and death.

**between projects** Go to between jobs.

**between someone and someone else and between something and something else** Fig. [of a choice] existing between a selection of people or a selection of things. □ The choice is between Fred and Jill. □ It’s between chocolate cake and cherry pie.

**between something and something else** Go to between.

**between the devil and the deep blue sea** Go to between a rock and a hard place.

**between you (and) me and the bedpost and between you and me and these four walls** Fig. a somewhat affected way of signaling that you are about to tell a secret. □ Alan: What’s wrong with Ellen these days? She seems so touchy. Jane: Between you and me and the bedpost, I’ve heard that her boyfriend is seeing someone else. □ Jill: How much did you get for your used car? Jane: Well—between you and me and these four walls—five thousand dollars.

**between you and me and these four walls** Go to previous.

**betwixt and between** 1. Lit. between (people or things). □ I liked the soup and the dessert and all that came betwixt and between. □ I sat betwixt and between all the actors who weren’t on stage. 2. Fig. undecided about someone or something. □ I wish she would choose. She has been betwixt and between for three weeks. □ Tom is so betwixt and between about getting married. I don’t think he’s ready.

**bevy of beauties** Cliché a group of very attractive women, as found in a beauty contest. □ A whole bevy of beauties waltzed past the old man, but he didn’t even notice.

**Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.** Prov. Do not trust an opponent who offers to do something nice for you. (A line from the story of the Trojan horse, as told in Vergil’s Aeneid.) □ Jill: I can’t believe Melanie brought me cookies today, when we’ve been fighting for weeks. Jane: Beware of Greeks bearing gifts. She probably has ulterior motives. □ When the rival company invited all his employees to a Christmas party, Tom’s first impulse was to beware of Greeks bearing gifts, but then he upbraided himself for being paranoid.

**beware of someone or something** to be cautious and watchful about someone or something. □ Beware of Ted. He’s acting irrational. □ You should beware of the dog.

**beyond a reasonable doubt** almost without any doubt. (A legal phrase.) □ The jury decided beyond a reasonable doubt that she had committed the crime. □ He was also found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

* **beyond help** and * **beyond repair** beyond the help of anything; not able to be fixed. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ The poor dog that was hit by a truck is beyond help. □ This old car is beyond repair.

**beyond me** completely missing or surpassing my understanding. □ I’m confused. All this is beyond me.

**beyond measure** Fig. in an account or to an extent more than can be quantified; in a very large amount. □ They brought in hams, turkeys, and roasts, and then they brought vegetables and salads beyond measure. □ They thanked all of us beyond measure.

**beyond one’s depth** 1. Lit. in water that is too deep. □ Sally swam out from the beach until she was beyond her depth. □ Jane swam out to get her even though it was beyond her depth, too. 2. Fig. beyond one’s understanding or capabilities. □ I’m beyond my depth in calculus class. □ Poor John was involved in a problem that was really beyond his depth.

**beyond one’s ken** outside the extent of one’s knowledge or understanding. □ Why she married that shiftless drunkard is beyond our ken. □ His mean attitude to others is quite beyond my ken.

**beyond one’s means** more than one can afford. □ I’m sorry, but this house is beyond our means. Please show us a cheaper one. □ They feel that a Caribbean cruise is beyond their means.

**beyond repair** Go to beyond help.

**beyond some emotional response** in too extreme a state to feel or care. □ Do what you want. You have hurt me so much, I am beyond caring. □ The dying patient is beyond feeling. It doesn’t matter now.

* **beyond someone or something** 1. on the other side of something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ When we get beyond this bad road, I’ll have to check the tires. □ I have to get beyond the large gentleman standing in the hall.
2. finished with someone or something; having solved the problems relating to someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; move ~.) □ Things will be better when we get beyond this financial crisis. □ When the country gets beyond the current situation, things will have to get better.

**bide** Fig. to stay put; to wait, especially for an event to happen. (*Typically: bide one's time.) □ He's biding his time, waiting for a chance to do something big.

**bide** (adverb) Fig. to stay put; to wait, especially for an event to happen. (*Typically: bide one's time.) □ He's biding his time, waiting for a chance to do something big.

**bide** (noun) to wait patiently. □ I've been biding my time for years, just waiting for a chance like this. □ He's not the type just to sit there and bide his time. He wants some action now.

**big and bold** large and capable of getting attention. (Usually refers to things, not people.) □ The big and bold lettering on the book's cover got lots of attention, but the price was too high. □ She wore a brightly colored dress. The pattern was big and bold and the skirt was very full.

The Big Apple New York City. □ We spent the weekend in the Big Apple.

**big around as a molasses barrel** Rur. very big around. (*Also: as ~.) □ He ate till he was as big around as a molasses barrel. □ The athlete's chest was big around as a molasses barrel.

**big as all outdoors** Cliché very big, usually referring to an indoor space of some kind. (*Also: as ~.) □ You should see Bob's living room. It's as big as all outdoors! □ The new movie theater is as big as all outdoors.

**big as life (and twice as ugly)** and *large as life (and twice as ugly); bigger than life (and twice as ugly) Cliché a colorful way of saying that a person or a thing appeared, often surprisingly or dramatically, in a particular place. (*Also: as ~.) □ The little child just stood there as big as life and laughed very hard. □ I opened the door, and there was Tom as large as life. □ I came home and found this cat in my chair, as big as life and twice as ugly.

a big break Go to a lucky break.

**big bucks** a very large amount of money. □ He earns big bucks for doing almost nothing.

**big drink of water** and a *tall drink of water* 1. Fig. a very tall person. □ Tim is sure a big drink of water. □ Kelly grew into a tall drink of water. 2. Fig. a boring person or thing. (A pun on "hard to take.") □ She is a big drink of water, but she could be worse. □ The lecture was a big drink of water.

the *big eye* 1. a flirtatious look or gaze; a long look to get another's attention. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ Look at that pretty girl giving you the big eye. □ I thought she was cute, so I gave her the big eye. 2. obvious eye contact with someone. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ Tom gave me the big eye to let me know he wanted to talk to me. □ I tried to give her the big eye, but she never looked my way.

**big in a small pond** an important person in the midst of less important people. (Alludes to a large frog that dominates a small pond with few challengers.) □ I'd rather be a big frog in a small pond than the opposite. □ The trouble with Tom is that he's a big frog in a small pond. He needs more competition.

*a (big) head* a hangover. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Oh, man, that booze gave me a big head! □ Tom has a head this morning and won't be coming into work.

**big man on campus** Sl. an important male college student. (Often derisive or jocular.) □ Hank acts like such a big man on campus. □ Let some big man on campus do the dirty work for a change.

the *big moment* and the *moment everyone has been waiting for* the special time that everyone has been waiting for. □ The big moment has come. I will now announce the winner. □ This is the moment everyone has been waiting for. Now we will learn the name of the big winner.

**big of someone** generous; kind or forgiving. (Sometimes sarcastic.) □ He gave me some of his apple. That was very
big of him. □ It was big of Sally to come over and apologize like that.

*the big picture the whole story of something; a complete view of something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~; know ~; see ~; show someone ~.) □ The sales manager gave us all the big picture this morning, and I’m more confused than ever.

*a big send-off a happy celebration before departing. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I had a wonderful send-off before I left. □ John got a fine send-off as he left for Europe.

big with someone famous with or desired by someone or some group. □ This kind of pizza is supposed to be big with people in Chicago. □ Rock concerts are big with the kids.

bigger than life (and twice as ugly) Go to big as life (and twice as ugly).

The bigger they are, the harder they fall. Prov. When prominent people fail, their failure is more dramatic. □ After the newspapers reported that the mayor cheated on his wife, he lost the election and he can’t get any kind of job. The bigger they are, the harder they fall. □ Jackson used to be very wealthy, but he lost every cent in the stock market crash. The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

The biggest frog in the puddle and The biggest toad in the puddle Prov. The most important or powerful person in some small, unimportant group. (See also a big frog in a small pond.) □ fill: Elaine seems to be obsessed with becoming class president. Jane: Yes, she really wants to be the biggest frog in the puddle. □ The people in my office don’t care about doing their work; mostly they compete over who will be the biggest toad in the puddle.

The biggest toad in the puddle Go to previous.

bilk someone out of something to get something away from someone by deception. □ The crooks bilked the old lady out of a fortune. □ I was bilked out of my life’s savings!

bill someone for something to ask someone for payment for something in writing. □ Just bill me for the balance. □ She billed them for her expenses and then tried to deduct the expenses from her income tax.

billow out 1. [for something, such as smoke] to burst and flow outward. □ At the site of the fire, smoke billowed out. □ Clouds of ash billowed out of the volcano. 2. [for a sheet of cloth] to fill with the wind. (Especially a ship’s sail.) □ The sail billowed out and we moved forward. □ Her skirt billowed out when the wind caught it.

bind someone or something down1 to tie or secure someone or something to something. □ Bind the tarpaulin so it won’t get away. □ We will bind down the patient tightly. □ They bound the hatch down so it could not be opened.

bind someone or something together to tie the parts of something together; to tie a number of things or people together. □ Can you bind together all three parts? □ Bind these two bandits together and lead them to jail.

bind someone or something up1 (in something) and bind someone or something up1 (with something) to tie someone or something up in something. □ They bound the books up in leather straps. □ I will bind up the larger sticks in strong cord.

bind someone or something up1 (with something) Go to previous.

bind someone over (to someone or something) to deliver someone to some legal authority; to deliver someone to some legal authority. (A legal usage.) □ They bound the suspect over to the sheriff. □ The sheriff will bind over the suspect to the county jail.

binge and purge to overeat and vomit, alternatively and repeatedly. (A symptom of the condition called bulimia.) □ She had binged and purged a number of times before she finally sought help from a doctor. □ Terry had been binging and purging for a number of years and was very, very thin.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. Prov. Having something for certain is better than the possibility of getting something better. □ I might get a better offer, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. □ Bill has offered to buy my car for $3,000 cash. Someone else might pay more, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

a bird’s-eye view 1. Lit. a view seen from high above. □ We got a bird’s-eye view of Cleveland as the plane began its descent. □ From the top of the church tower you get a splendid bird’s-eye view of the village. 2. Fig. a brief survey of something; a hasty look at something. □ The course provides a bird’s-eye view of the works of Mozart, but it doesn’t deal with them in enough detail for your purpose. □ All you need is a bird’s-eye view of the events of World War II to pass the test.

the birds and the bees Euph. sex and reproduction. (See also the facts of life.) □ My father tried to teach me about the birds and the bees. □ He’s twenty years old and doesn’t understand about the birds and the bees!

Birds in their little nests agree. Prov. People who live together should try hard to get along peacefully. (Usually used to admonish children not to fight with each other.) □ Brother: She called me a name! Sister: I did not! He’s a liar! Father: Now, now, kids—birds in their little nests agree. □ Let’s not argue about this, guys. Birds in their little nests agree.

Birds of a feather flock together. Prov. Similar people tend to associate with each other. □ I always thought Amy was pretentious, and now she’s going out with that snobbish boy, Louis. Birds of a feather flock together. □ George: Why do you think Donald is dishonest? Ned: All his friends are dishonest. Birds of a feather flock together.

a bit much beyond what is needed or tolerable. □ The speech she gave in acceptance of the award was a bit much. She went on and on.

a bit of the action Go to a piece (of the action).

* a bit off and * a little off a little crazy; a little out of whack. (*Typically: be ~; find someone ~.) □ This guy’s a little off, but he is harmless.

bitch about someone or something Inf. to complain about someone or something. (Use discretion with bitch, a word many consider coarse or vulgar.) □ You are always bitching about your girlfriend. □ Stop bitching about your job so much.

a bitch of a someone or something Inf. a really difficult person or thing. (Use discretion with bitch, a word many con-
bitch someone offSL. to make someone angry. (Use discretion with bitch, a word many consider coarse or vulgar.) □ You really bitch me off, do you know that? □ That foul temper of yours could bite anybody off.

bitch someone or something upInf. to mess someone or something up. (Use discretion with bitch, a word many consider coarse or vulgar.) □ Who bitched these cards up? □ I never bitch up anything!

bite back (at someone or something)1Lit. to defend an attack by biting at someone or something. (Usually an animal.) □ I threatened the dog and the dog bit back. 2Fig. to fight back at someone; to return someone’s anger or attack; to speak back to someone with anger. □ She is unusually tolerant, but she will bite back if pressed. □ Yes, she will bite back.

bite into something1Lit. to press one’s teeth into something. □ As he bit into the apple, the juices ran down his chin. □ Lily bit into the sandwich and smiled. 2Fig. (for the wind or something similar) to blow sharply against someone, causing a stinging pain. □ The cold wind bit into poor Wally, who only has a light jacket. □ The frigid air bit into my exposed skin.

bite off more than one can chewLit. to take a larger mouthful of food than one can chew easily or comfortably. □ I bit off more than I could chew, and nearly choked. 2Fig. to take on more than one can deal with; to be overconfident. □ Ann is exhausted again. She’s always biting off more than she can chew.

bite on someoneSL. to copy something that someone else has done; to dress the same way someone else does. □ Nobody will bite on Sally. She has terrible taste.

bite somethingAnim. to chew on something; to grasp something with the teeth. □ The injured cowboy bit on a leather strap while they tried to fix his dislocated shoulder. 2to respond to a lure; to fall for something. (Can refer literally to fishing, or be used figuratively.) □ Do you think the fish will bite on this? □ No one would bite on that bait. Try another approach.

bite one’s nailsAnim. to use one’s teeth to remove parts of one’s fingernails as a means of shortening them. □ Stop biting your nails! Use clippers! 2to literally bite one’s nails from nervousness or anxiety; to be nervous or anxious. □ I spent all afternoon biting my nails, worrying about you. □ We’ve all been biting our nails from worry.

bite one’s tongue1Lit. to bite down on one’s tongue by accident. □ Ouch! I bit my tongue! 2Fig. to struggle not to say something that you really want to say. □ I had to bite my tongue to keep from telling her what I really thought. □ I sat through that whole silly conversation biting my tongue.

bite someone’s head offFig. to speak sharply and with great anger to someone. (Fixed order.) □ Don’t bite my head off! Be patient. □ I’m very sorry I lost my temper. I didn’t mean to bite your head off.

bite something offAnim. to remove something in a bite. □ Ann bit a piece off and chewed it up. □ She bit off a piece.

bite the big oneSL. to die. □ I was so tired that I thought I was going to bite the big one. □ I hope I am old and gray when I bite the big one.

bite the bulletSL. to accept something difficult and try to live with it. □ You are just going to have to bite the bullet and make the best of it. □ Jim bit the bullet and accepted what he knew had to be.

bite the dust1SL. to die. □ A shot rang out, and another cowboy bit the dust. □ The soldier was too young to bite the dust. 2SL. to break; to fail; to give out. □ My old car finally bit the dust. □ This pen is out of ink and has bitten the dust.

bite the hand that feeds one Fig. to do harm to someone who does good things for you. (Does not involve biting.) □ I’m your mother! How can you bite the hand that feeds you? □ She can hardly expect sympathy when she bites the hand that feeds her.

Bite the ice!SL. Go to hell! □ If that’s what you think, you can just bite the ice! □ Get away from me! Bite the ice!

* a bite (to eat) to get something to eat; to get food that can be eaten quickly. (Typically: get ~; grab ~; have ~.) □ I need a few minutes to grab a bite to eat. □ Bob often tries to get a bite between meetings.

Bite your tongue! Fig. an expression said to someone who has just stated an unpleasant supposition that unfortunately may be true. □ Mary: I’m afraid that we’ve missed the plane already. Jane: Bite your tongue! We still have time.

Bite your tongue! Fig. an expression said to someone who has just stated an unpleasant supposition that unfortunately may be true. □ Mary: I’m afraid that we’ve missed the plane already. Jane: Bite your tongue! We still have time.

bitten by the same bugFig. having the same need, desire, or obsession. □ Bob and I were both bitten by the same bug and ended up getting new cars at the same time.

a bitter pill to swallowFig. an unpleasant fact that has to be accepted. (Does not involve pills or swallowing.) □ It was a bitter pill for her brother to swallow when she married his enemy. □ We found his deception a bitter pill to swallow.

blab something aroundInf. to gossip something to others; to spread some news or secret. □ It’s true, but don’t blab it around. □ Did you blab around everything I told you to keep to yourself?

blab something outInf. to speak out freely about something that is a secret. □ Don’t just blab it out! □ Don’t blab out the names of the people who were there!

black-and-blueFig. bruised, physically or emotionally. □ I’m still black-and-blue from my divorce. □ What is that black-and-blue mark on your leg?

*black as a skillet and *black as a stack of black cats; *black as a sweep; *black as coal; *black as night; *black as pitch; *black as the ace of spades completely dark or black. (Also: as ~.) □ I don’t want to go down to the cellar. It’s as black as a skillet down there. □ Her hair was black as a stack of black cats. □ After playing in the mud all morning, the children were as black as night. □ The stranger’s clothes were all black as pitch.

*black as one is painted as evil as described. (Usually negative. *Also: as ~.) □ The landlord is not as black as he is painted. He seems quite generous to me. □ Young people are rarely black as they are painted in the media.
black as pitch  Go to black as a skillet.

black as the ace of spades  Go to black as a skillet.

a black eye 1. Lit. a bruise near the eye from being struck. (*Typically have ~; get ~; give someone ~.) I got a black eye from walking into a door. 2. I have a black eye where John hit me. Fig. harm done to one’s character. (*Typically have ~; get ~; give someone ~.) Mary got a black eye because of her constant complaining.  The whole group now has a black eye, and it will take years to recover our reputation.

* a black mark beside one’s name Fig. something negative associated with a person. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give one ~.) I did it again! Now I’ve got still another black mark beside my name!

black out 1. Lit. [for lights] to go out. 2. Suddenly the lights blacked out. 3. The power went dead and everything blacked out from the heat. 4. Fig. to pass out; to become unconscious. 5. After I fell, I must have blacked out. 6. I think I am going to black out.

the black sheep of the family Fig. the worst member of the family. Mary is the black sheep of the family. She’s always in trouble with the police. He keeps making a nuisance of himself. What do you expect from the black sheep of the family?

black something out 1. Lit. to cut or turn out the lights or electric power. 2. The lightning strike blacked the entire town out. 3. The manager blacked out the whole building during the emergency to prevent an explosion. 4. Fig. to prevent the broadcast of a specific television or radio program in a specific area. 5. Will they black the game out around here? 6. They blacked out the basketball game in this area.

blackmail someone into doing something to force a person to do something by threatening to reveal some secret about the person. 1. Are you trying to blackmail me into doing what you want? 2. They blackmailed me into doing it.

* the blame for something the responsibility of having done something wrong or caused something bad to happen. (*Typically: accept ~; bear ~; shoulder ~; take ~.) I absolutely refuse to shoulder the blame for the entire fiasco!

blame someone for something to hold someone responsible for something; to name someone as the cause of something. 1. Please don’t blame Jill for it. 2. She blamed herself for everything that went wrong.

blame something on someone to say that something is someone’s fault; to place the guilt for something on someone. 1. Don’t blame it on me. 2. I blamed it all on someone else.

blanch at something Fig. to cringe at something; to become pale at the thought of something. 1. fill blanched at the thought of swimming in that cold water. 2. Lily blanched at the sight before her.

blanch with something Fig. to become pale with some emotion, such as anger or fear. 1. He saw the injury and blanched with fear. 2. Lily blanched with anger as Max walked out.

a blank check freedom or permission to act as one wishes or thinks necessary. 1. He’s been given a blank check with regard to reorganizing the work force. 2. The new manager has been given no detailed instructions about how to train the staff. He just has a blank check.

blank something out 1. Lit. to erase something, as on a computer screen. 2. Who blanked out the information that was on my screen? 3. Please blank your password out as soon as you type it. 4. Fig. to forget something, perhaps on purpose; to blot something out of memory. 5. I’m sorry, I just blanked your question out. 6. I blanked your question out. What did you say?

blanket someone or something with something Fig. to cover someone or something with something. 1. They blanketed the flames with a layer of foam. 2. The children blanketed Jimmy with leaves and pretended he was lost.

blast off (for some place) 1. [for a space vehicle] to take off and head toward a destination. 2. The rocket blasted off for the moon. 3. Will it blast off on time? 4. Sl. for someone to leave for a destination quickly. 5. Ann blasted off for the library so she could study. 6. I’ve got to blast off. It’s late.

blast something off something else to remove something from something else with a powerful charge, pressure, or force. 1. They blasted the writing off the wall. 2. We will have to blast the paint off the wall.

blaze a trail 1. Lit. to make and mark a trail. 2. The scout blazed a trail through the forest. 3. Fig. to do early or pioneering work that others will follow up on. 4. Professor Williams blazed a trail in the study of physics.

blaze away (at someone or something) [for gunfire] to fire continually at someone or something. 1. The guns blazed away at the oncoming ducks. 2. The cowboy blazed away at his opponent in the gunfight.

blaze down (on someone or something) [for the sun or other hot light] to burn from above onto someone or something. 1. The sun blazed down on the people on the beach. 2. The stage lights blazed down on the set while the actors rehearsed.

blaze up 1. Lit. [for flames] to expand upward suddenly. 2. The fire blazed up and warmed all of us. 3. As the fire blazed up, we moved away from the fireplace. 4. Fig. [for trouble, especially violent trouble] to erupt suddenly. 5. The battle blazed up again, and the fighting started to become fierce. 6. As the battle blazed up, the cowards fled into the hills.

blaze with something to burn with some quality, such as great heat or sound. 1. The sun blazed with unbelievable heat. 2. The fire blazed with much crackling.

bleach something out 1. to remove the color or stain from something. 2. Wally bleached his jeans out so they looked more stylish. 3. Can you bleach out this stain?

bleed for someone Fig. to feel the emotional pain that someone else is feeling; to sympathize or empathize with someone. 1. I just bled for him when I heard his sad story. 2. We bled for her as she related her recent woes.

bleed from something for blood to emerge from a wound or other source. 1. He was bleeding from a number of wounds. 2. He bled from his mouth and nose.

bleed someone white and bleed someone dry to take all of someone’s money; to extort money from someone. 1. The creeps tried to bleed me white. 2. Richard got a picture
of Fred and Joan together and tried to bleed both of them dry by threatening to show it to their spouses.

bleed to death to die from the loss of blood. □ If something isn’t done, he will bleed to death. □ I cut my finger. I hope I don’t bleed to death.

bleeding heart Fig. someone, usually considered politically liberal or leftist, who is very emotional about certain political issues, such as endangered species, downtrodden people, the suffering poor, etc. □ Bob is such a bleeding heart. No cause is too far out for him.

bleep something out to replace a word or phrase in a radio or television broadcast with some sort of covering tone. (This is sometimes done to prevent a taboo word or other information from being broadcast.) □ He tried to say the word on television, but they bleeped it out. □ They tried to bleep out the whole sentence.

blend in (with something or someone) to mix well with someone or something; to combine with someone or something. □ Everyone there blended in with our group. □ This color doesn’t blend in with the upholstery fabric I have chosen.

blend in(to something) to combine nicely with something; to mix well with something. □ The oil won’t blend into the water very well. □ It simply won’t blend in.

blend something into something else and blend something in† to mix something evenly into something else. □ We should blend the strawberry jam into the peanut butter slowly. □ You should blend in some more jam.

blend something together (with something) to mix something evenly with something else. □ Blend the ingredients together and pour them into a baking pan.

Bless one’s lucky star. and Bless one’s stars. Prov. Be thankful for a lucky thing that happened. (Also Bless my stars!, a mild interjection of surprise.) □ I bless my lucky star that I met you, dear. □ I was in a car crash yesterday, and I bless my stars that no one was hurt. □ Alan: Look, honey! I gave the house a thorough cleaning while you were away. Jane: Bless my stars!

Bless one’s stars. Go to previous.

bless someone or something with something [for God or fate] to give someone or something a valuable gift. □ God has blessed us with a bountiful harvest. □ Nature blessed the morning with a gentle rain.

blessed event Fig. the birth of a child. □ My sister is expecting a blessed event sometime in May. □ The young couple anxiously awaited the blessed event.

Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed. Prov. If you do not expect good things to happen, you will not be disappointed when they fail to happen. □ Ellen: This is going to be the best vacation we’ve ever had; we’re going to have fun every minute of every day. Fred: Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed. □ Jill: Do you think you’ll win the contest? Jane: I like to keep in mind that blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.

a blessing in disguise Fig. something that at first seems bad, but later turns out to be beneficial. □ Tony’s motorcycle accident was a blessing in disguise, because he got enough insurance money from the other driver to make a down payment on a house. □ Dad’s illness was a blessing in disguise; it brought the family together for the first time in years.

a blight on the land Fig. something that harms the land or the environment. □ Your garage is ugly! No, it’s a blight on the land!

blimp out to overeat; to eat too much and gain weight. □ I blimp out almost every weekend. □ If I could stop blimping out, I could lose some weight.

*blind as a bat completely blind. (Bats are not really blind. *Also: as ~.) □ He lost his sight in an accident and is as blind as a bat. 2. not able to see well. □ I’m as blind as a bat without my glasses. 3. unwilling to recognize problems or bad things. □ Connie is blind as a bat when it comes to her daughter’s disgraceful behavior.

The blind leading the blind Prov. Someone who is not capable of dealing with a situation is guiding someone else who is not capable of dealing with it. (See also a case of the blind leading the blind.) □ Jill: Mike is helping me fill out my tax forms this year. Jane: Is he a tax expert? Jill: He read a book about income tax once. Jane: Sounds to me like the blind leading the blind. □ Nathan offered to be my guide through Philadelphia, but since he’d never been there before either, it was a case of the blind leading the blind.

blind luck Go to pure luck.

blind someone to something Fig. to prevent someone from seeing or understanding something. □ The king blinded his subjects to what was going on by controlling what appeared in the newspapers. □ The lies and confusion blinded Jill to what was happening. □ She blinded herself to all his faults.

blink at something 1. Lit. to open and close the eyelids quickly, one or more times. □ I blinked at the bright light and finally had to close my eyes. □ Don’t blink at me while I am trying to take your picture. 2. Fig. to overlook something, such as a mistake. (As if one had blinked one’s eyes rather than seeing the error.) □ I just can’t blink at that kind of behavior. □ We can’t blink at what evil you did.

blink one’s tears back† Fig. to try to keep from crying. □ She blinked back her tears and went on. □ He blinked his tears back and endured the pain.

bliss out Sl. to be overcome with happiness. □ She blissed out at the concert, because she loves that kind of music.

bliss someone out† Sl. to cause someone to be overcome with happiness. □ This kind of sunny weather just blisses me out. □ The lovely weather blissed out everyone after the long winter.

blitz someone out† Sl. to shock or disorient someone. □ The accident blitzed her out for a moment. □ The second act blitzed out the audience and thrilled them to pieces.

blitzed out Sl. shocked or disoriented. □ Ann was totally blitzed out by the events of the day. □ They were totally blitzed out by the bad news.

block someone or something in some place and block someone or something in† to place an obstacle that prevents someone or something from getting out of something. □ I can’t get out of my parking space. Someone blocked me in my space. □ Don’t block in any of the other cars in the garage.
block someone up

to constipate someone. □ That food always blocks me up. □ He blocked himself up by eating something he shouldn’t. □ That vile stuff would block up anybody!

block something off

to prevent movement through something by putting up a barrier; to close a passageway. □ Sam blocked the corridor off with a row of chairs. □ He used some chairs to block off the hallway.

block something out

1. to obscure a clear view of something. □ The trees blocked the sun out. □ The bushes blocked out my view of the car that was approaching. 2. to lay something out carefully; to map out the details of something. □ She blocked it out for us, so we could understand. □ Let me block out this project for you right now.

block something up

to obstruct something; to stop the flow within a channel. □ The heaps of debris blocked the channel up. □ The leaves blocked up the drain.

blood and guts

1. Fig. strife; acrimony. □ There is a lot of blood and guts around here, but we get our work done anyway. □ Cut out the blood and guts and grow up. 2. Fig. acrimonious. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ There are too many blood-and-guts arguments around here. □ Old blood-and-guts Wally is making his threats again.

Blood is thicker than water.

and Blood runs thicker than water. Prov. People who are related have stronger obligations to each other than to people outside the family. □ My friends invited me to go camping on Saturday, but I have to go to my cousin’s wedding instead. Blood is thicker than water, after all. □ If you ever need help, don’t ask your friends. Come home and ask us, your family. Blood runs thicker than water.

blood, sweat, and tears

Fig. the signs of great personal effort. □ There will be much blood, sweat, and tears before we have completed this project. □ After years of blood, sweat, and tears, Timmy finally earned a college degree.

Blood will have blood.

Prov. People will use violence to get revenge for violent acts; murderers will themselves be murdered. □ Although no one suspected him of the murder he had committed, Parker lived in fear. He had heard that blood will have blood. □ I am afraid that the two gangs will never stop killing each other. Blood will have blood.

Blood will tell.

Prov. A person whose ancestors had certain characteristics, often bad ones, will eventually turn out to be similar. □ Lisa’s father was a gambler, and now Lisa has started to gamble, too. Blood will tell. □ William went to all the best schools, but he’s just as vulgar as the rest of his family. Blood will tell.

bloody but unbowed

Fig. showing signs of a struggle, but not defeated. (Originally referring to the head. From the poem Invictus by William Earnest Henley.) □ Liz emerged from the struggle, her head bloody but unbowed. □ We are bloody but unbowed and will fight to the last.

blossom forth

1. Lit. [for a plant] to burst into flower. □ All the trees blossomed forth at the same time. □ Each spring my tulips blossom forth in all their glory. 2. Fig. [for someone or a concept] to develop or grow quickly. □ A wonderful idea blossomed forth and caught on quickly. □ That summer she suddenly blossomed forth into a young woman.
Blow it out your ear! Sl. Go away!; Leave me alone!  □ Oh, blow it out your ear, you cornball! □ You are not cool, you're just weird! Blow it out your ear!

blow itself out [for a storm or a tantrum] to lose strength and stop; to subside. (Fixed order.) □ The storm blew itself out. □ Eventually, the hurricane blew itself out.

blow off 1. Lit. [for something] to be carried off something by moving air. □ The leaves of the trees blew off in the strong wind. □ My papers blew off the table. 2. Lit. [for a valve or pressure-maintaining device] to be forced off or away by high pressure. (See the examples.) □ The safety valve blew off and all the pressure escaped. □ The valve blew off, making a loud pop. 3. Fig. [for someone] to become angry; to lose one's temper; to blow off (some) steam. □ I just needed to blow off. Sorry for the outburst. □ I blew off at her. 4. Sl. to goof off; to waste time; to procrastinate. □ You blow off too much. □ All your best time is gone—blown off. 5. Sl. a time-waster; a goof-off. (Usually blow-off.) □ Fred is such a blow-off! □ Get busy. I don’t pay blow-offs around here. 6. Sl. something that can be done easily or without much effort. (Usually blow-off.) □ Oh, that is just a blow-off. Nothing to it. □ The test was easy—a blow-off. 7. and blow someone or something off! Sl. to ignore someone or something; to skip an appointment with someone; to not attend something where one is expected. □ He decided to sleep in and blow this class off. □ It wasn’t right for you to just blow off an old friend the way you did. 8. and blow someone off! Sl. to ignore someone in order to end a romantic or other relationship. □ She knew that he had blown her off when he didn’t even call her for a month. □ Steve blew off Rachel before he started seeing Jane. 9. Sl. the final insult; an event that causes a dispute. (Usually blow-off.) □ The blow-off was a call from some girl named Lulu who asked for Snookums. □ When the blow-off happened, nobody was expecting anything. 10. Sl. a dispute; an argument. (Usually blow-off.) □ After a blow-off like that, we all need a break. □ There was a big blow-off in the office today.

blow off (some) steam Go to let off (some) steam.

Blow on it! Sl. Cool it!; Take it easy! □ “It’s all right, Tom. Blow on it!” □ Hey, man. Relax. Blow on it!

blow on something to force air across something especially with a puff of breath. □ Blow on the fire to make it burn hotter.

blow one’s cookies Go to blow (one’s) lunch.

blow one’s cool Go to lose one’s cool.

blow one’s cork Go to blow a fuse.

blow one’s fuse Go to blow a fuse.

blow one’s groceries Go to blow one’s lunch.

blow one’s lid Go to blow a fuse.

blow one’s lines Go to fluff one’s lines.

blow (one’s) lunch and lose one’s lunch; blow one’s cookies; blow one’s groceries Sl. to vomit. □ I almost lost my lunch, I ran so hard. □ I wanted to blow my lunch, that’s how rotten I felt. □ He got car sick and blew his cookies all over the front seat.

blow one’s nose to expel mucus and other material from the nose using air pressure from the lungs. □ Excuse me, I have to blow my nose. □ Bill blew his nose into his handkerchief.

blow one’s own horn and toot one’s own horn Fig. to brag. □ Gary sure likes to toot his own horn. □ “I hate to blow my own horn,” said Bill, “but I am always right.”

blow one’s stack Go to blow a fuse.

blow one’s top Go to blow a fuse.

blow over Fig. [for something] to diminish; to subside. (As with a storm or a temper tantrum.) □ Her display of temper finally blew over. □ The storm will blow over soon, I hope.

blow someone a kiss to pantomime the sending of a kiss to a person visible nearby by kissing one’s hand and “blowing” the kiss off the hand toward the person. □ As she boarded the train she blew him a kiss, and he waved back.

blow someone away 1. Sl. [for something shocking or exciting] to overwhelm a person; to excite a person very much. □ The amount of the check blew me away. □ The loud noise from the concert blew me away. 2. Sl. to murder someone, usually by gunfire. □ Mr. Big ordered Lefty to blow Max away. □ Max tried to blow Lefty away.

blow someone or something away† [for the wind] to carry someone or something away. □ The wind blew her away. □ It nearly blew away all the houses.

blow someone or something down† [for a rush of air] to knock someone or something over. □ The wind blew Chuck down. □ The tornado blew down many buildings.

blow someone or something out of the water Fig. to destroy utterly someone or something, such as a plan. (Alludes to a torpedo or other weapon striking a ship and causing a great explosion that makes pieces of the ship fly out of the water.) □ I will blow him out of the water if he shows up around here. □ The boss blew the whole idea out of the water.

blow someone or something over [for the wind] to move strongly and upset someone or something. □ The wind almost blew us over. □ The tornado blew the shed over.

blow someone or something to bits Go to blow someone or something to smithereens.

blow someone or something to kingdom come Fig. to destroy someone or something by means of an explosion. □ You’d better get that gas leak fixed or it will blow you and your car to kingdom come.

blow someone or something to pieces Go to next.

blow someone or something to smithereens and blow someone or something to bits; blow someone or something to pieces Lit. to explode someone or something into tiny pieces. (See also blow something to smithereens.) □ The bomb blew the ancient church to smithereens. □ The explosion blew the tank to bits. □ The explosion blew the car to pieces.

blow someone or something up† 1. Lit. to destroy someone or something by explosion. □ The terrorists blew the building up at midnight. □ They blew up the bridge. 2. Fig. to exaggerate something [good or bad] about someone or something. □ I hope no one blows the story up. □ The media always blows up reports of celebrity behavior. □ The press blew the story up unnecessarily.
blow someone out Sl. to kill someone, especially with gunshots. (Fixed order.) □ Lefty set out to blow Max out once and for all. □ Lefty wanted to blow Max out too.

blow someone over 1. Lit. [for the wind or an explosion] to knock someone over. □ The force of the wind nearly blew me over. □ The wind blew over the old tree. 2. Fig. to surprise or astound someone. (Fixed order.) □ Her announcement just blew me over. □ The whole event just blew me over.

blow someone’s brains out Sl. to kill someone with a gun. □ Careful with that gun, or you’ll blow your brains out. □ Max was so depressed that he wanted to blow out his brains.

blow someone’s cover Sl. to reveal someone’s true identity; to ruin someone’s scheme for concealment. □ The dog recognized me and blew my cover. □ I didn’t mean to blow your cover by calling out to you.

blow someone’s doors off Sl. [for a driver] to speed past another vehicle. □ Wow, he almost blew my doors off! □ The truck passed us and blew off our doors!

blow someone’s mind 1. Sl. to disturb or distract; to destroy the function of one’s brain. □ It was a terrible experience. It nearly blew my mind. □ She blew her mind on drugs. 2. Sl. to overwhelm someone; to excite someone. □ It was so beautiful, it nearly blew my mind. □ The loud guitar music was so wild. It blew my mind.

blow something Sl. to ruin or waste something. □ I had a chance to do it, but I blew it. □ He blew the whole five dollars on candy.

blow something out to extinguish a flame with a puff of breath. □ I blew the candle out. □ I blew out the candles one by one.

blow something out of (all) proportion Go to out of (all) proportion.

blow something to smithereens and blow something to bits; blow something to pieces Fig. to destroy an idea or plan by exposing its faults. (See also blow someone or something to smithereens.) □ The discovery blew my case to pieces. □ The opposing lawyer blew my case to smithereens.

blow something up 1. to inflate something. □ He didn’t have enough breath to blow the balloon up. □ They all blew up their own balloons. 2. to have a photograph enlarged. □ How big can you blow this picture up? □ I will blow up this snapshot and frame it.

blow something wide open and bust something wide open Sl. to expose corrupt practices or a secret plan; to put an end to corruption. □ The press is trying to blow the town wide open, and the feds are trying to hush them up so they can move about in secret. □ I’m going to bust this racket wide open.

blow the joint Sl. to get out of a place, usually in a hurry or without delay. □ Come on, let’s blow the joint before there’s trouble. □ They blew the joint about an hour ago.

blow the lid off (something) Sl. to expose something to public view. □ The police inspector blew the lid off the work of the gang of thugs. □ The investigation blew the lid off the scandal.

blow the whistle (on someone) 1. Fig. to report someone’s wrongdoing to someone (such as the police) who can stop the wrongdoing. (Alludes to blowing a whistle to attract the police.) □ The citizens’ group blew the whistle on the street gangs by calling the police. □ The gangs were getting very bad. It was definitely time to blow the whistle. 2. Fig. to report legal or regulatory wrongdoing of a company, especially one’s employer, to authorities. □ She was fired for blowing the whistle on the bank’s mismanagement of accounts, but she then sued the bank.

blow up 1. Lit. [for something] to explode. □ The bomb might have blown up if the children had tried to move it. □ The firecracker blew up. 2. Fig. to burst into anger. □ I just knew you’d blow up. □ So she blew up. Why should that affect you so much? 3. Fig. an angry outburst; a fight. (Usually blowup.) □ After the third blowup, she left him. □ One blowup after another from you. Control your temper! 4. Fig. an enlarged version of a photograph, map, chart, etc. (Usually blowup.) □ Here’s a blowup of the scene of the crime. □ Kelly sent a blowup of their wedding picture to all her relatives. 5. Fig. the ruination of something; the collapse of something. (Usually blowup.) □ The blowup in the financial world has ruined my chances for early retirement. □ After the blowup at the company, the top managers called one another to compare notes. 6. Fig. to fall apart or get ruined. □ The whole project blew up. It will have to be canceled. □ All my planning was blown up this afternoon. 7. [for a storm] to arrive accompanied by the blowing of the wind. □ A terrible storm blew up while we were in the movie theater. □ I was afraid that a rainstorm was blowing up.

blow up in someone’s face 1. Lit. to blow up or explode suddenly. □ The bomb blew up in the terrorist’s face. □ The firecracker blew up in his face and injured him. 2. Fig. [for something] to get ruined while someone is working on it. □ All my plans blew up in my face. □ It is terrible for your life to get ruined and blow up in your face.

a blow-by-blow account and a blow-by-blow description Fig. a detailed description (of an event) given as the event takes place. (This referred originally to reporting on boxing.) □ I want to listen to a blow-by-blow account of the prizefight. □ The lawyer got the witness to give a blow-by-blow description of the argument.

blown (up) Sl. intoxicated. □ I guess I’m a little too blown up to drive.

blue around the gills Go to pale around the gills.

blue blood 1. Fig. the blood [heredity] of a noble family; aristocratic ancestry. □ The earl refuses to allow anyone who is not of blue blood to marry his son. □ Although Mary’s family is poor, she has blue blood in her veins. 2. Fig. a person of aristocratic or wealthy ancestry. □ Because his great-grandparents made millions, he is regarded as one of the city’s blue bloods.

blue collar of the lower class or working class; of a job or a worker, having to do with manual labor. (Also, when used as an attributive adjective, often blue-collar. Com-
bare this with white collar. Alludes to the typical color of work shirts worn by mechanics, laborers, etc. His parents were both blue-collar workers. He was the first person in his family to go to college. They bought a house in a nice, settled, blue-collar neighborhood.

*the blues 1. sadness; a mood of depression. (*Typically: get ~; have ~.) You’ll have to excuse Bill. He’s getting the blues thinking about Jane. I get the blues every time I hear that song. 2. a traditional style of popular music characterized by lyrics expressing hardship, lost love, etc. Buddy had been singing the blues ever since the Depression.

blow something out (at) 1. to say something to someone without thinking. (Usually to say something that should not be said.) It was a secret. Why did you blurt it out? Why did you blow out our hiding place? 2. to be amazed at something, particularly something large or surprising. The audience boggled at the size of the loss.

boil something away 1. to remove something from a particular emotion or reaction. You could see that Lily was blushing with anger, even though she tried to conceal it.

boggle at something 1. to be amazed at something, particularly something large or surprising. The audience was amazed at this job.

boggle someone’s mind 1. to confuse someone; to overwhelm someone; to blow someone’s mind. The immense size of the house boggled my mind. She said that his arrogance boggled her mind.

boil down to something 1. and boil down Lit. [for a liquid] to be condensed to something by boiling. Boil this mixture down to about half of what it was. 2. Fig. [for a complex situation] to be reduced to its essentials. It boils down to the question of who is going to win. It boils down to a very minor matter.

boil over [for a liquid] to overflow while being boiled. (See also boil over [with something].) You boil over the sauce will be ruined. Blow the alcohol away or the sauce will be ruined.

boil over (with something) Fig. [for someone] to erupt in great anger. The boss boiled over with anger. Things got out of hand and the crowd's passions boiled over.

boil something away 1. Lit. to boil a liquid until it is gone altogether. She left the kettle on and boiled the water away. Boil away some of that water.

boil something down 1. Lit. to condense or thicken something, such as a liquid. I have to boil this gravy down for a while before I can serve it. You boil down the sauce and I’ll set the table. 2. Fig. to reduce a problem to its simple essentials. If we could boil this problem down to its essentials, we might be able to solve it. We don’t have time to boil down this matter. This is too urgent.

boil something out 1. Go to next.

boil something out of something and boil something out 1. to remove something from something by boiling. I boiled the wax out of the cloth. You can boil out the stain.

boil something up 1. Rur. to cook a batch of food by boiling. She boiled some beans up for dinner. She boiled up some potatoes.

boil with something Fig. to show the heat or intensity of one’s anger. You could see that she was just boiling with anger. Tom was boiling with rage when we got there.

*bold as brass very bold; bold to the point of rudeness. (*Also: as ~.) Lisa marched into the manager’s office, bold as brass, and demanded her money back. The tiny
kitten, as bold as brass, began eating the dog’s food right under the dog’s nose.

bollix something up1 Inf. to ruin something; to mess something up. □ Please don’t bollix my stereo up. □ Who bollixed up the folded laundry?

bolster someone up1 Fig. to give someone emotional support and encouragement. □ We bolstered her up the best we could, but she was still unhappy. □ I don’t mind bolstering up people who are depressed.

bolster something up1 to give added support to something. □ The carpenter bolstered the shelf up with a nail or two. □ I had to bolster up the door or it would have fallen in.

a bolt from the blue Fig. a sudden surprise. (Alludes to a stroke of lightning from a cloudless sky.) □ Joe’s return to Springfield was a bolt from the blue. □ The news that Mr. and Mrs. King were getting a divorce struck all their friends as a bolt from the blue.

bolt out (of some place) to run out of some place very quickly. □ Frank bolted out of the room in a flash. □ I bolted out after him.

bolt something down1 1. Lit. to fasten something down securely with bolts. □ Did anyone bolt the washing machine down? □ Someone should bolt down this washing machine. 2. Fig. to eat something too rapidly. □ Don’t bolt your food down. □ She bolted down her dinner and ran out to play.

bomb out (of something) Sl. to flunk out of or fail at something, especially school or a job. □ She was afraid she would bomb out of school. □ Her brother bolted out the year before.

bomb someone out1 to cause people to flee by bombing their homes and towns. □ The planes bombed the villagers out. □ The attack bombed out everyone for miles around.

bomb something out1 to destroy a place by bombing. □ I hope they don’t bomb the village out. □ The planes bombed out the factory.

bombard someone or something with something to cast or shoot something at someone or something. (See also bombard someone with questions.) □ The boys bombarded their friends with snowballs. □ Gerald bombarded his friends with criticism.

bombard someone with questions Fig. to ask someone many questions, one after another. □ The press bombarded the president with questions. □ The company spokesperson was bombarded with leading questions.

bone of contention Fig. the subject or point of an argument; an unsettled point of disagreement. □ We’ve fought for so long that we’ve forgotten what the bone of contention is. □ The question of a fence between the houses has become quite a bone of contention.

bone up (on something) to study something thoroughly; to review the facts about something. □ I have to bone up on the state driving laws because I have to take my driving test tomorrow. □ I take mine next month, so I’ll have to bone up, too.

boo someone off the stage and boo someone off2 to jeer and hoot, causing a performer to leave the stage. □ The rude audience booted the performer off the stage. □ The audience booted off the comedian.

boozy prize a mock prize given to the worst player or performer. □ Bob should get the boozy prize for the worst showing in the race.

boogie down (to somewhere) Sl. to hurry (to somewhere); to go (somewhere). □ So, why don’t you boogie down to the store and load up with goodies for the weekend? □ I’m gonna boogie down and see what’s going on.

book (on) out Sl. to leave in a hurry; to depart very suddenly and rapidly. □ I’m in a hurry, so I’ve got to book out right now. □ Let’s book out of this place as soon as we can.

book someone on something to reserve a place for someone on some travel conveyance. □ They booked us on a direct flight to San Juan. □ He booked himself on a flight to Manaus.

book someone through (to some place) to make transportation arrangements for someone that involve a number of changes and transfers. □ The travel agent booked me through to Basra. □ I would be happy to book you through if you would like.

book something up1 to reserve all the available places. □ The travel agency booked all the good seats up. □ Who booked up all these seats?

boom out [for a loud sound] to sound out like thunder. □ His voice boomed out such that everyone could hear. □ An explosion boomed out and frightened us all.

boom something out1 [for someone] to say something very loud; to shout. □ Will someone with a loud voice boom the names out? □ The announcer boomed out the names of the players.

boost someone up1 to give someone a helpful lift up to something. □ She boosted me up so I could get into the window. □ They boosted up the child for a better view.

*the boot dismissal from employment or from a place that one is in. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ I guess I wasn’t dressed well enough to go in there. They gave me the boot. □ I’ll work harder at my job today. I nearly got the boot yesterday.

boot someone or an animal out1 and kick someone or an animal out1 1. Lit. to send or remove someone or an animal from a place forcefully, often by kicking. □ I kicked the cat out and then went to bed. □ Tom kicked out the dog. 2. Fig. to force someone or something to leave some place. □ We booted out the people who didn’t belong there. □ The doorman booted the kid out.

boot something up1 to start up a computer. □ She booted her computer up and started writing. □ Please go boot up your computer so we can get started.

boot up [of a computer] to begin operating; to start up a computer. □ He turned on the computer and it booted up. □ Try to boot up again and see what happens.

boozie it up Sl. to drink heavily; to drink to get drunk. (Fixed order.) □ She wanted to get home and boozie it up by herself. □ He boozies it up every Friday after work.

boozie up Sl. to drink heavily. □ Those guys are always boozing up. □ Stop boozing up and go home.

border (up)on something 1. Lit. [for something] to touch upon a boundary. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Our property borders on the
lakeshore. □ The farm borders upon the railroad tracks.

2. Fig. [for some activity or idea] to be very similar to something else. (Not usually physical objects. Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ This notion of yours borders upon mutiny! □ That plan borders on insanity.

bore someone stiff and bore someone to death; bore someone to tears Fig. to be exceedingly dull and uninteresting. (Stiff means “dead.”) □ The play bored me stiff. □ The lecture bored everyone to death.

bore someone to death Go to previous.

bore someone to tears Go to bore someone stiff.

bore the pants off of someone Fig. to be exceedingly dull and uninteresting to someone. □ You bore the pants off of me! □ The lecture bore the pants off of everybody.

bore through someone Fig. [for someone’s gaze] to seem to penetrate the person being gazed or stared at. □ Her stare bored right through me.

bore through something to pierce or drill through something. □ The drill bit could not bore through the steel plate.

bored silly and bored to distraction; bored stiff; bored to death; bored to tears very bored; extremely dull and uninteresting (Usually an exaggeration.) □ I was bored silly at the lecture. □ The dull speaker left me bored to distraction. □ I am bored to tears. Let’s go home.

bored to distraction Go to previous.

born and bred Go to next.

born and raised and born and bred born and nurtured through childhood, usually in a specific place. □ She was born and raised in a small town in western Montana. □ Freddy was born and bred on a farm and had no love for city life.

born on the wrong side of the blanket Rur. [of a child] illegitimate. □ All his life, Edward felt that people looked down on him because he was born on the wrong side of the blanket. □ Just between you and me, I suspect Mrs. Potter’s oldest child was born on the wrong side of the blanket.

born out of wedlock born to an unmarried mother. □ The child was born out of wedlock. □ In the city many children are born out of wedlock.

born with a silver spoon in one’s mouth Fig. born into wealth and privilege. □ James doesn’t know anything about working for a living; he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. □ Most of the students at the exclusive private college were born with silver spoons in their mouths.

borrow something Euph. to steal something. □ The bank robber borrowed a car to drive out of state. □ I discovered that my office mate had been borrowing money out of my wallet when I wasn’t looking.

borrow something from someone to request and receive the use of something from someone. □ Can I borrow a hammer from you? □ Sorry, this hammer was borrowed from my father.

borrow trouble Fig. to worry needlessly; to make trouble for oneself. □ Worrying too much about death is just borrowing trouble. □ Do not get involved with politics. That’s borrowing trouble.

bosom buddy and bosom pal a close friend; one’s closest friend. □ Of course I know Perry. He is one of my bosom pals.

bosom pal Go to previous.

boss someone around to give orders to someone; to keep telling someone what to do. □ Stop bossing me around. I’m not your employee. □ Captain Smith bosses around the whole crew. That’s his job.

botch something up† to mess something up; to do a bad job of something. □ You really botched this up. □ I did not botch up your project.

both sheets in the wind intoxicated. (A ship’s sheets are the ropes or lines that control the sails. See also three sheets in the wind.) □ She’s both sheets in the wind at the moment. □ She’s not just both sheets in the wind—they’re all in the wind.

bother about something to care about something; to take the trouble to deal with something. □ Please don’t bother about this mess. I’ll clean it up. □ Don’t bother about it.

bother one’s (pretty little) head about someone or something Rur. to worry about something. (Stereotypically polite Southern talk to a woman; often said facetiously or patronizingly.) □ Now, don’t bother your pretty little head about all this. □ Don’t bother your head about me.

bother someone with something or bother someone about something and bother someone about something or to annoy someone with something or something; to worry someone about something or something. (Either a physical annoyance or a mental annoyance.) □ Don’t bother me with that! □ Don’t bother yourself about the bill. I’ll pay it.

bother with something or someone to take the time or trouble to deal with someone or something. (Usually negative.) □ Please don’t bother with fill. She can take care of herself. □ Don’t bother me with your problems.

the bottle drinking alcohol. □ His friends thought he was a bit too fond of the bottle. □ She tried to stay away from the bottle, but she never could manage it for long.

bottle something up† 1. Lit. to put some sort of liquid into bottles. □ She bottled her homemade chili sauce up and put the bottles in a box. □ She bottled up a lot of the stuff. 2. Fig. to constrict something as if it were put in a bottle. □ The patrol boats bottled the other boats up at the locks on the river. □ The police bottled up the traffic while they searched the cars for the thieves. 3. and bottle something up‡ (inside (someone)) Fig. to hold one’s feelings within; to keep from saying something that one feels strongly about. □ Let’s talk about it, John. You shouldn’t bottle it up. □ Don’t bottle up your problems. It’s better to talk them out. □ Don’t bottle it up inside you. □ Don’t bottle up all your feelings.

the bottom fell out of something Fig. a much lower limit or level of something was reached. □ The bottom fell out of the market and I lost a lot of money.

the bottom line 1. Lit. the last figure on a financial profit-and-loss statement, or on a bill. □ What’s the bottom line? How much do I owe you? □ Don’t tell me all those figures! Just tell me the bottom line. 2. Fig. the result; the final outcome. □ I know about all the problems, but what is the bottom line? What will happen? □ The bottom line is that you have to go to the meeting because no one else can.
**bottom of the barrel** and **bottom of the heap**

Fig. the location of persons or things of the very lowest quality; someone or something of the lowest quality. (The fruit at the bottom of a barrel of apples is likely to be bruised from the weight of the other apples.)

**That last secretary you sent me was really the bottom of the barrel.**

**I don’t need any candidates from the bottom of the heap.**

**the bottom of the heap** Go to previous.

**bottom out** Fig. to reach the lowest or worst point of something. □ All my problems seem to be bottoming out. They can’t get much worse. □ Interest rates bottomed out last February.

**Bottoms up! and Here’s looking at you.; Here’s mud in your eye.; Here’s to you.** Inf. an expression said as a toast when people are drinking together. (Alludes to the bottoms of the drinking glasses.) □ Bill: Bottoms up. Tom: Here’s mud in your eye. Bill: Ah, that one was good. Care for another?

**bounce along** 1. Lit. to move along bouncing. (As might be done by a ball.) □ The ball bounced along and finally came to rest. □ The beach ball sort of bounced along until it came to the water. 2. Fig. [for someone] to move along happily. □ He was so happy that he just bounced along. □ He stopped bouncing along when he saw all the work he had to do.

**bounce back (from something)** 1. Lit. [for something] to rebound; [for something] to return bouncing from where it had been. □ The ball bounced back from the wall. 2. and **bounce back (after something)** Fig. [for someone] to recover after a disability, illness, blow, or defeat. (See also **rebound from something.**) □ She bounced back from her illness quickly. □ She bounced back quickly after her illness.

**bounce for something** Go to spring for something.

**bounce off (of something)** to rebound from something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The ball bounced off the wall and struck a lamp. □ It hit the wall and bounced off.

**bounce out (of something)** to rebound out of or away from something. □ The ball bounced out of the corner into my hands. □ The ball bounced out of the box it had fallen into.

**bounce something around† (with someone)** to discuss something with a number of people; to move an idea from person to person like a ball. □ I need to bounce this around with my family. □ I need to bounce around something with you.

**bounce something back and forth** 1. Lit. to bat, toss, or throw something alternately between two people. (Usually a ball.) □ The two guys bounced the ball back and forth. □ John and Timmy bounced it back and forth. 2. Fig. to discuss an idea back and forth among a group of people. □ Let’s bounce these ideas back and forth awhile and see what we come up with. □ The idea was bounced back and forth for about an hour.

**bounce something off (of) someone or something** 1. Lit. to make something rebound off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ She bounced the ball off the wall, turned, and tossed it to Wally. □ She bounced the ball off of Harry, into the wastebasket. 2. and "bounce something off of" Fig. to try an idea or concept out on someone or a group. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Let me bounce off this idea, if I may. □ Can I bounce something off of you people, while you’re here?

**bounce up and down** to spring up and down due to natural elasticity or from being jostled or thrown. □ The ball bounced up and down for an amazingly long time. □ I bounced up and down in the back of that truck for almost an hour.

**bound and determined** Cliché very determined; very committed or dedicated (to something). □ We were bound and determined to get there on time. □ I’m bound and determined that this won’t happen again.

**bound for somewhere** headed for a specific goal or destination. □ Bill accidentally got on a bus bound for Miami. □ Our baseball team is bound for glory.

**bound hand and foot** with hands and feet tied up. □ The robbers left us bound hand and foot. □ We remained bound hand and foot until the police found us and untied us.

**bound to do something** certain to do something; destined to do something. □ Jill’s bound to do a good job. □ We are bound to tell the truth.

**bound up with someone or something deeply concerned or involved with someone or something.** □ He’s so bound up with his work, he has time for nothing else. □ Andrew is bound up with his girlfriend and has time for no one else.

**bow and scrape** Fig. to be very humble and subservient. □ Please don’t bow and scrape. We are all equal here. □ The salesclerk came in, bowing and scraping, and asked if he could help us.

**bow before someone or something** 1. Lit. to bend or curtsey in respect to someone or something. □ I will not bow before any king or queen. □ Henry insisted that I bow before him. 2. Fig. to submit to someone or something; to surrender to someone or something. □ Our country will never bow before a dictator’s demands. □ We will not bow before such a corrupt politician.

**bow down (to someone or something) and bow to someone or something** 1. Lit. to bend or curtsey to someone or something. □ Do you expect me to bow down or something when you enter? □ He bowed down low to the duchess. □ She faced forward and bowed to the altar. 2. Fig. to submit to someone or something; to yield sovereignty to someone or something. □ I will not bow down to you, you dictator! □ We will never bow to a foreign prince.

**bow out (of some place)** to bow as one departs from a place. □ The servant bowed out of the room. □ The servant departed, bowing out as he left.

**bow out (of something)** Fig. to retire or resign as something. □ It’s time to bow out as mayor. □ I think I will bow out and leave this job to someone else.

**bow to someone’s demands** Fig. to yield to someone’s demands; to agree to do something that someone has requested. □ In the end, they had to bow to our demands. □ We refused to bow to their demands that we abandon the project.

**bow to the porcelain altar** Sl. to vomit, especially as a result of drinking too much alcohol. (The porcelain altar is a euphemism for a toilet bowl.) □ He spent the whole
night bowing to the porcelain altar. I have the feeling that I will be bowing to the porcelain altar before morning.

bowl someone over 1. Lit. to knock someone over. (Fixed order.) Bob was bowled over by the wind. Bob hit his brother and bowled him over. 2. Fig. to surprise or overwhelm someone. (Fixed order.) The news bowled me over. The details of the proposed project bowled everyone over.

bowl up to fill a pipe bowl with smokable material. The detective bowled up and struck a match. Roger bowled up, but forgot to light his pipe.

box someone in1 Fig. to put someone into a bind; to reduce the number of someone’s alternatives. (See also the following entry.) I don’t want to box you in, but you are running out of options. I want to box in the whole staff, so they’ll have to do it my way.

box someone or something in1 to trap or confine someone or something. He boxed her in so she could not get away from him. They tried to box in the animals, but they needed more space. Don’t try to box me in.

box something up1 to place something in a box. Please box the books up and put them into the trunk of the car. Please box up four of these for me.

boxed in Fig. in a bind; having few alternatives. I really feel boxed in around here. I got him boxed in. He’ll have to do it our way.

boxed on the table Sl. died on the (operating) table. (Medical.) The surgeon did the best job possible, but the patient boxed on the table. Another patient boxed on the table. That’s three this month.

boxed (up) 1. Sl. intoxicated. I am way boxed, and I feel sick. She got boxed up on gin. 2. Sl. in jail. I committed the crime, and I was boxed for a long time for it. Pat was boxed up for two days till we got bond money.


the boys in the back room and the backroom boys Fig. any private group of men who make decisions, usually political decisions. (See also smoke-filled room.) The boys in the back room picked the last presidential candidate. The backroom boys have decided too many things in the past. Their day is over.

Boys will be boys. Prov. Boys are expected to be irresponsible or boisterous. (Also said ironically about men.) You can’t blame David for breaking the window with his baseball. Boys will be boys. My husband can’t resist driving eighty miles an hour in his new sports car. Boys will be boys.

brace oneself for something 1. Lit. to hang onto something or prop oneself against something in preparation for something that might cause one to fall, blow away, wash away, etc. Hold onto the rail. Brace yourself. Here comes another huge wave. 2. Fig. to prepare for the shock or force of something. Brace yourself for a shock. As the boat leaned to the right, I braced myself for whatever might happen next.

brace someone or something up1 to prop up or add support to someone or something. They braced the tree up for the expected windstorm. They braced up the tree again after the storm.

brace up to take heart; to be brave. Brace up! Things could be worse. I told John to brace up because things would probably get worse before they got better.

brag about someone or something to boast about someone or something; to talk proudly about someone or something. He bragged about how selfish he was. Jill brags a lot about her kids.

brain someone Fig. to strike a person hard on the skull as if to knock out the person’s brains. (Often said as a vain threat.) I thought he was going to brain me, but he only hit me on the shoulder. If you don’t do it, I’ll brain you.

brainwash someone with something to drive specific knowledge or propaganda into someone’s brain, by constant repetition and psychological conditioning. The dictator brainwashed his people with lies after lie. You have brainwashed yourself with your own propaganda.

branch off (from something) to separate off from something; to divide away from something. A small stream branched off from the main channel. An irrigation ditch branched off here and there.

branch out (from something) 1. Lit. [for a branch] to grow out of a branch or trunk. (Having to do with plants and trees.) A twig branched out of the main limb and grew straight up. The bush branched out from the base. 2. Fig. to expand away from something; to diversify away from narrower interests. The speaker branched out from her prepared remarks. The topic was very broad, and she was free to branch out.

branch out (into something) Fig. to diversify and go into new areas. I have decided to branch out into some new projects. Business was very good, so I decided to branch out.

(branch) spanning new very new; just purchased and never before used. My car is spanning new. Look at that brand spanning new car!

brass someone off1 Sl. to make someone angry. (Primarily military. As angry as the “brass,” or officers, might get about something.) You really brass me off. The private brassed off the sergeant.

brave something out1 to endure something; to put up with something courageously. I don’t know if all the men can brace the attack out. The soldiers braved out the attack.

The bread always falls on the buttered side. Prov. When things go wrong, they go completely wrong. Not only did my phone break, but it broke today—today of all days, when I’m expecting a really important call. The bread always falls on the buttered side. When the painting fell off the wall, it landed on a priceless porcelain vase and broke it. The bread always falls on the buttered side.

bread and water Fig. the most minimal meal possible; a meal as once was given to prisoners. (Usually used in reference to being in prison or jail.) Wilbur knew that if he got in trouble again it would be at least a year on bread
Bread is the staff of life.

and water. ☐ This dinner is terrible again. I would rather have bread and water! Why don't we ever have pizza?

Bread is the staff of life. Prov. Food is necessary for people to survive. ☐ Miranda likes to give money to charities that feed people. “Other services are important,” she reasons, “but bread is the staff of life.” ☐ Jill: Want to go to lunch with us, Bob? Bob: No. I must work on my novel while inspiration lasts. Jill: Don't forget to eat. Bread is the staff of life, you know.

bread-and-butter letter a letter or note written to follow up on a visit; a thank-you note. ☐ When I got back from the sales meeting, I took two days to write bread-and-butter letters to the people I met. ☐ I got sort of a bread-and-butter letter from my nephew, who wants to visit me next summer.

* a break a chance; another chance or a second chance. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) ☐ I'm sorry. Please don't send me to the principal's office. Give me a break! ☐ I got a nice break. They didn't send me to prison.

break a code to figure out a code; to decipher a secret code. ☐ The intelligence agents finally broke the enemy's code. ☐ When they broke the code, they were able to decipher messages.

break a habit and break the habit; break one's habit to end a habit. ☐ I was not able to break the habit of snoring. ☐ It's hard to break a habit that you have had for a long time.

break a law and break the law to fail to obey a law; to act contrary to a law. ☐ Lisa broke the law when she drove the wrong way on a one-way street. ☐ If you never break the law, you will never get arrested.

Break a leg! Fig. Good luck! (A special theatrical way of wishing a performer good luck. Saying “good luck” is considered by actors to be a jinx.) ☐ “Break a leg!” shouted the stage manager to the heroine. ☐ Let's all go and do our best. Break a leg!

break a record to destroy a previously set high record by setting a new one. ☐ The athlete broke all the school records in swimming. ☐ The league record was broken after thirty years.

break a story [for a media outlet] to be the first to broadcast or distribute the story of an event. ☐ The Tribune broke the story before the Herald could even send a reporter to the scene.

break against something [for something] to crash against something. ☐ The waves broke against the barrier. ☐ The glass broke against the side of the sink.

break away from someone and break free from someone; break loose from someone 1. Lit. to get free of the physical hold of someone. ☐ I tried to break away from him, but he was holding me too tight. ☐ She broke free from him, at last. ☐ I broke free from the intruder. 2. Fig. to sever a relationship with another person, especially the parent-child relationship. ☐ He found it hard to break away from his mother. ☐ She was almost thirty before she finally broke free.

break bread with someone Fig. to eat a meal with someone. ☐ Please come by and break bread with us sometime. ☐ I would like to break bread with you.

break camp to close down a campsite; to pack up and move on. ☐ Early this morning we broke camp and moved on northward. ☐ Okay, everyone. It's time to break camp. Take those tents down and fold them neatly.

break down 1. Lit. [for something] to fall apart; [for something] to stop operating. ☐ The air-conditioning broke down, and we got very warm. ☐ The car broke down on the long trip. 2. Fig. [for one] to lose control of one's emotions; [for one] to have an emotional or psychological crisis. ☐ He couldn't keep going. He finally broke down. ☐ I was afraid I'd break down. 3. Go to next.

break down (and cry) to surrender to demands or emotions and cry. ☐ Max finally broke down and confessed. ☐ I was afraid I would break down and cry from the sadness I felt.

break even for income to equal expenses. (This implies that money was not made or lost.) ☐ Unfortunately, my business just managed to break even last year. ☐ I made a bad investment, but I broke even.

break for something 1. to stop working for something else, such as lunch, coffee, etc. ☐ We should break now for lunch. ☐ I want to break for coffee. 2. to run suddenly toward something; to increase dramatically one's speed while running. ☐ At the last moment, the deer broke for the woods. ☐ The deer broke for cover at the sound of our approach.

break free (from someone) Go to break away (from someone).

break ground (for something) to start digging the foundation for a building. ☐ The president of the company came to break ground for the new building. ☐ This was the third building this year for which this company has broken ground. ☐ When do they expect to break ground at the new site?

break in (on someone) 1. to burst into a place and violate someone's privacy. ☐ The police broke in on him at his home and arrested him. ☐ They needed a warrant to break in. 2. to interrupt someone's conversation. (See also break in on something.) ☐ If you need to talk to me, just break in on me. ☐ Feel free to break in if it's an emergency.

break in (on something) to interrupt something; to intrude upon something. (See also break in on someone.) ☐ I didn't mean to break in on your discussion. ☐ Please don't break in on us just now. This is important.

break into a gallop [for a horse] to begin to gallop; [for a horse] to speed up to a gallop. ☐ The pony broke into a gallop, racing to get home. ☐ Near the stables, the horse broke into a fast gallop.

break into something to begin to perform or utter suddenly, especially with song, speech, chattering, tears, etc. ☐ Suddenly, she broke into song. ☐ As soon as the movie started, the people behind me broke into loud chattering.

break in(to something or some place) to force entry into a place criminally; to enter some place forcibly for the purpose of robbery or other illegal acts. ☐ The thugs broke into the liquor store. ☐ They broke in and took all the money.

break in(to) tears Go to break out in(to) tears.

Break it up! Stop fighting! Stop arguing! (Fixed order.) ☐ Tom: I'm going to break your neck! Bill: I'm going to mash in your face first! Bob: All right, you two, break it up!
break loose (from someone) Go to break away (from someone).

break new ground Fig. to begin to do something that no one else has done; to pioneer [in an enterprise]. Dr. Anderson was breaking new ground in cancer research. They were breaking new ground in consumer electronics.

break off (from something) [for a piece of something] to become separated from the whole. This broke off from the lamp. What shall I do with it? This piece broke off.

break off (with someone) and break with someone to end communication with someone; to break up (with someone); to end a relationship with someone, especially a romantic relationship, or to create a break between adult members of a family. Terri has broken off with Sam. We thought she would break with him pretty soon.

break one’s arm putting oneself on the back Go to have calluses from patting oneself on the back.

break one’s back (to do something) Go to break one’s neck (to do something).

break one’s balls to do something Go to bust (one’s) ass (to do something).

break one’s habit Go to break a habit.

break one’s neck (to do something) and break one’s back (to do something) Fig. to work very hard to accomplish something. I broke my neck to get here on time. There is no point in breaking your back. Take your time.

break one’s stride to deviate from a rhythmic stride while walking, running, or marching. After I broke my stride, I never could pick up enough speed to win the race.

break one’s word not to do what one said one would do; not to keep one’s promise. (Compare this with keep one’s word.) Don’t say you’ll visit your grandmother if you can’t go. She hates people to break their word.

break out 1. to burst forth suddenly, as with a fire, a riot, giggling, shouting, etc. A fire broke out in the belfry. A round of giggling broke out when the teacher tripped. 2. Sl. to leave. It’s late, man. Time to break out. We broke out a little after midnight. 3. Go to break out (in pimples); break out (of something); break out (with something).

break out in a cold sweat Lit. or Fig. to become frightened or anxious and begin to sweat. I was so frightened, I broke out in a cold sweat. Larry broke out in a cold sweat when he cut his hand.

break out in a rash [for the skin] to erupt with a rash. (See also break out in a cold sweat; break out (with a rash).) I knew Dan had the chicken pox, because he broke out in a rash and had a dry cough. The baby breaks out in a rash all the time.

break out (in pimples) to erupt with something such as a rash, a cold sweat, or pimples. After being in the woods, I broke out in a rash. I think it’s poison ivy. I hate to break out like that. Whenever I eat chocolate, I break out in pimples the next day.

break out in(to) tears and break in(to) tears to start crying suddenly. I was so sad that I broke out into tears. I always break into tears at a funeral.

break out of something 1. Lit. to escape from something, often by destructive means, especially from prison. The convicts plotted to break out of prison. You don’t have the guts to break out of jail! 2. Fig. to escape from something in one’s life that is too confining. I was 16 years old when I finally broke out of my rigid upbringing. She just couldn’t break out of her old patterns of behavior.

break out with something to utter or emit laughter, a shout, or a cry. The kids broke out with a cheer. They broke out with laughter every time they saw the lady with the red wig.

break over something [for waves] to lift high and tumble over a barrier. The waves broke over the rocks at the shore. Huge waves broke over the bow of the ship.

break silence to give information about a topic that no one was mentioning or discussing. The press finally broke silence on the question of the plagiarized editorial.

break someone down to force someone to give up and tell secrets or agree to do something. After threats of torture, they broke the spy down. They broke down the agent by threatening violence.

break someone in to train someone to do a new job; to supervise someone who is learning to do a new job. Who will break the new employee in? I have to break in a new receptionist.

break someone or something of something to cause someone or something to stop practicing a habit. We worked hard to break the dog of making a mess on the carpet. I don’t think I can break her of the habit. Tom broke himself of biting his nails.

break (someone’s) balls and break (someone’s) stones; bust (someone’s) balls; bust (someone’s) stones 1. Sl. to wreck or ruin (someone); to overwork someone; to overwhelm someone. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) The boss acts like he’s trying to break everybody’s balls all the time. No need to break my balls. I’ll do it! 2. Sl. to kid or tease (someone). Don’t sweat what I said—I was just bustin’ balls. Hey, relax, he didn’t mean it. He was just breakin’ your stones!

break someone’s fall to cushion a falling person; to lessen the impact of a falling person. When the little boy fell out of the window, the bushes broke his fall. The old lady slipped on the ice, but a snowbank broke her fall.

break someone’s heart Fig. to cause someone great emotional pain. It just broke my heart when Tom ran away from home. Sally broke John’s heart when she refused to marry him.

break someone’s stones Go to break (someone’s) balls.

break someone up to cause a person to laugh, perhaps at an inappropriate time. John told a joke that really broke
break something away (from something)

break something away¹ (from something) to break a part or piece of something away from the whole. □ She broke a bit away and popped it into her mouth. □ Todd broke away a piece from the bar of candy.

break something down¹ 1. Lit. to tear something down; to destroy something. □ They used an ax to break the door down. □ We broke down the wall with big hammers. 2. Fig. to destroy a social or legal barrier. □ The court broke a number of legal barriers down this week. □ They had to break down many social prejudices to manage to succeed.

break something down¹ (for someone) Fig. to explain something to someone in simple terms or in an orderly fashion. (Alludes to breaking a complex problem into smaller segments which can be explained more easily. See also break something down (into something).) □ She doesn’t understand. You will have to break it down for her. □ I can help. This is a confusing question. Let me break down the problem for you.

break something down¹ (into something) 1. to reduce a compound or its structure to its components. □ Heat will break this down into sodium and a few gases. □ Will heat break down this substance into anything useful? □ We broke it into little pieces. 2. to reduce a large numerical total into its subparts and explain each one. □ She broke the total down into its components. □ Please break down the total into its parts again. □ I’ll break the total down for you. 3. to discuss the details of something by examining its subparts. (See also break something down (for someone).) □ Let’s break this problem down into its parts and deal with each one separately. □ Breaking down complex problems into their components is almost fun. □ Let’s break this issue down and discuss it.

break something free (from something) to force something to detach from something; to get something out of the hold of something else. □ I broke the gun free from her grasp. □ Someone broke the light fixture free from its mounting.

break something in¹ 1. Lit. to crush or batter something to pieces; to break something down. □ Why are you breaking the door in? Here’s the key! □ Who broke in the door? 2. Fig. to use a new device until it runs well and smoothly; to wear shoes, perhaps a little at a time, until they feel comfortable. □ I can’t drive at high speed until I break this car in. □ I want to go out this weekend and break in the car. □ The new shoes hurt her feet because they were not yet broken in.

break something loose from something to loosen a part of something; to loosen and remove a part of something. □ The mechanic broke the strap loose from the tailpipe. □ The bracket was broken loose from the wall.

break something off (of something) and break something off² to fracture or dislodge a piece off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ He broke a piece of the decorative stone off the side of the church. □ He didn’t mean to break off anything. □ This fragment was broken off of that.

break something on something to strike and break something against something else. □ She broke the glass on the countertop. □ He broke his arm on the steps.

break something out (of something) to remove something from something else by force. □ Carefully, she broke the gemstone out of the side of the rock face. □ She broke the gemstone out carefully.

break something to pieces to shatter something. □ I broke my crystal vase to pieces. □ I dropped a glass and broke it to pieces.

break something to someone to disclose some news or information to someone. (Often said of unpleasant news.) □ I hate to be the one to break this to you, but there is trouble at home. □ We broke the bad news to Ken gently.

break something up¹ 1. Lit. to destroy something. □ The storm broke the docks up on the lake. □ The police broke up the gambling ring. 2. Fig. to put an end to something. □ The police broke the fight up. □ Walter’s parents broke up the party at three in the morning.

break something up¹ (into something) to break something into smaller pieces. □ We broke the crackers into much smaller pieces. □ Please break up the crackers into smaller pieces if you want to feed the ducks.

break something off¹ 1. to end a relationship abruptly. (See also break off (with someone).) □ I knew she was getting ready to break it off, but Tom didn’t. □ After a few long and bitter arguments, they broke off their relationship. 2. Go to break something off (of something).

break the back of something Fig. to end the domination of something; to reduce the power of something. □ The government has worked for years to break the back of organized crime. □ This new medicine should break the back of the epidemic.

break the bank Fig. to use up all one’s money. (Alludes to casino gambling, in the rare event when a gambler wins more money than the house has on hand.) □ It will hardly break the bank if we go out to dinner just once. □ Buying a new dress at a discount price won’t break the bank.

break the habit Go to break a habit.

break the ice 1. Fig. to attempt to become friends with someone. □ He tried to break the ice, but she was a little cold. □ A nice smile does a lot to break the ice. 2. Fig. to initiate social interchanges and conversation; to get something started. □ It’s hard to break the ice at formal events. □ Sally broke the ice at the auction by bidding $20,000 for the painting.

break the law Go to break a law.

break the news (to someone) to tell someone some important news, usually bad news. (See also break something to someone.) □ The doctor had to break the news to Jane about her husband’s cancer. □ I hope that the doctor broke the news gently.

break the silence to make a noise interrupting a period of silence. □ The wind broke the silence by blowing the door closed.

break the spell 1. to put an end to a magic spell. □ The wizard looked in his magic book to find out how to break the spell. 2. to do something that ends a desirable period of figurative enchantment. □ At the end of the second movement, some idiot broke the spell by applauding.
break through (something) 1. Lit. to break something and pass through. □ The firecreakers broke through the wall easily. □ The robbers broke through the glass window of the shop. 2. Fig. to overcome something. □ Tom was able to break through racial barriers. □ The scientists broke through the mystery surrounding the disease and found the cause.

break through (to someone or something) to force [one's way] through an obstruction and reach someone or something on the other side. □ The miners broke through to their trapped friends. □ They broke through the thin wall easily.

break up 1. Lit. [for something] to fall apart; to be broken to pieces. (Typically said of a ship breaking up on rocks.) □ In the greatest storm of the century, the ship broke up on the reef. □ It broke up and sank. 2. Go to break up (with someone). 3. [for married persons] to divorce. □ After many years of bickering, they finally broke up. 4. [for a marriage] to dissolve in divorce. □ Their marriage finally broke up. 5. to begin laughing very hard. □ The comedian told a particularly good joke, and the audience broke up. □ I always break up when I hear her sing. She is so bad!

break (up) (into something) to divide into smaller parts. □ The glass broke up into a thousand pieces. □ It hit the floor and broke up, flinging bits everywhere.

break up (with someone) to end a romantic relationship with someone. □ Tom broke up with Mary and started dating Lisa. □ We broke up in March, after an argument.

break wind Euph. to expel gas from the anus. □ It hit the floor and broke up, flinging bits everywhere. □ After many years of bickering, they finally broke up.

break through racial barriers. □ I can't work with you breathing down my neck all the time. Go away. □ I will get through my life without your help. Stop breathing down my neck. 2. Fig. [for someone or something] to represent an approaching deadline. □ The project deadline is breathing down my neck. □ The due date for this paper is breathing down my neck.

breathe easy to assume a relaxed state after a stressful period. □ After this crisis is over, I'll be able to breathe easy again. □ He won't be able to breathe easy until he pays off his debts.

breathe in to inhale; to take air into the lungs. □ Now, relax and breathe in. Breathe out. □ Breathe in deeply; enjoy the summer air.

breathe into something to exhale into something; to expel one's breath into something. □ I was told to breathe into a tube that was connected to a machine of some type.

breathe out to exhale. □ Now, breathe out, then breathe in. □ The doctor told me to breathe out slowly.

breathe something in! to take something into the lungs, such as air, medicinal vapors, gas, etc. □ Breathe the vapor in slowly. It will help your cold. □ Breathe in that fresh air!

breathe something into something to revive something; to introduce something new or positive into a situation. □ Her positive attitude breathed new life into the company. □ The project breathed a new spirit into the firm.

breathe something (of something) to tell something to someone. (Usually in the negative.) □ Don't breathe a word of this to anyone! □ I won't breathe a word!

breathe something out! to exhale something. □ At last, he breathed his last breath out, and that was the end. □ Breathe out your breath slowly.

breathe (up) on someone or something to exhale on someone or something. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Please don't breathe upon the food. □ Don't breathe on me!

Breeding will tell. Prov. One's character or lack of it will become known. □ From the beginning, he appeared to be courteous, and now he clearly has proven himself to be so. Breeding will tell.

breeze along Fig. to travel along casually, rapidly, and happily; to go through life in a casual and carefree manner. □ Kristine was just breezing along the road when she ran off onto the shoulder. □ We just breezed along the highway, barely paying attention to what we were doing. □ Don't just breeze along through life!

breeze away to leave quickly or abruptly. □ She said nothing more. She just breezed away. □ I breezed away without stopping to say good-bye.

breeze in (from some place) Go to sweep in (from some place).

breeze in (to some place) to enter a place quickly, in a happy and carefree manner. □ She breezed into the con-
breeze off to leave quickly or abruptly. □ Don’t just breeze off! Stay and talk. □ Lify breezeed off in a huffy manner.

breeze out (of some place) to leave a place quickly. □ She was here for a moment and then suddenly breezed out. □ She breezed out of the room in an instant.

breeze through (something) 1. Fig. to complete some task rapidly and easily. □ I breezed through my calculus assignment in no time at all. □ It was not hard. I just breezed through. 2. Fig. to travel through a place rapidly. □ They breezed through every little town without stopping. □ We didn’t stop. We just breezed through.

Brevery is the soul of wit. Prov. Jokes and humorous stories are funnier if they are short. □ Dale took ten minutes to tell that joke; he obviously doesn’t know that brevity is the soul of wit. □ The comedian was in the middle of a long, tedious story when someone in the audience shouted, “Brevery is the soul of wit!”

bribe someone into doing something to pay money to get someone to do something. □ You can’t bribe me into doing anything! □ Max bribed Lily into leaving early.

brick something up† to fill up an opening with bricks. □ He bricked the doorway up.

bricks and mortar buildings; the expenditure of money on buildings rather than something else. (The buildings referred to can be constructed out of anything.) □ The new president of the college preferred to invest in new faculty members rather than bricks and mortar. □ Sometimes people are happy to donate millions of dollars for bricks and mortar, but they never think of the additional cost of annual maintenance.

brick(s)-and-mortar [of commercial establishments] based in buildings rather than relying on online sales over the Internet. □ Many of the dot-com business owners have never been involved in a brick-and-mortar business.

bridge over something to make a bridge or passage over something. □ They bridged over each of the streams as they came to them. □ I think we can bridge over this little river in a few days if we work hard.

bridge the gap 1. Lit. to make a bridge that reaches across a space. □ The engineers decided to bridge the gap with a wooden structure. 2. Fig. to do or create something that will serve temporarily. □ We can bridge the gap with a few temporary employees.

bridle at someone or something Fig. to show that one is offended by someone or something. □ She bridled at the suggestion that she should go. □ Tony bridled at Max. Max was going to have to be dealt with.

brief someone about someone or something and brief someone on someone or something to tell someone a summary with the essential details about someone or something. □ We need to brief the president about the latest event. □ I have to brief Michael on the new procedures at work.

bright and breezy cheery and alert. □ You look all bright and breezy this morning. □ Bright and breezy people on a gloomy day like this make me sick.

bright and early very early in the morning or the workday. □ Yes, I’ll be there bright and early. □ I want to see you here on time tomorrow, bright and early, or you’re fired!

*bright as a button intelligent; quick-minded. (Usually used to describe children. *Also: as ~.) □ Why, Mrs. Green, your little girl is as bright as a button. □ You can’t fool Jane. She may be only six years old, but she’s bright as a button.

*bright as a new pin bright and clean; shiny. (*Also: as ~.) □ After Joe cleaned the house, it was as bright as a new pin. □ My kitchen floor is bright as a new pin since I started using this new floor wax.

*a bright idea a clever thought or new idea. (*Typically: have ~; get ~; give someone ~.) □ Now and then I get a bright idea. □ John hardly ever gets a bright idea.

brighten up to become brighter; to lighten, especially with sunshine. □ The sky is brightening up a little. □ When the morning sky brightens up just a little, the birds begin to sing.

bright-eyed and bushy-tailed Fig. awake and alert. (Often used ironically, as in the first example. The idea is that one is like a frisky animal, such as a squirrel.) □ Jill: Hi, Jane! How are you on this beautiful morning? Jane: Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, just as you might expect, since I’ve only had three hours of sleep. □ Despite the early hour, Dennis was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

brim over (with something) and brim with something to overflow with something. □ The basket was brimming over with flowers. □ I was brimming with confidence after my recent success.

brim with something Go to previous.

brimming with something Fig. full of some kind of happy behavior. □ The volunteer workers were brimming with goodwill. □ The smiling children were brimming with joy.

bring a charge against someone or something to file a complaint against someone or a group; to begin a legal process against someone or a group. (A charge can also be charges even if only one charge is involved.) □ We brought a charge against the town council. □ Sam brought charges against Jeff.

bring a dog to heel to make a dog heel; to make a dog stand or follow close to one’s heels. □ A quiet command from his owner brought Fido to heel.

bring a verdict in† [for a jury] to deliver its decision to the court. □ Do you think they will bring a verdict in today? □ The jury brought in their verdict around midnight.
bring an amount of money in\(^1\) to earn an amount of money; to draw or attract an amount of money. □ My part-time job brings fifty dollars in every week. □ She brings in a lot of money from her executive's salary.

bring down the curtain (on something) Go to ring down the curtain (on something).

bring home the bacon Fig. to earn a salary; to bring home money earned at a job. □ I've got to get to work if I'm going to bring home the bacon. □ Go out and get a job so you can bring home the bacon.

bring one out of one's shell and get one out of one's shell; bring one out; get one out Fig. to make a person become more open and friendly. (Alludes to a shy turtle being coaxed to put its head out of its shell.) □ We tried to bring Greg out of his shell, but he is very shy. □ He's quiet, and it's hard to get him out of his shell.

bring one to one's feet and bring something to its feet to make someone or an audience rise up applauding or cheering in approval or in salute to someone or something. (Usually refers to an audience.) □ The finale brought the audience to its feet. □ Liz was brought to her feet by the playing of the national anthem.

bring one to one's senses to cause someone to return to normal [after being out of control or irrational]. □ A gentle slap in the face brought him to his senses. □ The teacher brought her to her senses quickly.

bring one to oneself to cause one to become rational; to cause one to act normal. □ A glass of ice water thrown in her face brought Sally to herself. □ I was brought to myself by some smelling salts.

bring out the best in someone to cause someone to behave in the best manner. □ This kind of situation doesn't exactly bring out the best in me. □ Good weather brings out the best in me.

bring someone around\(^1\) 1. Lit. to bring someone for a visit; to bring someone for someone (else) to meet. □ Please bring your wife around sometime. I'd love to meet her. □ You've just got to bring around your doctor friend for dinner. 2. and bring someone around (to consciousness) Fig. to bring someone to consciousness. □ The doctor brought around the unconscious man with smelling salts. □ The boxer was knocked out, but his manager brought him around. 3. and bring someone around (to one's way of thinking); bring someone around (to one's position) Fig. to persuade someone (to accept something); to manage to get someone to agree (to something). □ The last debate brought around a lot of voters to our candidate. □ I knew I could bring her around if I just had enough time to talk to her.

bring someone back out [for an applauding audience] to succeed in bringing a performer back onto the stage for a curtain call or encore. □ They brought her back out about seven times, cheering and applauding. □ She was brought back out repeatedly for curtain calls.

bring someone back to reality to force someone to face reality. □ The rain shower brought her back to reality. □ Liz was brought back to reality by a rude shock.

bring someone before or something to bring a person to an authority, such as a judge, for criticism or discipline. □ They brought Terri before the committee for her explanation. □ I brought you before me to explain your side of the story.

bring someone down\(^1\) 1. Lit. to assist or accompany someone from a higher place to a lower place. □ Please bring your friends down so I can meet them. □ She brought down her cousin, who had been taking a nap upstairs. □ Aunt Mattie was brought down for supper. 2. Fig. to bring someone to a place for a visit. □ Let's bring Tom and Terri down for a visit this weekend. □ We brought down Tom just last month. □ They were brought down at our expense for a weekend visit. 3. Fig. to restore someone to a normal mood or attitude. (After a period of elation or, perhaps, drug use.) □ The bad news brought me down quickly. □ I was afraid that the sudden change of plans would bring down the entire group.

bring someone down to earth Fig. to help someone face reality; to help someone who is euphoric become more realistic. □ The events helped bring us all down to earth. □ I hate to be the one to bring you down to earth, but things aren't as good as you think.

bring someone in\(^1\) (on something) to include someone in some deed or activity. □ I'm going to have to bring a specialist in on this. □ Please bring in several specialists to advise on this case. □ Let's bring an expert in before we go any further.

bring someone into the world Fig. to deliver a baby; to attend the birth of someone. □ The doctor who brought me into the world died last week. □ I was brought into the world by a kindly old doctor.

bring someone on\(^1\) 1. Lit. to bring someone out onto the stage. □ Now, for the next act, I'm going to bring a chorus on, and I'm sure you'll love them. □ Bring on the clowns! 2. Fig. to arouse someone romantically or sexually. □ Ted sought to bring Sally on, but she was uninterested. □ He tried to bring on one of the guests.

bring someone or an animal back to life and bring someone or an animal back\(^1\) to make someone or some living creature come back to life. □ There was nothing that would bring Jimmy's cat back. It was truly dead. □ Not even a magician could bring back the cat.

bring someone or something along\(^1\) (to something) to bring someone or something with one to some event. □ I brought my uncle along to the party. □ Please bring along your camera to the show.

bring someone or something back\(^1\) to make someone or something return. (See also bring something back to life.) □ Would you please bring the child back? □ Bring back my child!

bring someone or something forth\(^1\) to present or produce someone or something. □ Bring the roast turkey forth! □ Bring forth the roast turkey.

bring someone or something forward to introduce someone or something; to move someone or something into a more visible position. □ Please bring him forward so that we can examine him. □ Please bring your chair forward so I can see you.

bring someone or something in\(^1\) Go to bring someone or something in(to) some place.

bring someone or something into action to activate someone or something; to cause someone or something to
bring someone or something into contact with someone or something

function as intended. ☐ The threats brought the police into action. ☐ A kick in the side brought the television set into action.

bring someone or something into contact with someone or something to cause things or people to touch or associate with one another. ☐ She hasn’t been the same since I brought her into contact with the child who had chicken pox. ☐ Don’t bring your hand in contact with the poison ivy. ☐ Don’t bring him into contact with Fred.

bring someone or something into disrepute to dishonor or discredit someone or something. ☐ This embarrassing incident will bring the entire committee into disrepute. ☐ My bankruptcy brought me into disrepute.

bring someone or something into prominence to cause someone or something to become famous or renowned.

Fig. 1. Lit. to make someone or something even with someone or something. ☐ I brought the books into line with the others on the shelf. ☐ I brought Jimmy into line with the other scouts. 2. Fig. to make someone or something conform to someone or something. ☐ We brought Ted into line with the guidelines. ☐ Sam brought his proposal into line with the company standards.

bring someone or something into view to cause someone or something to be seen or to be visible. ☐ A bright light brought the sleeping cattle into view. ☐ Please bring your child into view.

bring someone or something out of something

bring someone or something out of droves Fig. to lure or draw out people or other animals in great number. ☐ The availability of free drinks brought people out in droves. ☐ The fresh grass sprouts brought the deer out in droves.

bring someone or something out of something and bring someone or something out to cause someone or something to emerge from something or some place. ☐ The explosion brought the people out of their homes. ☐ The noise brought out all the people.

bring someone or something out of the woodwork Go to out of the woodwork.

bring someone or something to a halt to cause someone or something to stop immediately. ☐ The explosion brought the lecture to a halt. ☐ I brought the visitor to a halt at the front gate.

bring someone or something to life Fig. to give vigor or vitality to someone or something; to reactivate someone or something. (See also bring something back to life.) ☐ A little singing and dancing would have brought the play to life. ☐ Some coffee will bring you to life.

bring someone or something to light Fig. to present or reveal someone or something to the public. ☐ The news-story brought the problem to light. ☐ I have brought some interesting facts to light in my article.

bring someone or something to someone’s attention to make someone aware of someone or something. ☐ Thank you for bringing this to my attention. ☐ I am grateful for your bringing her to my attention.

bring someone or something to trial to bring a crime or a criminal into court for a trial. ☐ At last, the thugs were brought to trial. ☐ We brought the case to trial a week later.

bring someone or something under control Go to under control.

bring someone or something under one’s control to achieve dominion over someone or something. ☐ The dictator was at last able to bring the army under his control. ☐ Harry could not bring Ron under his control. ☐ Walter could not be brought under Lily’s control.

bring someone or something under someone or something to assign someone or something to someone or something; to put someone or something under the management of someone or something. ☐ I had David brought under me, so I could keep an eye on his day-to-day work. ☐ David was brought under my jurisdiction.

bring someone or something up! 1. Lit. to cause someone or something to go up with one from a lower place to a higher place. ☐ We brought them up and let them view the city from the balcony. ☐ Why did you bring up Tom? Wasn’t he comfortable down there? 2. Fig. to mention someone or something. ☐ Why did you have to bring that up? ☐ Why did you bring up Walter? I hate talking about him! 3. Fig. to raise someone or something; to care for someone or something up to adulthood. ☐ We brought the dog up from a pup. ☐ We brought up the puppies carefully and sold them for a good profit.

bring someone or something up to something to raise someone or something to a particular standard, level, expectation, etc. ☐ What do I have to do to bring Billy up to grade level? ☐ The lab was brought up to standards quickly.

bring someone or something up-to-date to modernize someone or something. ☐ We brought the room up-to-date with a little paint and some modern furniture. ☐ I can bring you up-to-date with a new hairdo.

bring someone or something within range (of someone or something) to cause someone or something to be in someone’s or something’s [gun] sights. ☐ Don’t bring the hunters within range of the farmer’s gun sights. ☐ The bait brought the geese within range of Jeff and his friends.

bring someone out of the closet Go to out of the closet.

bring someone out (on something) Lit. to make someone come onto the stage from the stage sides or wings. (See also bring someone on.) ☐ Let’s applaud loudly and bring her out on stage again. ☐ Lily was brought out on stage by the applause.

bring someone over from some place to bring someone from a place, from nearby, or from a great distance. ☐ They brought over the neighbors from across the street. ☐ A soprano was brought over from Moscow.

bring someone over (to) some place to bring a person for a visit to some place. ☐ Why don’t you bring her over to our place for a visit? ☐ You should bring over your girlfriend for a visit.
bring someone over† to something to bring someone for a visit and a meal or other event.  
Bring your friend over to dinner sometime.  
I want to bring over my husband sometime.

bring someone through something to help someone endure something, such as a disease, an emotional upset, or a stressful period.  
The doctor brought Tom through the sickness.  
Liz was brought through the ordeal by her friends.

bring someone to to help someone return to consciousness.  
We worked to bring him to before he went into shock.  
He was finally brought to by the smelling salts.

bring someone to a boil  
This really brought her to a boil. She was fit to be tied.  
Lily was really brought to by a boil by the news.

bring someone to account  
To confront someone with a record of misdeeds and errors.  
The committee decided to bring Martha to account.  
Martha was brought to account by the committee.

bring someone to do something to cause someone to do something; to encourage someone to do something.  
What brought you to do this?  
I was brought to do this by a guilty conscience.

bring someone to heel  
Fig. to cause someone to act in a disciplined fashion; to force someone to act in a more disciplined manner.  
She tried to bring her husband to heel, but he had a mind of his own.  
He was brought to heel by his demanding wife.

bring someone to justice  
Fig. to punish someone for a crime.  
The police officer swore she would not rest until she had brought the killer to justice.  
Years later, the rapist was found out and finally brought to justice.

bring someone together 1.  
Lit. to cause people to gather into a group.  
He brought everyone together in the drawing room.  
They were brought together in a large conference room.  
Fig. to attempt to get people to agree with one another.  
I tried to bring them together, but they are too stubborn.  
They could not be brought together on a price.

bring someone up† for something 1. to suggest someone’s name for something.  
I would like to bring Beth up for vice president.  
I will bring up Beth for this office if you don’t.  
to put someone’s name up for promotion, review, discipline, etc.  
We brought Tom up for promotion.  
The boss brought up Tom, too.

bring someone up† on something to provide something while raising a child to adulthood.  
She brought her children up on fast food.  
You shouldn’t bring up your children on that kind of entertainment!

bring someone up sharply and bring someone up short  
to surprise or shock someone; to make someone face something unpleasant, suddenly.  
The slap in the face brought me up sharply.  
The loud bang brought me up short.

bring someone up short  
Go to previous.

bring someone up to speed on someone or something Go to up to speed.

bring someone up-to-date (on something) to inform someone of the latest information about something.
bring something down on one('s head) 1. Lit. to cause something to fall onto one's head. (See also bring something crashing down around one.) □ He jarred the shelves and all the books were brought down on his head. □ When he hit the wall of the hut, he brought down the roof on himself. 2. Fig. to cause the collapse of something or some enterprise onto oneself. □ Your bumbling will bring everything down on your head! □ Your mistakes have brought down the whole thing on your own head.

bring something down to something to make a concept simpler to understand by bringing it to a simpler level of understanding. □ Why don't you bring all this down to my level? □ Everything was brought down to the child's level.

bring something home to someone 1. Lit. to return home with a gift for someone. □ I brought a box of candy home to the children. □ The candy was brought home to Lily by Ken. 2. Fig. to cause someone to realize something. □ My weakness was brought home to me by the heavy work I had been assigned to do. □ The hard work really brought my frailty home to me.

bring something into being to cause something to be something; to create something. □ How can I bring my new scheme into being? □ The new scheme was brought into being by a lot of hard work.

bring something into blossom to make a plant or tree bloom. □ The special plant food brought the rosebush into blossom. □ The roses were brought into blossom by the lovely weather.

bring something into focus 1. Lit. to make something seen through lenses sharply visible. □ I adjusted the binoculars until I brought the bird sharply into focus. □ The flowers were brought into focus by adjusting the controls. 2. Fig. to make something clear and understandable. □ I think we will have a better discussion of the problem if you will say a few words to bring it more sharply into focus. □ Please try to bring your major point into focus earlier in the essay.

bring something into play 1. Lit. [in a ball game] to put the ball into the action of the game, such as after a time-out. □ Fred brought the ball into play when he bounced it in from the sidelines. 2. Fig. [for the shares of a company] to become the subject of a takeover bid. □ The recent drop in the value of that stock brought the company into play. □ The company was brought into play by a news story about their new product line. 3. Fig. to cause something to become a factor in something. □ Now, this recent development brings some other factors into play. □ Something else was brought into play by the strange event.

bring something into question to cause something to be doubted; to cause something to be questioned. □ What you have just told me seems to bring the wisdom of the trip into question. □ Your presence here has been brought into question.

bring something into service to begin to use something; to start something up. □ They are bringing a much larger boat into service next month. □ A newer machine will be brought into service next year.

bring something off to cause something to happen; to carry out a plan successfully. □ Do you think you can bring it off? □ She brought off her plan without a hitch!

bring something on 1. to cause something to happen; to cause a situation to occur. □ What brought this event on? □ What brought on this catastrophe? 2. to cause a case or an attack of a disease. □ What brought on your coughing fit? □ Something in the air brought it on.

bring something on someone to cause something to go wrong for someone. □ You brought it on yourself. Don't complain. □ Max brought this problem on all of us.

bring something out 1. to issue something; to publish something; to present something [to the public]. □ I am bringing a new book out. □ I hear you have brought out a new edition of your book. 2. Go to bring something out of someone.

bring something out (in someone) to cause a particular quality to be displayed by a person, such as virtue, courage, a mean streak, selfishness, etc. □ You bring the best out in me. □ This kind of thing brings out the worst in me.

bring something out in the open Go to out in the open.

bring something out of mothballs Fig. to bring something out of storage and into use; to restore something to active service. □ They were going to bring a number of ships out of mothballs, but the war ended before they needed them.

bring something out of someone and bring something out to cause something to be said by a person, such as a story, the truth, an answer, etc. □ We threatened her a little and that brought the truth out of her. □ This warning ought to bring out the truth!

bring something out to a boil to heat liquid to its boiling point; to make something boil. □ First, you must bring the soup to a boil.

bring something to a climax Go to next.

bring something to a close and bring something to an end; bring something to a climax to end something; to cause something to reach its final point and stop. □ I think it is time to bring this matter to a close. □ The incident has been brought to a climax.

bring something to a dead end to cause something to reach a point from which it can go no further. □ The accident brought the project to a dead end. □ The study was brought to a dead end by the loss of federal funding.

bring something to a head to cause something to come to the point when a decision has to be made or action taken. □ The latest disagreement between management and the union has brought matters to a head. There will be an all-out strike now. □ It's a relief that things have been brought to a head. The disputes have been going on for months.

bring something to a standstill to cause a process or a job to reach a point at which it must stop. □ The accident brought the work to a standstill. □ The strike brought construction to a standstill.

bring something to a successful conclusion to complete something successfully. □ They brought the battle to
a successful conclusion. □ The case was brought to a successful conclusion by the prosecutor.

*bring something to an end* Go to bring something to a close.

*bring something to fruition* to make something come into being; to achieve a success. □ Do you think you can bring this plan to fruition? □ The plan was brought to fruition by the efforts of everyone.

*bring something to its feet* Go to bring one to one's feet.

*bring something to light* Fig. to make something known. □ The scientists brought their findings to light. □ We must bring this new evidence to light.

*bring something to mind* Go to call something to mind.

*bring something to rest* to cause a machine, vehicle, or process to stop. □ Jill brought the car to rest against the curb. □ The car was brought to rest against the curb.

*bring something to someone's aid* to bring something with which to help someone. □ The officer brought medical supplies to our aid. □ An ambulance was brought to the injured man's aid.

*bring something to someone's attention* to make someone aware of something; to mention or show something to someone. □ I would like to bring this problem to your attention. □ If there is something I should know about, please bring it to my attention.

*bring something to the fore* to move something forward; to make something more prominent or noticeable. □ All the talk about costs brought the question of budgets to the fore. □ The question of budget planning was brought to the fore.

*bring something together* 1. to assemble things; to gather things together. □ Thank you for bringing everything together so we can begin work. □ We brought together all the tools that we needed.

*bring something up* 1. Lit. to vomit something up; to cough something up. □ See if you can get him to bring the penny up. □ I did, and he brought up a nickel instead! 2. Fig. to mention something. □ Why did you have to bring that up? □ Then they brought up the question of money.

*bring something up to speed* Go to up to speed.

*bring something up to the minute* Go to up to the minute.

*bring something (up)on oneself* to be the cause of one's own trouble. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) □ It's your own fault. You brought it upon yourself. □ You brought it all on yourself.

*bring something with* (Inf. or regional.) to carry something along with [oneself]. □ Are you going to bring your umbrella with you? □ I brought it with me. Don't worry.

*bring something within a range* to adjust something into a particular range; to adjust a parameter. □ Let's try to bring your cholesterol within the normal range with diet. □ It was brought within the normal range by an expensive drug.

*bring the house down* 1. Lit. to cause a house to collapse. □ The most severe earthquake in years finally brought the house down. □ The earthquake brought down all the houses on the hillside. 2. Fig. [for a performance or a performer] to excite the audience into making a great clamor of approval. □ Karen's act brought the house down. □ She really brought down the house with her comedy.

*bring up the rear* to move along behind everyone else; to be at the end of the line. (Originally referred to marching soldiers. Fixed order.) □ Here comes John, bringing up the rear. □ Hurry up, Tom! Why are you always bringing up the rear?

*bristle at something* Fig. to show sudden anger or other negative response to something. (Alludes to a dog or cat raising the hair on its back in anger or as a threat.) □ She bristled at the suggestion. □ I knew Lily would bristle at the appearance of Max.

*bristle with anger* Go to next.

*bristle with rage* and *bristle with anger*; *bristle with indignation* Fig. to demonstrate one's anger, rage, or displeasure with a strong negative response. (Alludes to a dog or cat raising the hair on its back in anger or as a threat.) □ She was just bristling with anger. I don't know what set her off. □ Walter bristled with rage as he saw the damage to his new car.

*broach something with someone* and *broach something to someone* to mention something to someone; to bring up an idea to someone. □ I hate to be the one to have to broach this to you, but your trousers are torn. □ This delicate matter must be broached with Mr. Rogers.

*broad as a barn door* very broad or wide. (*Also: as ~.*) □ Jim's backside is as broad as a barn door. □ The weight lifter's chest is broad as a barn door.

*broad in the beam* 1. Lit. [of a ship] wide at amidships. □ This old tub is broad in the beam and sits like a ball in the water, but I love her. 2. Fig. with wide hips or large buttocks. □ I am getting a little broad in the beam. It's time to go on a diet. □ John is just naturally broad in the beam.

*broaden out* to become wider; to expand. □ The river broadened out and became deeper. □ The road broadens out here.

*broaden something out* 1. to make something wider; to expand something. □ Now, broaden this part out a little, so it looks like a cloud, not a painted pillow. □ Broaden out the river in your painting so it looks very wide. □ The photographic view of the valley can be broadened out by using a different lens.

*broken dreams* wishes or desires that cannot be fulfilled. □ We all have our share of broken dreams, but they were never all meant to come true anyway.

*a broken reed* an unreliable or undependable person. (On the image of a useless, broken reed in a reed instrument.) □ You can't rely on Jim's support. He's a broken reed. □ Mr. Smith is a broken reed. His deputy has to make all the decisions.

*brood about something or something and brood on someone or something*; *brood over something or something* to fret or be depressed about someone or something. □ Please don't brood about Albert. He is no good for you. □ There's no need to brood on Jeff. He can take care of himself.

*browbeat someone into something* Fig. to bully or intimidate someone into something. □ It won't do any good to
try to browbeat me into it. □ I was browbeaten into doing it once. I refuse to do it again.

*brown as a berry very brown from the sun; quite sun-tanned. (Also: as ~.) □ She was out in the sun so much that she became as brown as a berry.

brown out [for the electricity] to diminish in power and dim the lights, causing a brownout. (Something less than a blackout, when there is no power.) □ The power kept browning out. □ The lights started to brown out, and I thought maybe there was a power shortage.

brown someone off‡ Sl. to make someone angry. (See also browned (off).) □ You really browned me off!

brownded (off) Sl. angry. □ I am really browned off at you! □ The boss really got browned—to say the least; he fired me!

browse among something 1. [for an animal] to wander about among plants and trees, selecting and eating some. □ The deer were browsing among the vegetables in my garden. □ The cows were browsing among the grasses in the field. 2. [for someone] to look at or survey different items of reading material. □ I browsed among the books on the rack until I found what I wanted. □ I browsed among the books for something suitable.

browse on something [for an animal] to feed on some kind of plant material. □ The deer browsed on the tender shoots in my garden. □ The rabbit browsed on my carrots.

browse over something and browse through something [for someone] to glance through written or printed material quickly or curiously. □ Why don't you browse over this and call me about it in the morning? □ I want to browse through this magazine quickly. □ When it has been browsed through by everyone, throw it away.

browse through something Go to previous.

bruit something about to spread a rumor around; to gossip about incident about, you know. □ The story was bruited about everyone.

brush by someone or something and brush past someone or something to push quickly past someone or something. □ She brushed by the little group of people standing there talking. □ I brushed by the plant, knocking it over.

brush over someone or something Fig. to deal lightly with an important person or matter; to just barely mention someone or something. □ I want to hear more. You only brushed over the part I was interested in. □ You only brushed over the bit about your girlfriend. Tell us more about her.

brush past someone or something Go to brush by someone or something.

brush someone off⁠1 Lit. to remove something, such as dust or lint, from someone by brushing. □ The bathroom attendant brushed Mr. Harris off and was rewarded with a small tip. □ The porter had never brushed off such a miserly man before. 2. Fig. to reject someone; to dismiss someone. (As if someone were mere lint.) □ He brushed her off, telling her she had no appointment. □ He brushed off Mrs. Franklin, who was only trying to be nice to him.

brush someone or something aside! 1. Lit. to push or shove someone or something out of the way. □ Don't just brush me aside. I almost fell over. □ I brushed aside the branch, not realizing it was poison ivy. 2. Fig. to cast someone or something away; to rid oneself of someone or something; to ignore or dismiss someone or something. □ You must not brush this matter aside. □ The clerk brushed aside the old man and moved on to the next person in line.

brush something away! (from something) to remove something from something by brushing; to get dirt or crumbs off something by brushing. □ He brushed a bit of lint away from Tom's collar. □ She brushed away the crumbs from the table.

brush something down†⁠1 to clean and groom fur or fabric by brushing. □ Why don't you brush your coat down? It's very linty. □ I brushed down my trousers, and they looked much better.

brush something off someone or something and brush something off⁠2 to remove something from someone or something by brushing. □ I brushed a little lint off her collar. □ I brushed off the lint that was on her collar.

brush something up⁠2 to improve one's knowledge of something or one's ability to do something. (See also brush up (on something).) □ I need to brush my French up a little bit. □ I need to brush up my French.

brush (up) against someone or something to touch someone or something lightly in passing. □ I brushed up against the freshly painted wall as I passed. □ I guess I brushed against Walter as I walked by.

brush up (on something) to improve one's knowledge of something or one's ability to do something. □ I need to brush up on my German. □ My German is weak. I had better brush up.

brush with death Fig. an instance of nearly dying. □ After a brush with death, Claire seemed more friendly and outgoing.

*the brush-off Fig. rejection; being cast aside and ignored. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ Don't talk to Tom. He'll just give you the brush-off. □ I went up to her and asked for a date, but I got the brush-off.

bubble over 1. Lit. [for boiling or effervescent liquid] to spill or splatter over the edge of its container. □ The pot bubbled over and put out the flame on the stove. □ The stew bubbled over. 2. Fig. [for someone] to be so happy and merry that the joy "spills over" onto other people. □ She was just bubbling over, she was so happy. □ Lily bubbled over with joy.

bubble up (through something) [for a liquid] to seep up or well up through something, such as from between rocks, through a crack in the floor, or through a hole in the bottom of a boat. □ The water bubbled up through a crack in the basement floor.

buck for something Sl. to work ambitiously for something, such as a promotion. □ I'm just bucking for recognition and, of course, a 20 percent raise. □ You can tell by her attention to the boss that she's bucking for promotion.

buck someone off! [for a horse or similar animal] to rear up in an attempt to shake off its rider. □ The horse tried to buck Sharon off, but she held on tight. □ The horse bucked off its rider.

The buck stops here. The need to act or take responsibility, that other people pass on to still other people, ulti-
mately ends up here. (An expression made famous by U.S. President Harry Truman, about the finality of decisions a president must make. See also pass the buck.) □ After everyone else has avoided making the decision, I will have to do it. The buck stops here.

buck up to cheer up; to perk up. □ Come on, now, buck up. Things can’t be all that bad. □ She began to buck up when I showed her the results of the tests.

buckle down (to something) to settle down to something; to begin to work seriously at something. □ If you don’t buckle down to your job, you’ll be fired. □ You had better buckle down and get busy.

buckle someone in to attach someone securely with a vehicle’s seat belts. (This includes airplane seat belts.) □ Don’t forget to buckle the children in. □ Did you buckle in the children?

buckle someone or something down to attach someone or something with straps that buckle together. □ They stopped to buckle the load down again. □ Did you buckle down the kids?

buckle someone or something up to attach someone or something securely with straps that buckle together. (This emphasizes the completeness and security of the act.) □ Buckle the children up before we leave. □ Buckle up your shoes.

buckle under 1. Lit. [for something] to collapse. □ With heavy trucks on it, the bridge buckled under. □ The table buckled under. 2. Fig. [for someone] to collapse or give in under the burden of heavy demands or great anxiety. □ With so much to worry about, she buckled under. □ I was afraid she would buckle under.

buckle under something to collapse under or from the weight of something. □ The bridge buckled under the weight of the truck and collapsed. □ The table finally buckled under.

buckle up and belt up to buckle one’s seat belt, as in a car or plane. □ Please buckle up so our flight can begin. □ I wish you would obey the law and belt up.

bud out [for a flowering plant or tree] to develop buds. □ How early in the spring do the trees bud out around here? □ The trees bud out in early spring.

a budding genius a very bright and promising young person. □ Harry is a budding genius, but he seems like a fairly normal teenager.

buddy up (to someone) to become overly familiar or friendly with someone. □ Don’t try to buddy up to me now. It won’t do any good. □ He always tries to buddy up, no matter how coldly you treat him.

buddy up (with someone) to join with another person to form a pair that will do something together or share something. □ I buddied up with Carl, and we helped each other on the hike. □ Carl and I buddied up, and we shared a canoe.

budget something for someone or something to set aside a certain amount of money for someone or something. □ Did you budget some money for the holiday party? □ I budgeted a few hundred a month for Andrew’s college expenses.

buff something down1 to polish or smooth something by buffing. □ I buffed the newly waxed table down with a cloth. □ I’m going to go out and buff down the car.

buff something up1 to polish something to a shine. □ He buffed his shoes up and went out for the evening. □ He buffed up the antique silver platter.

buffet someone or something from someone or something to someone or something Fig. to shift someone or something back and forth between people, things, or places, as if being tossed around by the waves of the sea. □ The state agency buffeted the orphan child from one relative to another. □ The office staff buffeted the memo from one desk to another.

bug off 1. Sl. to cease bothering [someone]. □ Hey, bug off! Your comments are annoying. □ I wish you would bug off! 2. Sl. to get out! Go away! (Usually Bug off!) □ Bug off! Get out of my sight! □ Bug off and leave me alone!

bug out 1. Sl. to pack up and leave or retreat. □ Orders are to bug out by oh-nine-hundred. □ Okay, everybody, move it! We’re bugging out. 2. Sl. to get out of somewhere fast. □ I gotta find a way to bug out of here without getting caught. □ Okay, the downpour has stopped. Let’s bug out.

bug someone to irritate someone; to bother someone. □ Go away! Stop bugging me! □ Leave me alone. Go bug someone else.

buggy whip Go to horse and buggy.

build a better mousetrap to develop or invent something superior to a device that is widely used. (From the old saying, “If you build a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door.”) □ Harry thought he could build a better mousetrap, but everything he “invented” had already been thought of.

build a case (against someone) and gather a case (against someone) to put together the evidence needed to make a legal or disciplinary case against someone. □ The police easily built a case against the drunken driver. □ As soon as we gather the case against her, we can obtain a warrant to arrest her.

build a fire under someone Go to a fire under someone.

build castles in Spain Go to next.

build castles in the air and build castles in Spain Fig. to daydream; to make plans that can never come true. □ Ann spends most of her time building castles in Spain. □ I really like to sit on the porch in the evening, just building castles in the air.

build down [for traffic] to reduce in volume or diminish. □ At about six, the going-home traffic begins to build down. □ When traffic builds down, I leave for home.

build one’s hopes on someone or something to make plans or have aspirations based on someone or something. □ I have built my hopes on making a success of this business. □ I built my hopes on John’s presidency.

build on(to) something and build on to add to something by constructing an extension. □ Do you plan to build onto this house? □ Yes, we are going to build on.

build out onto something to extend a building onto a particular space. □ We can build out onto the adjacent lot after we purchase it. □ We built out onto the area over the old patio.
build someone in

build someone into something and build someone in to make a person an integral part of an organization or a plan. □ The mayor built his cronies into the organizational structure of the town. □ He built in his relatives as part of the administration.

build someone or something up 1. Lit. to make someone or something bigger or stronger. □ Tom is lifting weights to build himself up for basketball. □ Tom needs to build up his upper body. 2. Fig. to advertise, praise, or promote someone or something. □ Theatrical agents work very hard to build up their clients. □ Advertising can build a product up so much that everyone will want it.

build someone or something up (from something) to transform someone or something from a lowly start to a higher state. □ I built up this business from nothing. □ The publicity agent built this politician up from a cheap party hack.

build someone or something up (into something) to develop or advance someone or something into a particular [desirable] kind of person or thing. □ The publicity people built her up into a singer whom everyone looked forward to hearing. □ The agent built up the local band into a top national act.

build someone up (for something) Fig. to prepare someone for something: to bring a person into a state of mind to accept some information. □ We built them up for the challenge they were to face. □ We had to build up the woman before breaking the bad news.

build something in 1. Go to next.

build something into something and build something in 1. to integrate a piece of furniture or an appliance into a building’s construction. □ We will build this cupboard into the wall about here. □ We are going to build in a chest of drawers. □ Then we will build another one in. 2. to make a particular quality a basic part of something. □ We build quality into our cars before we put our name on them. □ We build in quality. 3. to make a special restriction or specification a part of the plan of something. □ We built the restriction into our agreement. □ The lawyer built in the restriction into our agreement. □ The lawyer built in the restriction into our agreement. □ The lawyer built in the restriction into our agreement.

build something on(to) something and build something on 1. to construct something so that it extends over something else, such as water or some architectural feature. □ They will build the bridge out of reinforced concrete.

build something out of something to construct something from parts or materials. □ She built a tower out of the blocks. □ They will build the bridge out of reinforced concrete.

build (something) out over something and build (something) over something to construct something so that it extends over something else, such as water or some architectural feature. □ We built a deck out over the pond. □ We built the deck over the pond.

build (something) over something Go to previous.

build something to order to build an individual object according to a special set of specifications. □ I am having them build a new house to order—just for us. □ The car will be built to order.

build something up 1. Lit. to add buildings to an area of land or a neighborhood. □ They are really building this area up. There is no more open space. □ They built up the area over the years. 2. Fig. to develop, accumulate, or increase something, such as wealth, business, goodwill, etc. □ I built this business up through hard work and hope. □ She built up a good business over the years. 3. Fig. to praise or exalt something; to exaggerate the virtues of something. □ The master of ceremonies built the act up so much that everyone was disappointed when they saw it. □ He built up the act too much.

build something (up)on something 1. Lit. to construct something on the base of something else. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The ancients built their houses upon the houses of earlier people. 2. Fig. to add to and develop something that already exists. □ We have a good reputation and we must build on it. □ He has to build on his strong friendships with the customers.

build up to increase; to develop. □ The storm clouds are building up. Better close the windows.

build up to something 1. [for a person] to lead up to something or advance to doing or saying something. □ I can tell you are building up to something. □ What is it? 2. [for a situation] to develop into something. □ The argument is building up to something unpleasant.

build (up)on something 1. to construct something on a particular space. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Are you going to build upon this land? □ Yes, we will build on it. 2. to start with something and add to it. (Upon is more formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Our progress has been good so far. Let’s build on it. □ We will build upon the success of our forebears.

built like a brick outhouse and built like a brick shithouse Fig. well-built—either strong or full-sized. (Built more strongly than is typical. The second form is potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ Look at that guy’s muscles—he’s built like a brick shithouse. □ This garage is built like a brick outhouse. It’ll last for years.

bulge out to swell outward; to extend out into a lump or bulge. □ The puppy’s tummy bulged out, full of food. □ The bag of grass clippings bulged out heavily.

bulge with something to be swollen with something. □ The bag was bulging with gifts and candy. □ The shipmunk’s cheeks bulged with the nuts it had found.

* a bull in a china shop Prov. a very clumsy creature in a delicate situation. (Typically: as awkward as ~; like ~.) □ I never know what to say at a funeral. I feel like a bull in a china shop, trampling on feelings without even meaning to. □ Lester felt like a bull in a china shop; reaching for an orange, he made several elaborate pyramids of fruit tumble down.

bulldoze into something Fig. to move clumsily into something. □ Don’t just bulldoze into me! Watch where you are going! □ Todd bulldozed into the wall, denting it badly.

bulldoze through something Fig. to push clumsily and carelessly through something. □ Don’t just bulldoze through your work! □ I wish you wouldn’t bulldoze through the room.

Bully for you! 1. an expression that praises someone or someone’s courage. (Dated, but still heard.) □ The audi-
force shouted, “Bravo! Bully for you!” □ Bob: I quit my job today. Sally: Bully for you! Now what are you going to do? Bob: Well, I need a little loan to tide me over. 1. a sarcastic phrase belittling someone’s statement or accomplishment. □ Bob: I managed to save three dollars last week. Bill: Well, bully for you! □ Mary: I won a certificate good for a free meal! Sally: Bully for you!

A bully is always a coward. Prov. Bullies will only intimidate people who are much weaker than they are, because they are afraid of losing a fight. □ Child: Dad, Joey keeps picking on me. How can I make him stop? Father: Try fighting back. A bully is always a coward. □ Bill took advantage of the younger children, but he was quiet and docile around the older ones. A bully is always a coward.

bully someone into something to harass or threaten someone into doing something. □ The couch tried to bully them into agreeing to stay late and practice. □ Don’t try to bully me into your way of doing things.

bum out Sl. to have a bad experience. (Originally referred to a bad experience with drugs.) □ Are you going to bum out again tonight? □ Man, is he bummed out!

*the bum’s rush hurrying someone out of a place. (As someone might quickly escort a vagrant from a fancy restaurant. *Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ The young customer in the jewelry store was getting the bum’s rush until he pulled out an enormous roll of bills. □ Bill got the bum’s rush at the restaurant because he didn’t have a tie on.

bum someone out Sl. to disappoint someone. □ This menial job really bums me out. □ The bad movie bummed out the entire audience.

bum something off someone Sl. to beg or borrow something from someone. □ Can I bum a cigarette off you? □ You can’t bum anything off me that I don’t have.

* a bum steer misleading instructions or guidance; a misleading suggestion. (Bum = false; phony. Steer = guidance, as in the steering of a car. *Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Wilbur gave Ted a bum steer and Ted ended up in the wrong town. □ I got a bum steer from the salesmen, and I paid far more than I needed to for a used car.

bumble through something to get through something clumsily. □ I guess I will have to bumble through this speech again. □ Lily bumbled through her song and fled from the stage.

bummed (out) Sl. discouraged; depressed. □ I feel so bummed. I think I need a nice hot bath. □ When you’re feeling bummed out, think how much you’ve accomplished.

bump along 1. and bump along something Lit. to travel along a rough road. □ We bumped along on the dirt road to the lake. □ We bumped along the road, hanging onto our hats. 2. Fig. [for some plan or situation] to move along awkwardly and unevenly. □ The whole project bumped along to an uncertain conclusion. □ The plan bumped along for a while and then we all gave it up.

bump into someone and run into someone 1. Lit. to move inadvertently or crash into someone. □ Excuse me. I didn’t mean to bump into you. □ The child on the bicycle nearly bumped into me. 2. Fig. to chance on someone; to meet someone by chance. (Not normally with physical contact.) □ Guess who I bumped into downtown today? □ I ran into Bill Jones yesterday.

bump someone off and knock someone off Sl. to kill someone. □ They tried to bump her off, but she was too clever and got away. □ The crooks threatened to bump off the witness to the crime.

bump someone or something up 1. Lit. to damage or batter someone or something. □ The crash into the wall bumped the race driver up a little. □ The accident bumped up the passengers a little. 2. Fig. to raise someone or something to a higher category or level. (As if pushing someone into a higher category.) □ I wanted to fly first class, but they wouldn’t bump me up. □ The ticket agent bumped up both of my friends, but not me.

Bump that! Sl. Forget that! □ Bump that! I was wrong. □ I gave you the wrong number. Bump that!

bump (up) against someone or something to strike someone or something accidentally, usually relatively gently. □ The car bumped up against the curb. □ The door has bumped against the wall and scratched the paint.

bumper to bumper [of traffic] close together and moving slowly. □ The traffic is bumper to bumper from the accident up ahead.

a bunch of fives Sl. a punch from a closed fist. □ How would you like a bunch of fives right in the kissers? □ He ended up with a bunch of fives in the gut.

bunch someone or something up to pack or cluster things or people together. □ Bunch them up so you can squeeze them into the sack. □ Kelly bunched up the roses and put them in a vase.

bunch up to pack together or cluster. □ Spread out. Don’t bunch up!

bundle from heaven Go to next.

bundle of joy We are expecting a bundle of joy next September. □ When your little bundle from heaven arrives, things will be a little hectic for a while.

a bundle of nerves a very nervous person. □ I was a bundle of nerves before my dental appointment.

bundle off to leave in a hurry; to take all one’s parcels or baggage and leave in a hurry. □ She got ready and bundled off after her bus. □ Her arms full, Lily bundled off in a rush.

bundle (oneself) up (against something) to wrap oneself up in protective clothing or bedding as protection against the cold. □ Please bundle yourself up against the frigid wind. □ Bundle up before you go outside.

bundle someone into something 1. to put someone, usually a child, into heavy outdoor clothing. □ Bill bundled Billy into his parka. □ Tom bundled himself into his parka and opened the door to go out. 2. and bundle someone in to put someone, usually a child, into bed. □ She bundled Sarah into bed after reading her a story. □ June pulled the sheets back and bundled Sarah in.
**bundle someone off** (to some place) Fig. to send someone, usually a child, somewhere. □ Robert bundled the children off to school. □ They bundled off the kids and were able to relax.

**bundle someone up** (against something) to wrap someone up in protective clothing or bedding against the cold. □ Wally bundled Billy up against the winter storm. □ You had better bundle up the children against the bitter wind.

**bundle someone up** (in something) to wrap someone up in protective clothing or bedding. □ Bill bundled Billy up in his parka. □ Bill bundled Mary up in her parka.

**bundle something off** (to someone or some place) to send something off in a bundle to someone. □束 You had better bundle up the children against the bitter wind.

**burn** to develop and grow rapidly; to burst forth.

**burden** to bother or weigh down someone or something with. □ I don’t want to burden the school with a troublesome child.

**burden something with** to give unpleasant information to someone; to give someone some bad news. □ I don’t want to burden the school with a troublesome child.

**burden someone with** something to give someone with something with someone or something. □ Please don’t burden us with the bad news at this time. □ I don’t want to burden the school with a troublesome child.

**burn** to desire someone or something very much. □ Jim said he was burning for Sally. □ I was just burning for another look at her.

**burn (itself) out** 1. [for a flame or fire] to run out of fuel and go out. □ Finally, the fires burned themselves out. □ The fire finally burned out. 2. [for an electrical or mechanical part] to fail and cease working. □ The motor finally burned itself out. □ The light bulb burned out.

**burn not your house to fright the mouse away.** Prov. Do not do something drastic when it is not necessary. □ Ellen: I don’t like the shape of my nose; I think I’ll have surgery to make it look better. Jane: But you can make your nose look better just by using different makeup. Don’t burn your house to fright the mouse away. □ When someone pointed out a small flaw in Bob’s latest painting, Bob wanted to tear the whole painting to shreds. “Now, now, Bob,” his friends said, “burn not your house to fright the mouse away.”

**burn off** [for some excess volatile or flammable substance] to burn away or burn up. □ A film of oil on the surface of the water was burning off, making dense black smoke. □ The alcohol burned off and left a delicious flavor in the cherries jubilee.

**burn one’s bridges (behind one)** 1. Lit. to cut off the way back to where you came from, making it impossible to retreat. □ The army, which had burned its bridges behind it, couldn’t go back. □ By blowing up the road, the spies had burned their bridges behind them. 2. Fig. to act unpleasantly in a situation that you are leaving, ensuring that you’ll never be welcome to return. □ If you get mad and quit your job, you’ll be burning your bridges behind you. □ No sense burning your bridges. Be polite and leave quietly. 3. Fig. to make decisions that cannot be changed in the future. □ If you drop out of school now, you’ll be burning your bridges behind you. □ You’re too young to burn your bridges that way.

**burn one’s bridges in front of one** Fig. to create future problems for oneself. (A play on burn one’s bridges (behind one).) □ I made a mistake again. I always seem to burn my bridges in front of me. □ I accidentally insulted a math teacher whom I will have to take a course from next semester. I am burning my bridges in front of me.

**burn (oneself) out** Fig. to do something so long and so intensely that one gets sick and tired of doing it. (See also burn someone out.) □ I burned myself out as a competitive swimmer. I just cannot stand to practice anymore. □ Tom burned himself out in that boring job.

**burn someone at the stake** 1. Lit. to set fire to a person tied to a post (as a form of execution). □ They used to burn witches at the stake. 2. Fig. to chastise or denounce some-
burn someone down1 Sl. to humiliate someone. □ Man, don’t you ever burn me down like that again! □ You just want to burn down everybody to make yourself seem better.

burn someone in effigy to burn a dummy or other figure that represents a hated person. □ For the third day in a row, they burned the king in effigy. □ Until they have burned you in effigy, you can’t really be considered a famous leader.

burn someone out1 Fig. to wear someone out; to make someone ineffective through overuse. (See also use someone up.) □ Facing all these problems at once will burn Tom out. □ The continuous problems burned out the office staff in a few months.

burn someone out of something and burn someone out1 to burn down a home(stead) or place of business. □ Lightening struck and burned the farmer out of his home.

burn someone up1 1. Lit. to destroy someone by fire. □ The house fire burned the victims up. □ The fire burned up both of them. 2. Fig. to make someone very angry; to make someone endure the “heat” of rage. □ You really burn me up! I’m very angry at you! □ The whole mess burned up everyone.

burn something away1 to remove or destroy something by burning. □ The doctor burned the wart away. □ The doctor burned away the wart.

burn something down1 [for a fire] to destroy a building completely. □ The fire burned the barn down. □ It burned down the barn.

burn something in1 Fig. to run a piece of new electronic equipment for a while to make certain that all the electrical parts will last a long time. □ Please burn this computer in for a couple of hours before you deliver it. □ The technician burned in the computer.

burn something into something and burn something in1 1. Lit. to engrave, brand, or etch marks or letters into something by the use of great heat. □ She burned her initials into the handle of the umbrella. □ She burned in her initials. 2. Fig. to implant something firmly in someone’s head, brain, memory, etc. □ She burned the information into her head. □ The events of the day burned in sad memories.

burn something off1 Go to next.

burn something off something and burn something off1 to cause excess volatile or flammable substance to burn until there is no more of it. □ We burnt the gasoline off the water’s surface. □ Why did you burn off the gasoline?

burn something out1 1. to burn away the inside of something, getting rid of excess deposits. □ The mechanic burned the carbon out of the manifold. □ He burned out all of the carbon deposits. 2. to wear out an electrical or electronic device through overuse. □ Turn it off. You’re going to burn the motor out! □ He burned out the motor.

burn something up1 to destroy something by fire; [for fire] to consume something. □ Take this cardboard and burn it up. □ The fire burned up the papers and left no trace.

burn the candle at both ends Fig. to work very hard and stay up very late at night. (One end of the candle is work done in the daylight, and the other end is work done at night.) □ No wonder Mary is ill. She has been burning the candle at both ends for a long time. □ You’ll wear out if you keep burning the candle at both ends.

burn the midnight oil Fig. to stay up working, especially studying, late at night. (Alludes to working by the light of an oil lamp late in the night.) □ I have a big exam tomorrow so I’ll be burning the midnight oil tonight. □ If you burn the midnight oil night after night, you’ll probably become ill.

burn up to become destroyed or consumed by fire. □ The wood burned up and left only ashes. □ The deed burned up in the fire.

burn with a low blue flame 1. Lit. [of a properly adjusted gas burner] to burn and put off heat. □ Each burner on the stove burns with a low blue flame giving the maximum amount of heat per BTU. 2. Fig. to be quietly and intensely angry. □ She just sat there with her steak in her lap, burning with a low blue flame. □ She was quiet, but everyone knew she would soon burn with a low blue flame. 3. Fig. to be heavily intoxicated with alcohol. (Alludes to the irritability of a person who is very drunk.) □ Yeah, he’s burning with a low blue flame. □ He’s not just drunk; he’s burning with a low blue flame.

burn with something 1. [for a fire] to burn with a particular quality. □ The building burned with great ferocity. □ The fire burned with a lot of crackling and popping. 2. [for someone] to experience intense and consuming feelings of a particular quality. □ Fred is just burning with anger. □ Why is he burning with envy?

burned to a cinder burned very badly. [Very often used figuratively.] □ I stayed out in the sun too long, and I am burned to a cinder. □ This toast is burned to a cinder.

burned up Fig. very angry. (From the heat of anger. See also burn someone up.) □ My new assistant’s mistakes are so maddening! I’ve never been so burned up in my life. □ I’m really burned up at Bob’s behavior.

burst See also entries at bust.

burst at the seams 1. Fig. to be very full and burst, perhaps at the seams. (Alludes to something that would burst at the seams if overfilled.) □ I am so full from dinner! I’m ready to burst at the seams. □ The room was so full it was bursting at the seams. 2. Fig. [for someone] to strain from holding in pride or laughter as if one might burst. □ Tom
nearly burst at the seams with pride. □ We laughed so hard we just about burst at the seams.

**burst forth** to come forth explosively. □ The words burst forth and frightened everyone. □ The blossoms burst forth in the first warm days of the year.

**burst in (on someone or something)** to enter a room, interrupting someone or some activity. (Often without knocking or seeking permission to enter.) □ Tom burst in on his sister and her boyfriend while they were kissing. □ I must ask you not to burst into my office again. Whatever it is can wait.

**burst in ((up)on someone or something)** Fig. to intrude or come in thoughtlessly and suddenly and interrupt someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I didn’t mean to burst in on you. □ She feared that someone would bust in upon her.

**burst in (with something)** to interrupt with some comment. □ Ted burst in with the good news. □ He bust in to tell us about his new car.

**burst into flame(s)** [for something] to catch fire and become a large fire quickly. □ As soon as the flame reached the curtains, the entire wall seemed to burst into flames. □ The two cars burst into flames soon after the collision.

**burst into sight** Fig. to come into view suddenly. (As if the sight appeared as suddenly as an explosion.) □ The sun finally burst into sight at the horizon. □ Suddenly, a tiger burst into sight and caught the hunter off guard.

**burst in(to some place)** Fig. to intrude or come in thoughtlessly and suddenly. □ Ted burst into the room and sat down right in the middle of the meeting. □ Wasn’t it very annoying of him to just burst in?

**burst into something** Go to burst out into something.

**burst into tears** and **burst out crying** Fig. to begin to cry suddenly. □ After the last notes of her song, the audience burst into tears, such was its beauty and tenderness. □ The children burst into tears on hearing of the death of their dog.

**burst onto the scene** Fig. to appear suddenly in a location. □ When Charles burst onto the scene, no one was prepared for the news he brought. □ The police suddenly burst onto the scene and arrested everyone in the room.

**burst out** to explode outward; to break open under force. □ The door burst out and released the trapped people. □ When the glass burst out, Gerald was cut by some splinters.

**burst out crying** Go to burst out into tears.

**burst out doing something** to begin to do something suddenly, such as cry, laugh, shout, etc. □ Suddenly, she burst out singing. □ Ted burst out laughing when he read the joke.

**burst out into something** and **burst into something** 1. Fig. [for plants or trees] to open their flowers seemingly suddenly and simultaneously. (Burst indicates suddenness.) □ The flowers burst out into blossom very early. □ They burst into blossom during the first warm day. 2. Fig. [for someone] to begin suddenly doing a particular activity, such as crying, laughing, chatting; to begin an activity such as laughter, chatter, tears, etc. □ Suddenly, she burst out into laughter. □ The child burst into tears.

**burst out laughing** to begin to laugh suddenly. □ The entire audience burst out laughing when the clown took a fall. □ Every time I think of you sitting there with a lap full of spaghetti, I burst out laughing.

**burst out (of some place)** to come out of a place very rapidly, like an explosion. □ Everyone burst out of the burning building. □ Suddenly, the windows all burst out.

**burst out (of something)** Fig. to seem to explode out of something; to become [suddenly] too big for something, such as clothes, a house, etc. □ She is practically bursting out of her dress. □ The butterfly burst out of the chrysalis.

**burst out with something** Fig. to utter something loudly and suddenly. (Compare this with burst in (with something).) □ The child burst out with a scream. □ Lily burst out with song.

**burst someone’s bubble** Fig. to destroy someone’s illusion or delusion; to destroy someone’s fantasy. □ I hate to burst your bubble, but Columbus did not discover Canada. □ Even if you think I am being foolish, please don’t burst my bubble.

**burst through something** to break through or penetrate something with force. □ The tank burst through the barrier easily. □ The workers burst through the wall after a lot of hard work.

**burst (up)on someone** Fig. [for an idea] to strike someone suddenly. (As if an idea had burst forth. Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ After thinking all morning long, this really tremendous idea burst upon me. □ It burst on me like a bolt of lightning.

**burst (up)on the scene** to appear suddenly somewhere; to enter or arrive suddenly some place. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The police suddenly burst upon the scene. □ They burst on the scene and took control.

**burst with excitement** Fig. to have a strong feeling of excitement. □ Joe was just bursting with excitement because of his triumph. □ The new toys had the children all bursting with excitement.

**burst with joy** Fig. [for someone] to be full to the bursting point with happiness. (To be so filled with joy as if to burst.) □ When I got my grades, I could have burst with joy. □ Bill was not exactly bursting with joy when he got the news.

**burst with pride** to be full as if to the bursting point with pride. □ My parents were bursting with pride when I graduated from college. □ I almost burst with pride when I was chosen for the first prize.

**bury one’s head in the sand** and **hide one’s head in the sand**; **have one’s head in the sand** Fig. to ignore or hide from obvious signs of danger. (Alludes to an ostrich, which is believed incorrectly to hide its head in a hole in the ground when it sees danger.) □ Stop burying your head in the sand. Look at the statistics on smoking and cancer.

**bury oneself in something** 1. Fig. to become very busy with something. □ She stopped taking phone calls and buried herself in her work. □ He tended to bury himself in his work. 2. Fig. to hide oneself some place. (Alludes to burying oneself in a cave or something similar.) □ He buried himself in the back of the little shop and worked quietly. □ The lizard buried itself in the sand.
### bury

**someone or something** **away (some place)** to bury or hide someone or something some place. □ **The dog buried the bone away under a bush.** □ **The ex-dictator was buried away in an unmarked grave.**

**someone or something** **in something** **1. Lit.** to inter someone or something in a grave, a mound, a tomb, etc. □ **They buried the old man in the family vault.** □ **Thousands of war veterans are buried in the national cemetery.** **2. Fig.** to hide or conceal someone or something from view in some place. □ **The office manager buried Tom at a small desk in the back room.** □ **Someone buried the manual typewriter in a room full of old junk.**

**someone or something** **under something** to bury someone or something beneath something, sometimes to hide or conceal it. □ **Joe buried the money under a stone in the forest.** □ **They buried Aunt Mary under a pine tree.**

**the hatchet Fig.** to make peace. □ **Let's stop arguing and bury the hatchet.** □ **Tom and I buried the hatchet and we are good friends now.**

**bush out** [for a plant, bush, beard, head of hair] to develop a great deal or amount. **(Usually used to answer the question, “How much do you love me?”)** □ **Mary: How much do you love me? Tom: A bushel and a peck and some in a gourd.** □ **We knew that Grandpa loved us a bushel and a peck.**

### business

**business end of** something the part or end of something that actually does the work or carries out the procedure. □ **Keep away from the business end of the electric drill so you won't get hurt.** □ **Don't point the business end of that gun at anyone. It might go off.**

**a busman's holiday** leisure time spent doing something similar to what one does at work. (Alludes to a bus driver going on a bus tour for his vacation or on a day off.) □ **Tutoring students in the evening is a busman's holiday for our English teacher.** □ **It's a bit of a busman's holiday to ask her to be wardrobe mistress for our amateur production in the summer. She's a professional dressmaker.**

**bust a bronco** to ride and thus tame a wild horse so that it can be ridden. (**Bust** is a nonstandard form of **burst.**) □ **In them days, I made my living busting broncos.** □ **That was the meanest bronco I ever saw. Nobody could bust 'im.**

**bust a gut** Go to split a gut.

**bust a gut (to do something)** **Fig.** to work very hard; to strain oneself to accomplish something. (**The word gut is considered impolite in some circumstances. Bust** is a non-standard form of **burst.**) □ **I don't intend to bust a gut to get there on time.** □ **I busted a gut to get there the last time, and I was the first one there.**

**bust a move** **Sl.** to leave (a place.) □ **Let's go. Time to bust a move.** □ **Let's bust a move. Lots to do tomorrow.**

**bust ass out of** **some place** **Sl.** to get out of some place in a hurry. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ **I had to bust ass out of the house and run all the way to school.** □ **Bob busted ass out of the classroom and headed for home.**

**bust ass out (of some place)** **Sl.** to break out of some place, especially a prison. (**The expressions with **bust ass out** are said typically, but not necessarily, of a male. Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ **I've been busting my nuts to get this thing done on time, and now they don't want it!** □ **The new boss expects you to bust your nuts every minute you are at work in the warehouse.**

**bust (one's) ass (to do something)** **and** **break one's balls** **to do something;** **bust one's butt** **to do something;** **bust one's nuts** **to do something** **Sl.** to work very hard to do something. (**The expressions with **bust ass out** and **bust ass** are nonstandard forms of **burst.**)** □ **I don't want to spend the rest of my life busting suds.** □ **They busted out together.**

**bust one's** **butt** **to do something** Go to previous.

**bust out laughing** **Fig.** to start laughing suddenly. (See also **burst out laughing.** **Bust** is a nonstandard form of **burst.**) □ **I busted out laughing when I saw him in that get-up.** □ **The bridegroom was so nervous, it was all he could do not to bust out laughing.**

**bust out** **(of some place)** **Sl.** to break out of some place, especially a prison. (**Bust** is a nonstandard form of **burst** meaning ‘break’ here.) □ **Somehow the gangsters busted out of prison and left the country.** □ **They busted out together.**

**bust (some) suds 1.** **Sl.** to drink some beer. (**Bust** is a nonstandard form of **burst.** See also **crack some suds.**) □ **Let's go out and bust some suds.** □ **I'm tired of busting suds. Let's play cards.** **2.** **Sl.** to wash dishes. (**Bust** is a nonstandard form of **burst.**) □ **I don't want to spend the rest of my life busting suds.** □ **You get into that kitchen and bust some suds to earn your allowance.**

**bust someone one** **Sl.** to punch someone; to give someone a punch, probably in the face. (**Bust** is a nonstandard form of **burst** meaning ‘hit’ here.) □ **You better shut up, or I'll bust you one!** □ **You want me to bust you one? I will if you do that again.**
**bust someone out of some place**

and **bust someone out**

1. **bust** someone out of some place

2. **bust** someone out

---

**bust (someone’s) balls**

Go to break (someone’s) balls.

---

**bust (someone’s) stones**

Go to break (someone’s) balls.

---

**bust someone up**

1. **bust** someone up

---

**bust someone wide open**

Sl. to beat someone severely.

---

**bust something up**

1. Inf. to break or ruin something; to break something into smaller pieces. (See also bust something up.

---

**bust something wide open**

Go to blow something wide open.

---

**bust up**

1. Sl. [for lovers] to separate or break up. (Bust is a nonstandard form of burst meaning ‘break’ here.)

2. Sl. [for something] to break up due to natural causes. (Bust is a nonstandard form of burst meaning ‘break’ here.)

---

**bustle about**

doing something
to go about doing something busily and energetically.

---

**bustle about some place**

to move about some place very busily, or as busy.

---

**bustle around**

to move about very busily.

---

**bustle off**

to leave in haste.

---

**bustle someone off**

to help someone leave; to send someone out or away.

---

**busy as a beaver**

(building a new dam)

---

**busy as a cranberry merchant**

(at Thanksgiving)

---

**busy as a fish peddler in Lent**

Go to previous.

---

**busy as a hibernating bear**

not busy at all.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---

**busy as a one-armed paperhanger**

Go to as busy as a beaver.

---

**busy as a one-armed paperhanger**

Go to as busy as a beaver.

---

**busy as a one-armed paperhanger**

Go to as busy as a beaver.

---

**busy as a fish peddler in Lent**

Go to as busy as a beaver.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---

**busy as a hibernating bear**

not busy at all.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---

**busy as a hibernating bear**

not busy at all.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---

**busy as a hibernating bear**

not busy at all.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---

**busy as a hibernating bear**

not busy at all.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---

**busy as a hibernating bear**

not busy at all.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---

**busy as a hibernating bear**

not busy at all.

---

**busy as Grand Central Station**

Go to very busy.

---

**busy as popcorn on a skillet**

very busy.

---
**thick; soft soap.** □ A student tried to butter the teacher up. □ She buttered up the teacher again.

**Butter wouldn’t melt (in someone’s mouth).** Prov. Someone is acting as if innocent. □ By the time her parents came home, Emily had cleaned up all evidence of having broken the valuable figurine, and she looked as though butter wouldn’t melt in her mouth. □ Jane: How can you suspect George of playing that practical joke on you? He looks so innocent. Jill: Yes, butter wouldn’t melt, I’m sure.

**butterflies in one’s stomach** a nervous feeling in one’s stomach. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.*) □ Whenever I have to speak in public, I get butterflies in my stomach. □ She always has butterflies in her stomach before a test. □ It was not frightening enough to give me butterflies in my stomach, but it made me a little apprehensive.

**button something down** to fasten something down with buttons. □ Button your collar down. You look too casually dressed. □ Please button down your collar.

**button something up** to fasten something with buttons. □ Button your shirt up, please. □ I will button up my shirt.

**button up** 1. Lit. to fasten one’s buttons. □ Your jacket’s open. You’d better button up. It’s cold. □ I’ll button up in the car. 2. Fig. to get silent and stay silent. (See also button [up] one’s lip.) □ Hey, button up! That’s enough out of you. □ I wish you would button up and stop gossiping.

**button (up) one’s lip** Fig. to stop talking. (Fixed order.) □ Please button up your lip! □ Will you button your lip? I don’t want the news to get out.

**buttress something up** 1. Lit. to brace something; to provide architectural support for something. □ We have to buttress up this part of the wall while we work on it. □ The workers buttressed the wall up with heavy timbers. 2. Fig. to provide extra support, often financial support, for something. □ We rounded up some money to buttress the company up through the sales slump. □ The loan buttressed the company for a few months.

**buy a pig in a poke** Fig. to buy something without looking inside first. □ If you don’t get a good look at the engine of a used car before you buy it, you’ll wind up buying a pig in a poke. □ I just took the salesman’s word that this camera worked. I guess I bought a pig in a poke.

**buy a round (of drinks) and buy the next round (of drinks)** to buy a drink for each person present, with the expectation that one or more of those persons will later do likewise. □ Which one of you guys is going to buy the next round?

**buy in(to something)** 1. Lit. to purchase shares of something; to buy a part of something the ownership of which is shared with other owners. □ I bought into a company that makes dog food. □ Sounds like a good company. I would like to buy in. 2. Fig. to agree with; to accept an idea as worthwhile. □ The committee liked my proposal and decided to buy into my plan. □ Do you think you can get the whole board to buy in?

**buy it** Go to buy the farm.

**buy one’s way in(to something)** to achieve entry or membership in something often by paying money. □ Do you think you can buy your way into this fraternity? □ I’m sure I can buy my way in with my family connections.

**buy one’s way out (of something)** to get out of trouble by bribing or influencing someone to ignore what one has done wrong. □ You can’t buy your way out of this mess, buster! □ You made this mess and you can’t buy your way out!

**buy some food to go** Go to go to.

**buy someone off** to bribe someone to ignore what one is doing wrong. □ Do you think you can buy her off? □ The mobster tried to buy off the jury.

**buy someone or something out** to purchase full ownership of something from someone or a group. □ We liked the company, so we borrowed a lot of money and bought it out. □ Carl bought out the owners of the company.

**buy someone’s wolf ticket** Sl. to challenge someone’s boast or taunt. □ He wants me to buy his wolf ticket bad. □ He’s such a fighter. He’ll buy anybody’s wolf ticket.

**buy something** Fig. to believe something someone says; to accept something to be a fact. □ It may be true, but I don’t buy it. □ I just don’t buy the idea that you can swim that far.

**buy something at something** 1. to purchase something at a particular place or at a particular type of sale, such as a store, an auction, a clearance sale, etc. □ I bought this table at an auction. □ This was bought at an auction. 2. to purchase something at a particular price or for a particular level of price. □ I bought shares in General Motors at forty and a half. □ The shares were bought at a good price.

**buy something back** (from someone) to repurchase something that one has previously sold from the person who bought it. □ Can I buy it back from you? I have decided I need it. □ He bought back his book from George.

**buy something for a song** Go to go to.

**buy something (from someone) (for something)** to purchase something from someone at a particular price, or for a particular type of payment, such as for cash, for practically nothing, etc. □ I bought the car from Mark for a reasonable price. □ I bought it for a reasonable price from Mark.

**buy something on credit** to purchase something now and pay for it later (normally plus interest). □ Almost everyone who buys a house buys it on credit. □ I didn’t have any cash with me, so I used my credit card and bought a new coat on credit.

**buy something on time** to buy something on credit. □ Tom: That’s an awful fancy TV. Are you sure you can afford it? Jane: I’m buying it on time. □ I bought the sofa on time, but I paid cash for the chairs.

**buy something out** to buy all that is available of a particular item. □ The kids came in and bought all our bubble gum out. □ They bought out the bubble gum in a single hour.

**buy something sight unseen** to buy something without seeing it first. □ I bought this land sight unseen. I didn’t know it was so rocky. □ It isn’t usually safe to buy something sight unseen.

**buy something up** to buy all of something; to buy the entire supply of something. □ He bought the oranges up from all the groves. □ He bought up all the oranges and drove up the price.
**buy the big one** 
*Eup.* to die.  □ I don’t plan to buy the big one for at least another thirty years.  □ She cooked out for good—you know, bought the big one.

**buy the farm** and **buy it** *Sl.* to die; to get killed. (The farm is a burial plot.)  □ I’ll pass through this illness; I’m too young to buy the farm.  □ He lived for a few hours after his collapse, but then he bought it.

**buy the next round (of drinks)** Go to buy a round (of drinks).

**buy time** to postpone an event hoping that the situation will improve. □ You are just stalling to buy time. □ Maybe I can buy some time by asking the judge for a continuance.

**buy trouble** Fig. to encourage trouble; to bring on trouble. (As if certain acts would pay for or cause difficulties that would have to be suffered through.) □ I don’t want to buy trouble. I have enough already. □ Saying something insulting to him is just buying trouble.

**buzz along** to move or drive along fast. □ The cars were buzzing along at a great rate. □ Traffic is sure buzzing along.

**buzz for someone** to sound a signal for someone. □ Please buzz for the bell captain. □ I buzzed for my secretary and waited for a reply.

**buzz in (to some place)** Fig. to come into a place rapidly or unexpectedly. □ The child buzzed into the shop and bought a nickel’s worth of candy. □ I just buzzed in to say hello.

**buzz off** Fig. to leave quickly. □ I’ve got to buzz off. Bye. □ It’s time for me to buzz off.

**buzz someone into a place** and **buzz someone in**! Fig. to push a button that opens a door latch electrically, allowing someone to use the door and enter. (The process creates a buzz while the latch is open.) □ My secretary will buzz you in. □ Please buzz in our guest. □ Oh, hello. I will buzz you into the lobby. Then take the elevator to apartment 310.

**buzz with something** Fig. [for a place] to be busy or filled with something. □ The room buzzed with excitement. □ The office had better be buzzing with moneymaking activity when I get there.

**by a hair(‘s breadth)** and **by a whisker** Fig. just barely; by a very small distance. □ I just missed getting on the plane by a hair’s breadth. □ I made it onto the last flight by a hair!

**by a mile** Fig. by a great distance. (Usually an exaggeration.) □ You missed the target by a mile. □ Your estimate of the budget deficit was off by a mile.

**by a show of hands** [of a vote taken] expressed by people raising their hands. □ We were asked to vote for the candidates for captain by a show of hands. □ Bob wanted us to vote on paper, not by a show of hands, so that we could have a secret ballot.

**by a whisker** Go to by a hair(‘s breadth).

**by all accounts** Go to according to all accounts.

**by all appearances** apparently; according to what one sees or how things seem. □ She is, by all appearances, ready to resume work. □ By all appearances, we ought to be approaching the airport.

**by all means** certainly; yes; absolutely. □ I will attempt to get there by all means. □ Bob: Can you come to dinner tomorrow? Jane: By all means, I’d love to.

**by all means of something** trying to do something by the use of every possible manner of something. □ People will be arriving by all means of transportation. □ The surgeon performed the operation by all means of instruments.

**by and by** at some time in the future; as time passes. □ The weather’s sure to clear up by and by. □ You may think your heart is broken, but you’ll feel better by and by.

**by and large** generally; usually. (Originally a nautical expression.) □ I find that, by and large, people tend to do what they are told to do. □ By and large, rosebushes need lots of care.

**by ankle express** Fig. on foot. □ After my horse was stolen, I had to go by ankle express. □ It’s a five-minute drive, forty minutes by ankle express.

**by any means** by any way possible. □ I need to get there soon by any means. □ I must win this contest by any means, fair or unfair.

**by any stretch of the imagination** as much as anyone could imagine; as much as is imaginable. (Often negative.) □ I don’t see how anyone by any stretch of the imagination could fail to understand what my last sentence meant.

**by brute strength** by great muscular strength. □ The men moved the heavy door by brute strength.

**by chance** accidentally; randomly; without planning. □ I found this book by chance at a book sale. □ We met by chance in a class in college.

**by check** by using a check for payment. □ He paid for the book by check. □ You will be paid by check.

**by choice** due to conscious choice; on purpose. □ I do this kind of thing by choice. No one makes me do it. □ I didn’t go to this college by choice. It was the closest one to home.

**by coincidence** by an accidental and strange similarity; by an unplanned pairing of events or occurrences. □ We just happened to be in the same place at the same time by coincidence. □ By coincidence, the circus was in town when I was there. I’m glad because I love circuses.

**by cracky!** *Rur.* By God! (A mild oath, often used to express surprise or approval.) □ Jim said he’d get the whole house painted this weekend, and by cracky, that’s just what he did. □ By cracky! That thunder sure was loud.

**by day** and **by night** during the day; during the night. (Often used in simultaneous clauses for contrast.) □ By day, Mary worked in an office; by night, she took classes. □ Dave slept by day and worked by night.

**by dint of something** because of something; due to the efforts of something. (*Dint* is an old word meaning ‘force,’ and it is never used except in this phrase.) □ They got the building finished on time by dint of hard work and good organization. □ By dint of much studying, John got through college.

**by fits and starts** Go to fits and starts.

**by force of habit** owing to a tendency to do something that has become a habit. □ After I retired, I kept getting up and getting dressed each morning by force of habit.
By godfrey! By God! (A mild oath.) □ By godfrey, Jim's brother is a big man! □ Those cats sure do make a lot of noise, by godfrey.

by guess and by golly Go to next.

by guess and by gosh and by guess and by golly Rur. by estimating; without careful planning. □ Jane: Did you have a plan for putting up that toolshed? Tom: Nope, we just sort of did it by guess and by gosh. □ Grandma always made dresses by guess and by golly, without using a pattern, and they always turned out just fine.

by hand made by human hands and handheld tools as opposed to a machine. □ This fine wooden cabinet was made by hand. □ I carved this figurine by hand.

by herself and by himself 1. with no one else present; alone. □ She hates to go to strange places by herself. □ He sat by himself at a table big enough for six people. 2. with the help of no one else. □ The two-year-old boy can get dressed by himself. □ Susan is unable to get there by herself.

by hook or (by) crook by any means, legal or illegal. □ I'll get the job done by hook or by crook. □ I must have that house. I intend to get it by hook or crook.

by itself with the help of nothing else; without the addition of anything else. □ Will this food be enough by itself for all of us? □ Can the dog get out of the house by itself?

by leaps and bounds Fig. rapidly; by large movements forward. □ The brush we cut back last fall is growing by leaps and bounds. □ The profits of my company are increasing by leaps and bounds. □ He is gaining by leaps and bounds.

by main strength and awkwardness Rur. by force or brute strength. □ Tom: How did you get that piano up the stairs? Mary: By main strength and awkwardness. □ By main strength and awkwardness, we got all the luggage crammed into the car.

by means of something using something; with the use of something. □ I opened the bottle by means of a bottle opener. □ I was able to afford a car by means of a loan.

by mistake in error; accidentally. □ I'm sorry. I came into the wrong room by mistake. □ I chose the wrong road by mistake. Now we are lost.

by myself 1. with no one else present; alone. □ I sat at the table by myself. □ I will not be at the party. I will be at home by myself tonight. 2. without the help of anyone else. □ I did it all by myself. □ Can you eat that whole pie by yourself?

by night Go to by day.

by no means absolutely not; certainly not. □ I'm by no means angry with you. □ Bob: Did you put this box here? Tom: By no means. I didn't do it, I'm sure.

by oneself 1. with no one else present; alone (of two or more people). □ Must one sit by oneself or may one join another group? □ One just hates eating by oneself, doesn't one? 2. with the help of no one else. □ One is expected to do it by oneself. □ Can one do this by oneself?

by ourselves 1. with no one else present; alone. □ Do we have to sit here by ourselves? Can't we sit with Mary and Max? □ We like to eat by ourselves, so we can talk about private matters. 2. with the help of no one else. □ We can do it by ourselves. □ Can we lift this by ourselves, or do we need some help?

by return mail and by return post by a subsequent mailing (back to the sender). (A phrase indicating that an answer is expected very soon, by mail.) □ Since this bill is overdue, would you kindly send us your check by return mail? □ I answered your request by return post over a year ago. Please check your records.

by return post Go to previous.

by rote [of learning or memorizing] done as habit and without thinking. □ I simply memorized the speech by rote. I don't know what it means. □ The student learns everything by rote and doesn't really understand the concepts.

by shank's mare Fig. by foot; by walking. (Shank refers to the shank of the leg.) □ My car isn't working, so I'll have to travel by shank's mare. □ I'm sore because I've been getting around by shank's mare.

*by the book and *by the numbers following the rules exactly. (Alludes to a (numbered) book of rules. *Typically: go ~; do something ~; play ~; run something ~.) □ The judge of the contest ran things strictly by the rules and disqualified us on a small technicality. □ Everyone insisted that we go by the numbers and not accept the proposal.

by the by Go to by the way.

by the day one day at a time. □ I don't know when I'll have to leave town, so I rent this room by the day.

by the dozen in groups of 12. (Compare this with the dozens.) □ Eggs are normally sold by the dozen.

by the dozens Fig. many; by some fairly large, indefinite number. (Similar to but implying less than hundreds. Compare this with by the dozen.) □ Just then people began showing up by the dozens. □ I baked cookies and pies by the dozens for the charity bake sale.

by the end of the day by the time the workday is over; by the time that the sun goes down. □ Will this task be completed by the end of the day? □ We have to do all these things by the end of the day.

by the handful in amounts equal to a handful; in quantity. □ Billy is eating candy by the handful. □ People began leaving by the handful at midnight.

by the hour at each hour; once each hour. □ It kept growing darker by the hour. □ I have to take this medicine by the hour.

by the month one month at a time. □ Not many apartments are rented by the month. □ I needed a car for a short while, so I rented one by the month.

by the nape of the neck by the back of the neck. (Mostly said in threats.) □ He grabbed me by the nape of the neck and told me not to turn around if I valued my life. I stood very still. □ If you do that again, I'll pick you up by the nape of the neck and throw you out the door.

by the numbers Go to by the book.

by the same token Cliché a phrase indicating that the speaker is introducing parallel or closely contrasting information. □ Tom: I really got cheated! Bob: You think they've cheated you, but, by the same token, they believe that you've cheated them. □ Some say he is a real charmer, but by the same token others are put off by his manner.
*by the seat of one’s pants Fig. by sheer luck and use of intuition. (*Typically: fly ~; make it ~.) □ I got through school by the seat of my pants. □ Pilots who are in fog and using only instruments are flying by the seat of their pants.

by the skin of one’s teeth Fig. just barely. (By an amount equal to the thickness of the (imaginary) skin on one’s teeth.) □ I got to the airport a few minutes late and missed the plane by the skin of my teeth. □ Lloyd escaped from the burning building by the skin of his teeth.

by the sweat of one’s brow Fig. by one’s efforts; by one’s hard work. □ Tom raised these vegetables by the sweat of his brow. □ Sally polished the car by the sweat of her brow.

by the unit Fig. each; per. (Used to designate the unit of measure, but not the rate of a measure.) □ Lettuce is sold by the head. □ Gas is sold by the gallon.

by the way and by the by 1. a phrase indicating that the speaker is adding information. (By the by is not as frequent.) □ Tom: Is this one any good? Clerk: This is the largest and, by the way, the most expensive one we have in stock. □ Bill: I’m a realtor. Is your house for sale? Alice: My house is not for sale, and, by the way, I too am a realtor. 2. a phrase indicating that the speaker is casually opening a new subject. □ Bill: Oh, by the way, Fred, do you still have that hammer you borrowed from me? Fred: I’ll check. I thought I gave it back. □ June: By the by, don’t you owe me some money? Sue: Who, me?

by the week one week at a time. □ I plan my schedules by the week. □ Where can I rent a room by the week?

by the year one year at a time. □ Most apartments are available by the year. □ We budget by the year.

by themselves 1. with help from no one else. □ Do you think they can do it by themselves? □ Mike and Max cannot lift the piano by themselves. 2. with no one else present; alone (of two or more people). □ They are sitting there by themselves. Let’s sit with them. □ They enjoy spending the evening at home by themselves.

by virtue of something because of something; due to something. □ She’s permitted to vote by virtue of her age. □ They are members of the club by virtue of their great wealth.

by way of something 1. passing through something (as a place); via something. □ He came home by way of Toledo. □ She went to the bank by way of the drugstore. 2. in illustration; as an example. □ By way of illustration, the professor drew a picture on the board. □ He read them a passage from Shakespeare by way of example.

by word of mouth by speaking rather than writing. □ I learned about it by word of mouth. □ I need it in writing. I don’t trust things I hear about by word of mouth.

by yourself 1. with no one else present; alone. □ Do you want to sit here by yourself, or can I sit here too? □ Don’t sit at home by yourself. Come to the movie with me. 2. with the help of no one else. □ Can you really do all this cooking by yourself? □ Bill, can you lift this box by yourself?

by yourselves 1. with no one else present; alone (of two or more people). □ Are you two going to stand here by yourselves all evening? □ Don’t sit home by yourselves. Come to the party. 2. with the help of no one else. □ Can you three do this by yourselves? □ I expect you guys to get there by yourselves.

Bye for now. Go to Good-bye for now.
cadge something from someone and cadge something off someone. Sl. to beg or borrow something from someone.

Caesar’s wife must be above suspicion. Prov. The associates of public figures must not even be suspected of wrongdoing. (The ancient Roman Julius Caesar is supposed to have said this when asked why he divorced his wife, Pompeia. Because she was suspected of some wrongdoing, he could not associate with her anymore.)

Call a halt to something. to stop.

Call a meeting to order. The chair called the meeting to order. □ The meeting will be called to order at noon.

Call a spade a spade Fig. to call something by its right name; to speak frankly about something, even if it is unpleasant. (Considered offensive by some. Use only with discretion.)

Call a spade a spade. We are just avoiding the issue. □ Let’s call a spade a spade. The man is a liar.

Call again. Please visit this shop again sometime. (Said by shopkeepers and store clerks.)

Call back 1. to return a telephone call received earlier.

Call at some place to visit some place; [for a ship] to put into port at a place.

Call for someone or something 1. to demand that something be stopped.

Call for someone or something 2. to need, require, or demand something or the services of someone.

Calculate something into something and calculate something into to include something in one’s calculations.

Calculate something out of something 1. to coax or persuade someone not to do something.

Cake someone or something with something to cover someone or something with a thicker layer of clumps of a substance such as mud, dirt, blood, etc.

Cake someone or something with something. The attendant caked her with hot mud at the beginning of the arthritis treatment.

Cage someone or something in1. Lit. to enclose someone or something in a cage.

Cage someone or something in1. We caged the monkey in, but it threw a fit.

Cage someone or something up1 (in something) to enclose or confine someone or something in something or somewhere. They caged the lions up in strong containers for the trip across country.

Cage someone or something up1 (in something). How long did it take to cage up the lions securely?

Cajole someone into something to coax or persuade someone to do something. They tried to cajole us into helping them move.

Cajole someone into something. You can’t cajole me into doing that!

Cajole someone out of something 1. to coax or persuade someone not to do something.

Cajole someone out of something 2. to coax or persuade someone to give up something or give away something.

Call a halt to something. He’s busy calculating on a serious problem.

Call a meeting to ask that people assemble for a meeting; to request that a meeting be held.

Call a meeting to order and call the meeting to order to announce that a meeting is about to begin.
call hogs Rur. to snore. □ I couldn't sleep at all last night, with Cousin Joe calling hogs in the next room. □ Joe calls hogs so loud the windows rattle.

call in sick to call one's place of work to say that one is ill and cannot come to work. (See also report in sick.) □ Four of our office staff called in sick today. □ I have to call in sick today.

call in (to some place) to telephone to some central place, such as one's place of work, as to check for messages. □ I have to call in to the office at noon. □ I will call in whenever I have a chance.

call it a day to quit work and go home; to say that a day's work has been completed. □ It's time to go home, John. Let's call it quits.

call it quits to quit; to resign from something; to end what one is doing at night and go to bed. □ To call it quits.

call my service Please don't call me directly, but through my answering service. (Not a friendly or encouraging invitation.) □ Good to talk to you, but I gotta go now. Call my service. □ I can't talk now. Call my service.

call no man happy till he dies. and Count no man happy till he dies. Prov. You cannot tell if a person's life has been happy on the whole until that person's life is over; no matter how happy someone is now, something bad may happen to destroy his or her happiness. □ Alan: You must be very happy with your new wife. Bill: Call no man happy till he dies. □ Jill: That movie star must be the happiest person in the world. He's rich, people love him, and he likes his work. Jane: Count no man happy till he dies.

call off your spying off (to someone) to call to someone to come out or come forward. □ Stop the car here! I have to answer the call of nature. □ I couldn't sleep at all last night, with Cousin Joe calling hogs in the next room. □ Joe calls hogs so loud the windows rattle.

call someone back¹. to call someone again on the telephone. □ Since she is not there, I will call her back in half an hour. □ Carl called back Mary after his meeting was over. 2. to return a telephone call to a person who had called earlier. □ I got his message; I will call him back tomorrow. □ I have to call back my friend now. 3. Go to call someone or something back.

call someone by a name to address someone by a particular kind of name. □ They call me by my first name. □ Don't call me by my nickname!

call someone down¹ to reprimand a person; to bawl someone out. □ The teacher had to call down Sally in front of everybody. □ “I wish you wouldn't call me down in public,” cried Sally.

call someone forth¹ to call to someone to come out or come forward. □ The principal called Wally forth. □ Please call forth Wally again.

call someone forward to call to someone to the front, and to the attention of everyone present. □ The teacher called the student forward to recite. □ Don't call me forward. I am not prepared.

call someone in¹ (for something) 1. to request that someone come to have a talk. □ The manager called Karen in for a private meeting. □ The police called in Gary for questioning. 2. to request a consultation with a specialist in some field. (The person called probably will not “come in,” but will work at another place.) □ We will have to call a heart specialist in for a consultation. □ We called in another specialist for an opinion.

call someone names to call someone by an abusive or insulting name. □ Billy cried when the other kids called him names. □ John was punished for calling his teacher names.

call someone on the carpet and haul someone on the carpet Fig. to reprimand a person. (When done by someone of clear superiority. Haul is stronger than call.) □ One more error like that and the big boss will call you on the carpet. □ I'm sorry it went wrong. I really hope the regional manager doesn't call me on the carpet again.

call someone or an animal off someone or something and call someone or an animal off¹ to request that someone or an animal stop bothering or pursuing someone or something; to call a halt to an attack by someone or an animal. □ Please call your dogs off my brother. □ Call off your spying on me, or else!

call someone or something back¹ to call out that someone or something should come back. □ As she left, the clerk called her back. □ The clerk called back the customer.

call someone or something in¹ 1. to call on the special talents, abilities, or power of someone or something. □ They had to call a new doctor in. □ Yes, they had to call in a specialist. 2. Go to call someone or something into something.

call someone or something into question to cause someone or something to be evaluated; to examine or reexamine the qualifications or value of someone or something. □ Because of her poor record, we were forced to call Dr. Jones into question. □ We called Dr. Jones's qualifications into question.

call someone or something into something and call someone or something in¹ to call to a person or a pet to come into
something or some place. ☐ Would you please call Jeff into the house? ☐ Please call in Jeff.

call someone or something out1 to request the services of someone or a group. (See also call someone up; call someone out.) ☐ Things got bad enough that the governor called the militia out. ☐ The governor called out the militia.

call someone or something up1 to call someone, a group, or a company on the telephone. ☐ I will call them up and see what they have to say. ☐ Please call up the supplier.

call someone out1 to challenge someone to a fight. ☐ Wilbur wanted to call him out, but thought better of it. ☐ Why did you call out that guy? He used to be a prizefighter!

call someone over (to some place) to request that someone come to where one is. ☐ I will call her over to us, and you can ask her what you want to know. ☐ Call over the waitress so we can order. ☐ I called Ted over.

call someone’s attention to something and call something to someone’s attention to bring something to someone’s notice; to make someone recognize some fact. ☐ May I call your attention to the sign on the door? ☐ He called to our attention the notice on the wall.

call someone’s bluff to demand that someone prove a claim or is not being deceptive. ☐ All right, I’ll call your bluff. Show me you can do it! ☐ Tom said, “You’ve made me really angry, and I’ll punch you if you come any closer!” “Go ahead,” said Bill, calling his bluff.

call someone to account to ask one to explain and justify one’s behavior, policy, performance, etc. ☐ The sergeant called the police officer to account. ☐ I called my workers to account for the accident.

call someone to attention to demand that someone assume the formal military stance of attention. ☐ The officer called the platoon to attention. ☐ The sergeant called us to attention.

call someone together to request that people come together for a meeting. ☐ Please call everyone together and we’ll discuss this. ☐ I called all the players together.

call someone up1 to request that someone or a group report for active military service. (See also call someone or something out.) ☐ The government called the reserve units up for active service. ☐ They called up another battalion.

call something (back) in and call something in1 to formally request (usually by mail) that something be returned. ☐ The car company called many cars back in for repairs. ☐ They called in a lot of cars.

call something down1 (on someone) Fig. to invoke some sort of divine punishment onto someone. ☐ The preacher sounded as though he was calling down the wrath of God on us. ☐ Moses called down a plague on the Pharaoh.

call something down1 (to someone) to shout something to a person on a lower level. ☐ The worker called a warning down to the people below. ☐ She called down a warning to them.

call something forth1 [for an event] to draw a particular quality or induce a particular behavior. ☐ The battle called extraordinary courage forth from the soldiers. ☐ It called forth great courage.

call something in1 Go to call something (back) in.

call something off1 to cancel an event. ☐ It’s too late to call the party off. The first guests have already arrived. ☐ Because of rain, they called off the baseball game.

call something out1 1. to draw on something, such as a particular quality or talent. ☐ It’s times like these that call the best out in us. ☐ These times call out our best effort. 2. to shout something out. ☐ Who called the warning out? ☐ You should call out a warning to those behind you on the trail.

call something square to pronounce a debt or obligation to have been paid, balanced, or ended. ☐ Thanks for the hundred bucks. I think we can call it square now.

call something to mind and bring something to mind to bring something into someone’s mind; to cause something to be remembered. ☐ Your comment calls something unpleasant to mind. ☐ This photo album calls our vacation to mind.

call something to someone’s attention Go to call someone’s attention to something.

call something up1 to summon information from a computer. ☐ John used his laptop to call the information up. ☐ With a few strokes on the computer keyboard, Sally called up the figures she was looking for.

call the dogs off1 1. Lit. to order hunting or watch dogs to abandon their quarry. ☐ They robber gave up and the guard called the dogs off. ☐ Call off the dogs! 2. Fig. to stop threatening, chasing, or hounding [a person]. ☐ Tell the sheriff to call off the dogs. We caught the robber. ☐ Okay, you’ve caught me! Please call your dogs off!

call the meeting to order Go to call a meeting to order.

call (the) roll and take (the) roll to call the names of people from a list of those enrolled, expecting them to reply if they are present. ☐ After I call the roll, please open your books to page 12. ☐ I will take roll, and then we will do arithmetic.

call the shots and call the tune Fig. to make the decisions; to decide what is to be done. ☐ Sally always wants to call the shots, and Mary doesn’t like to be bossed around. They don’t get along well. ☐ Sally always wants to call the tune.

call the tune Go to previous.

call to someone to shout to get someone’s attention. ☐ I called to Fred, but he didn’t hear me. ☐ Did you hear me call to you?

call (upon) someone 1. to visit someone. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) ☐ My mother’s friends call upon her every Wednesday. ☐ Let’s call on Mrs. Franklin this afternoon. 2. to choose someone to respond, as in a classroom. ☐ The teacher called upon me, but I was not ready to recite. ☐ Please don’t call on me. I can’t remember a thing.

call (upon) someone (for something) to choose someone to do or to help with some particular task. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) ☐ Can I call upon you for help? ☐ You can call on me at any time.

call (upon) someone (to do something) to choose someone to do something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) ☐ I call upon all of you to make your feelings
called to straw

Rur. about to begin labor and childbirth.

Susan was called to straw when she was only seven months along.

Nancy’s nine months pregnant and could be called to straw any day now.

the calm before the storm Go to the lull before the storm.

calm down to relax; to become less busy or active.

Now, now, calm down. You look so nervous. Please calm down. Nothing bad is going to happen.

calm someone or an animal down1 to cause someone or an animal to be less active, upset, or unsettled.

Please try to calm yourself down! Can you calm down your yapping dog?

camp in the boondocks Go to in the boondocks.

camp in the boones Go to in the boondocks.

camp it up [for performers] to overact or behave in an affected manner.

The cast began to camp it up in the second act, and the critics walked out. (Fixed order.)

There is no need to camp it up. Play it the way it was written.

camp out to live out of doors temporarily in a tent or camping vehicle, as on a vacation or special camping trip.

I love to camp out in the winter.

campaign against someone or something 1. to crusade or battle against someone or something.

Currently, I am campaigning against littering.

Sarah is campaigning against crooked politicians.

2. to run one’s political campaign against someone or something.

I campaigned against the incumbent and won.

John spent a lot of time campaigning against Sarah for class president.

campaign for someone or something to support actively someone or someone’s candidacy for political office.

I would be very happy to campaign for you. I want to campaign for the winning candidate.

Can do. I can definitely do it. (The opposite of No can do.)

Jane: Will you be able to get this finished by quitting time today? Alice: Can do. Leave it to me.

Bob: Can you get this pack of papers over to the lawyer’s office by noon? Bill: Can do. I’m leaving now. Bye.

Can I help you? Go to Could I help you?

Can I leave a message? Go to Could I leave a message?

Can I see you again? Go to Could I see you again?

Can I see you in my office? Go to Could I see you in my office?

Can I speak to someone? Go to Could I speak to someone?

Can I take a message? Go to Could I take a message?

Can I take your order (now)? Go to Could I take your order (now)?

Can I tell her who’s calling? Go to Could I tell him who’s calling?

Can I use your powder room? Go to Could I use your powder room?

Can it! Shut up! I’ve heard enough of your arguing. Can it! That’s enough complaining from you! Can it!

can (just) whistle for something Fig. can just forget about having something.

The last time Mary came over for dinner, she was downright rude. If she wants dinner at my house again, she can just whistle for it.

I asked the boss for a promotion. He told me I could whistle for it.

*a can of worms Fig. a very difficult issue or set of problems; an array of difficulties.

Typically: be ~; open ~.) This political scandal is a real can of worms.

Let’s not open that can of worms!

can take it to the bank Fig. able to depend on the truthfulness of my statement: it is not counterfeit or bogus; to be able to bank on something.

Believe me. What I am telling you is the truth. You can take it to the bank.

This information is as good as gold. You can take it to the bank.

Can we continue this later? Go to Could we continue this later?

Can you excuse us, please? Go to Could you excuse us, please?

Can you hold? Go to Could you hold?

Can you imagine? Can you believe that? Imagine that!

She wore jeans to the wedding. Can you imagine? Billy was eating the houseplant! Can you imagine?

Can you keep a secret? Go to Could you keep a secret?

cancel each other out1 [for the opposite effects of two things] to balance each other.

The cost of the meal you bought and what I owed you cancel each other out, so we’re even.

They canceled out each other.

cancel out (of something) to withdraw from something.

I hate to cancel out of the event at the last minute, but this is an emergency. It’s too late to cancel out.

cancel someone out1 Go to next.

cancel someone out of something and cancel someone out1 1. to eliminate someone from something (as from a list of names).

We had to cancel them out. We canceled out all the people who did not show up. 2. Sl. to eliminate someone; to kill someone.

The drug lord threatened to cancel out his former partner for testifying against him.

cancel someone’s Christmas Sl. to kill someone; to destroy someone. (Underworld or jocular; the idea is that the dead person will not live until Christmas.)

If he keeps bugging me, I’m gonna cancel his Christmas.

Willie threatened to cancel out Richard’s Christmas if Richard didn’t pay up.

cancel something out1 to balance the effects of something.

Sending flowers might cancel the bad feelings out.

The last payment canceled out the debt.

*a candidate for a pair of wings Euph. someone who is likely to die; someone who is close to death. (Jocular. Typically: be ~; look like ~.)

Whenever Jane wants to cross the street, she just walks out into traffic without looking. She’s a candidate for a pair of wings, I say.

Tom: How’s Bill doing? I heard he was sick. Jane: Not good, I’m afraid. He looks like a candidate for a pair of wings.

cannot See the expressions listed at can’t and also those at not able.

cannot carry a tune Go to can’t carry a tune.
can't help doing something not able to refrain from doing something; not able not to do something. □ Anne is such a good cook, I can't help eating everything she serves. □ Since John loves to shop, he can't help spending money.

cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose Go to see no further than the end of one's nose.

cannot see the forest for the trees Go to next.

cannot see the wood for the trees and cannot see the forest for the trees Prov. Cannot perceive the overview or important things because of concentrating too much on details. □ The information presented in this textbook is so disorganized that I can't see the wood for the trees. □ The politician's opponents claimed that she couldn't see the forest for the trees, because she spent so much time trying to solve minor problems.

cannot stomach someone or something Go to not able to stomach someone or something.

[cannot][can't][can't][can't][can't][can't][can't] See the expressions listed at not able, as well as those listed below.

can't call one's soul one's own Fig. working for other people all the time. □ Jane has to work two jobs and take care of both her aging parents. She can't call her soul her own. □ Between supporting his family and working off his brother's bad debts, Bob really can't call his soul his own.

can't carry a tune and cannot carry a tune; can't carry a tune in a bushel basket; can't carry a tune in a bucket; can't carry a tune in a paper sack Fig. [to be] unable to sing a simple melody; lacking musical ability. □ I wish that Tom wouldn't try to sing. He can't carry a tune. □ I don't know why Mary's in the choir. She can't carry a tune in a bushel basket. □ Joe likes to sing in the shower, though he can't carry a tune in a bucket. □ I'd try to hum the song for you, but I can't carry a tune in a paper sack.

can't carry a tune in a bucket Go to previous.

can't carry a tune in a bushel basket Go to can't carry a tune.

can't carry a tune in a paper sack Go to can't carry a tune.

can't do anything with someone or something not [to be] able to manage or control someone or something. (Also with cannot.) □ Bill is such a discipline problem. I can't do anything with him. □ My hair is such a mess. I just can't do anything with it.

can't find one's butt with both hands (in broad daylight) Sl. is stupid or incompetent. (Use caution with butt, which is often considered crude.) □ Why did they put Jim in charge? He can't find his butt with both hands! □ Tom: Jane seems like a bright girl. Bill: You've got to be kidding! She couldn't find her butt with both hands in broad daylight!

can't hack it unable to do the job. □ I thought delivering papers would be an easy job, but I just can't hack it. □ If you can't hack it, let me know, and I'll help you out.

can't help but do something [to be] unable to choose any but one course of action. (Also with cannot.) □ Her parents live nearby, so she can't help but go there on holidays. □ Bob is a tennis fan and can't help but travel to Wimbledon each year.

can't hit the (broad) side of a barn Rur. cannot aim something accurately. □ You're way off. You couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. □ Please don't try to throw the paper into the wastebasket. You can't hit the side of a barn.

can't hold a candle to someone Fig. not [to be] equal to someone; unable to measure up to someone. (Also with cannot.) □ Mary can't hold a candle to Ann when it comes to athletics. □ As for singing, John can't hold a candle to Jane.

can't make heads or tails (of) someone or something Fig. [to be] unable to understand someone or something. (Also with cannot.) □ John is so strange. I can't make heads or tails of him. □ Do this report again. I can't make heads or tails out of it.

Can't say (a)s I do, can't say (a)s I don't. Rur. I am not sure. □ Tom: Do you know Mr. Smith? Mary: Well, I can't say as I do, can't say as I don't. □ Jane: What do you think of my cousin? Do you like him? Mary: Can't say I do, can't say I don't.

can't say boo to a goose Rur. shy and not talkative. □ I was surprised to see Joe so talkative at the party. Usually he can't say boo to a goose. □ She's a quiet little kid. Can't say boo to a goose.

can't see a hole in a ladder stupid or drunk. □ No use asking her questions. She can't see a hole in a ladder. □ After the big party, Joe needed someone to drive him home. He couldn't see a hole in a ladder.

can't see beyond the end of one's nose Go to see no further than the end of one's nose.

can't see one's hand in front of one's face Fig. [to be] unable to see very far, usually due to darkness or fog. (Also with cannot.) □ It was so dark that I couldn't see my hand in front of my face. □ Bob said that the fog was so thick he couldn't see his hand in front of his face.

can't see straight Fig. cannot function (often because of strong emotion). □ I am so mad I can't see straight. □ She left me so frustrated that I couldn't see straight.

can't stand (the sight of) someone or something and can't stomach someone or something Fig. [to be] unable to tolerate someone or something; disliking someone or something extremely. (Also with cannot.) □ I can't stand the sight of cooked carrots. □ Mr. Jones can't stomach the sight of blood. □ None of us can stand this place. □ Nobody can stand Tom when he smokes a cigar.

can't stomach someone or something Go to previous.

can't wait (for something [to happen]) to be very eager, as if to be unable to endure the wait for something to happen. □ I am so eager for my birthday to come. I just can't wait.

can't wait (to do something) to be very eager, as if to be unable to endure the wait until it is possible to do something. □ I'm glad it's almost summertime—I just can't wait to go swimming!

cap and gown the academic cap or mortarboard and the robe worn in formal academic ceremonies. □ We all had to rent cap and gown for graduation. □ I appeared wearing my cap and gown, but I had shorts on underneath because it gets so hot at that time of year.
capable of doing something having the ability to do something. □ Do you think Tom is capable of lifting 200 pounds? □ No one I know is capable of such a crime!
capitalize on something Fig. to build on something; to exploit something, such as an opportunity of talent, to one’s own benefit. □ Let’s try to capitalize on the strength of the economy and invest for the future. □ Capitalize on your experience in the field and you’ll do well in the interview.
capitulate to someone or something to surrender or submit to someone or something. □ The general finally capitulated to the enemy. □ I won’t capitulate in this argument.
captain of industry Fig. a high-ranking corporation officer; a wealthy and successful capitalist. □ The captains of industry manage to hang on to their money no matter what. □ It’s fun to see those captains of industry drive up in their limousines.
capture someone’s imagination Fig. to intrigue someone; to interest someone in a lasting way; to stimulate imagination. □ The story of the young wizard has captured the imagination of the world’s children.
*a card Fig. an entertaining and clever person who says or does funny things. (Typically: act like ~; be ~.) □ He is such a card. Always making jokes. □ Mary is a card, and she has to learn to take things seriously sometimes.
card-carrying member Fig. an official member of some group, originally, the communist party. □ Bill is a card-carrying member of the electricians union.
the cards are stacked against one [informal] luck is against one. (See also stack the deck [against someone or something].) □ I have the worst luck. The cards are stacked against me all the time. □ How can I accomplish anything when the cards are stacked against me?
care about someone or something 1. to hold someone or something dear; to prize someone or something. □ I really care about you. □ I care very much about my family. □ I have even minimal regard for someone or something. (Does not imply any of the tender feelings expressed in 1.) □ Don’t you care about animals? □ I care about what happens in Washington.
care for someone to feel tenderly toward someone; to love someone. □ I care for you a great deal, Walter. □ I care for you too, Alice.
care for someone or something to take care of someone or something. □ Will you care for my cat while I am away? □ I would be happy to care for your child.
care for something to like the taste of some kind of food or drink. (Usually used with a negative.) □ I don’t care for sweet potatoes. □ I don’t care for sweet desserts.
care nothing about someone or something to have no regard or respect for someone or something. □ You have hurt me with your insults. I care nothing about you? □ She cares nothing about your money!
care nothing for someone or something not to like someone or something. □ She cares nothing for your suggestion. □ Sarah cares nothing for Jeff.
care to do something to want to do something; to be willing to do something. □ I really don’t care to see that movie. □ Would you care to go out for dinner?
careful not to do something using care to avoid some difficulty or difficulties. □ Please be careful not to discuss politics with Mr. Brown. □ Please be careful not to leave the house unlocked.
careful (with something) treating or handling something with caution. □ Please be careful with the vase. It’s old and valuable. □ That’s too big a load. Be careful!
carp about someone or something to complain about someone or something. □ You are always carping about all your petty problems at work. □ Stop carping about Randy!
carp at someone (about someone or something) to complain to someone about someone or something. □ Why are you always carping at me about your family? □ You are always carping at Joan about her brother.
carp at someone or something to criticize someone or something. □ Poor Clara is carping at Bill’s carelessness again. □ Please stop carping at me.
carry (a lot of) weight (with someone or something) Fig. to be very influential with someone or some group of people. □ Your argument does not carry a lot of weight with me. □ The senator’s testimony carried a lot of weight with the council.
carry a secret to the grave and carry a secret to one’s grave Fig. to never reveal a secret, even to the day of one’s death. □ John carried our secret to his grave. □ Trust me, I will carry your secret to the grave!
carry a torch (for someone) and carry the torch (for someone) Fig. to be in love with someone who is not in love with you; to brood over a hopeless love affair. □ John is carrying a torch for Jane. □ Is John still carrying a torch after all this time?
carry coals to Newcastle Prov. to do something unnecessary; to do something that is redundant or duplicative. (Newcastle is an English town from which coal was shipped to other parts of England.) □ Mr. Smith is so rich he doesn’t need any more money. To give him a gift certificate is like carrying coals to Newcastle.
carry on to behave badly or mischievously. □ The children always carry on when the teacher’s out of the room. □ Stop carrying on and go to sleep!
carry on (about someone or something) to make a great fuss over someone or something; to cry (especially for a long time or uncontrollably) about someone or something. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ Billy, stop carrying on about your tummy ache like that. □ The child carried on endlessly when his mother scolded him. □ When the soldier finally came home, his wife cried and carried on for hours. □ Calm down. There’s no need to carry on.
carry on somehow to manage to continue or endure, in spite of problems. □ Even though we did not have a lot of money, we managed to carry on somehow. □ Don’t worry about us. We will carry on somehow.
carry on (to something) to continue on to some place or some time. □ Please keep reading. Carry on to the next page. □ Please carry on with your report.
carry on (with someone) to flirt with someone; to have a love affair with someone. □ It looks like Linda is carrying on with James.
carry on (with something) to continue doing something. (Compare this with carry something on.) □ Please carry on with your singing. □ Tom carried on with his boring speech for twenty minutes.

carry on without someone or something to manage to continue without someone or something. □ I don’t know how we will be able to carry on without you. □ We can’t carry on without a leader!

carry one’s cross Go to bear one’s cross.

carry one’s (own) weight and pull one’s (own) weight Fig. to do one’s share; to earn one’s keep. (The weight is the burden that is the responsibility of someone.) □ Tom, you must be more helpful around the house. We each have to carry our own weight. □ Bill, I’m afraid that you can’t work here anymore. You just haven’t been carrying your weight.

carry over to extend into another time period or location. □ I don’t like for bills to carry over into the next month. □ Please do not let the paragraph carry over.

carry over (to something) 1. [for a sum or other figure] to be taken to another column of figures. □ This amount carries over into the next column. □ Yes, this number carries over. 2. to last or continue until another time. □ Will this enthusiasm carry over to the following week? □ Of course, it will carry over.

carry someone along (with someone) [for someone’s enthusiasm or power] to affect other people and persuade them. □ The excitement of the play carried the audience along with the actors. □ She carried along the audience with her all the way.

carry someone along (with something) to transport someone as it moves along. □ Please carry back the empty box after you take out all the groceries.

carry someone around (with oneself) 1. Lit. to be the source of transport for someone, usually a child. □ I’m tired of carrying this baby around with me everywhere. Can’t I buy a baby carriage? □ I always carry around my child with me. 2. Fig. to have in mind the memory or a sense of presence of another person with oneself. □ I have been carrying my dead grandfather around with me for years. □ She carries around her brother with her in her memories.

carry someone away [for someone or something] to cause a person to lose control. □ The fervor of the speech carried away the whole crowd.

carry someone back (to some time) to return someone, mentally, to a former time; to remind someone of an earlier time. □ This carries me back to the times of knights and jousting. □ This article about the Sixties really carries me back.

carry someone or something about and carry someone or something around to carry someone or something with one; to carry someone or something from place to place. □ Do I have to carry these books about all over campus? □ You are too heavy, sweetie. I don’t want to carry you around all day.

carry someone or something away [for someone or something] to take or steal someone or something. □ Someone carried our lawn furniture away while we were on vacation. □ The kidnappers carried away the child when no one was looking.

carry someone or something into some place and carry someone or something in to lift and move someone or something to some place. □ Will you carry the baby into the bedroom? □ Let me carry in the packages.

carry someone or something off [for someone or something] to take or steal someone or something. □ The kidnappers carried off the child. □ They carried off the child.

carry someone or something out to lift up and move someone or something out. □ Help me carry the baby and her things out. □ Let’s carry out the dishes and set the table.

carry someone or something over from something to transport someone or something from somewhere, usually a great distance or another country. □ The ship carried the travel club over from Spain. □ They carried over all my furniture from Paris.

carry someone or something over to something to lift and move someone or something to another place. □ Please carry this over to the window. □ Could you carry Timmy over to his bed, please? He’s asleep.

carry someone or something through something to lift up and move someone or something through something. □ We will have to carry him through the crowd to the ambulance. □ Jane carried the groceries through the doorway.

carry someone somewhere Rur. to take or escort someone somewhere. □ Friday nights, Joe always carries his wife to town. □ “May I carry you home?” the young man asked Jane.

carry someone through (something) to sustain someone (as someone’s expenses or needs) during something. □ Can this amount carry you through the week? □ Yes, this will carry me through.

carry something along (with someone) to bring or take something with one; to have something with one and have it handy at all times. □ You should carry this emergency phone list along with you whenever you travel. □ Please carry along this package when you go.

carry something around (with one) to have something on one’s person at all times. □ He carries a backpack around with him. □ Max carries around his checkbook with him.

carry something back to take something back to where it came from. □ Did you bring this here? If so, carry it back. □ Please carry back the empty box after you take out all the books.

carry something down [for someone or something] to take something from a higher place to a lower place. □ Would you go up to the attic and carry the trunk down? □ Why should I carry down the trunk?

carry something forward to take a figure from one column or category to another. □ Now, carry this figure forward into the tens column.

carry something off 1. Lit. to take something away with oneself; to steal something. □ Someone carried off my books! □ I think someone carried off the lawn chairs last night. 2. Fig. to make a planned event work out successfully. □ It was a huge party, but the hostess carried it off beautifully. □ The magician carried off the trick with great skill.
carry something on 1. to do something over a period of time. (Compare this with carry on (with something.) ☐ Do you think you can carry this on for a year? ☐ I will carry on this activity for three years if you want. 2. to continue to do something as a tradition. ☐ We intend to carry this celebration on as long as the family can gather for the holidays. ☐ We will carry on this tradition for decades, in fact. 3. Go to carry something onto something.

carry something on someone’s shoulders Go to on someone’s shoulders.

carry something onto something and carry something on 1. to take something onto a vehicle. ☐ Do you plan to carry this bag onto the plane? ☐ I’d like to carry on two bags. ☐ Can I carry them both on? 2. carry something out 1. to perform a task; to perform an assignment. “This is a very important job,” said Jane. “Do you think you can carry it out?” ☐ The students didn’t carry out their assignments.

carry something over 1. to let something like a bill extend into another period of time. ☐ We’ll carry the amount of money due over into the next month. ☐ Yes, please carry over the balance.

carry something over (until some time) and carry something over (to some time) to defer something until a particular time. ☐ Can we carry this discussion over until later? ☐ We will carry over our discussion to tomorrow.

carry something with* 1. Go to next.

carry something with one and carry something with* 1 to have something with one or on one’s person. (The second form is informal.) ☐ Do you always carry that bag with you? ☐ I always carry a pen with.

carry the ball 1. Lit. to be the player who is relied on to gain yardage, especially in football. ☐ It was the fullback carrying the ball. ☐ Yes, Tom always carries the ball. 2. Fig. to be in charge; to be considered reliable enough to make sure that a job gets done. ☐ We need someone who knows how to get the job done. Hey, Sally! Why don’t you carry the ball for us? ☐ John can’t carry the ball. He isn’t organized enough.

carry the day and win the day to be successful; to win a competition, argument, etc. (Originally meaning to win a battle.) ☐ Our team didn’t play well at first, but we won the day in the end. ☐ Preparation won the day and James passed his exams.

carry the torch 1. Fig. to lead or participate in a (figurative) crusade. ☐ The battle was over, but John continued to carry the torch. ☐ If Jane hadn’t carried the torch, no one would have followed, and the whole thing would have failed. 2. Go to carry a torch (for someone).

carry the weight of the world on one’s shoulders Fig. to appear or behave as if burdened by all the problems in the whole world. ☐ Look at Tom. He appears to be carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. ☐ Cheer up, Tom! You don’t need to carry the weight of the world on your shoulders.

carry through (on something) Go to follow through (on something).

carry weight (with someone) Fig. to have influence with someone; [for an explanation] to amount to a good argument to use with someone. ☐ That carries a lot of weight with the older folks. ☐ What you say carries no weight with me.

cart someone or something off 1. to take or haul someone or something away. (When used with someone the person is treated like an object.) ☐ The police came and carted her off. ☐ Let’s cart off these boxes.

carte blanche Fig. freedom or permission to act as one wishes or thinks necessary. (“Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~;) ☐ He’s been given carte blanche with the reorganization of the workforce. ☐ The manager has been given no instructions about how to train the staff. He has carte blanche from the owner.

carve someone or something up 1. to damage someone or something by careless or purposeful cutting (of a person, can be figurative). ☐ Someone carved the tabletop up. Who did it and why? ☐ The boxer wanted to carve up his opponent.

carve something from something to shape by cutting something off or out of something with a knife. ☐ Can you carve an elephant from a bar of soap?

carve something in 1. Go to carve something into something.

carve something in stone Fig. to fix some idea permanently. (See also carved in stone.) ☐ No one has carved this one approach in stone; we have several options.

carve something into something 1. and carve something in 4 to cut letters or symbols into something. ☐ He carved his initials into a tree. ☐ He carved in the letters one by one. 2. to create a carved object by sculpturing raw material. ☐ Ken carved the apple into a tiny snowman.

carve something out to hollow something out by carving; to make something hollow by carving. ☐ Can he carve a bowl out of such soft wood? ☐ He carved out the bowl of the pipe and then began to sand it.

carve something out (of something) to remove something from the inside of something else by carving or cutting. ☐ She carved the insides out. ☐ She carved out the insides of the pumpkin.

carve something up 1. to divide something up, perhaps carelessly. ☐ The peace treaty carved the former empire up into several countries. ☐ You can’t just carve up one country and give the pieces away.

carved in stone and engraved in stone; written in stone Fig. permanent or not subject to change. (Often in the negative.) ☐ Now, this isn’t carved in stone yet, but this looks like the way it’s going to be. ☐ Is this policy carved in stone, or can it still be modified?

the case the [current] instance; an actual situation. ☐ I think Bill is a vegetarian, and if that is the case, we should not serve him meat. ☐ Susie believes trees can talk, but that is not the case.

case in point a specific example of what one is talking about. ☐ Now, as a case in point, let’s look at nineteenth-century England. ☐ Fireworks can be dangerous. For a case in point, look at what happened to Bob Smith last Fourth of July.

case of mistaken identity the incorrect identification of someone. ☐ I am not the criminal you want to arrest. This is a case of mistaken identity.
*a case of something 1. an instance of something. (*Typically: be ~; have ~.) □ This is a case of police brutality. They should not have injured the suspect. 2. an occurrence of a disease. (*Typically: be ~; look like ~; treat ~.) □ I am suffering from a case of the flu.

case of the blind leading the blind Fig. a situation where people who don’t know how to do something try to teach other people. □ Tom doesn't know anything about cars, but he’s trying to teach Sally how to change the oil. It’s a case of the blind leading the blind. □ When I tried to show Mary how to use a computer, it was a case of the blind leading the blind.

case someone or something out† Sl. to look someone or something over carefully, with a view to additional activity at a later time. □ He came into the room and cased all the lighting fixtures out. □ He cased out the fixtures to see which ones to replace. □ John cased the girls out.

case the joint 1. Sl. to look over some place to figure out how to break in, what to steal, etc. (Underworld.) □ First of all you gotta case the joint to see where things are. □ You could see he was casing the joint the way he hung around. 2. Sl. to look a place over. □ The dog came in and cased the joint, sniffing out friends and foes. □ The old lady entered slowly, casing the joint for someone of her own age, and finally took a seat.

cash flow problem a lack of hard currency. □ My real estate business has a temporary cash flow problem. □ Due to his cash flow problem, he was unable to pay his employees that month.

cash in (on something) Fig. to earn a lot of money at something; to make a profit at something. □ This is a good year for drug stocks, and you can cash in on it if you’re smart. □ It’s too late to cash in on that particular clothing fad.

cash is trash. Get into the market or you stand to lose a bundle.

cash money Rur. money in bills and coins. □ You could make cash money selling your quilts, you really could. □ Joe wants cash money for his old TV set. He won’t let me have it on credit.

cash on the barrelhead and cash on the line Rur. cash at the time of purchase. □ Jonson's store doesn't give credit. Everything is cash on the barrelhead. □ They offered me fifty thousand dollars cash on the line for Aunt Nancy's old house.

cash on the line Go to previous.

cash (one’s chips) in† 1. Lit. to turn in one's gaming tokens or poker chips when one quits playing. □ When you leave the game, you should cash your chips in. □ Cash in your chips before you go. □ I’m going to cash in. 2. Fig. to quit [anything], as if one were cashing in gaming tokens; to leave or go to bed. □ I guess I’ll cash my chips in and go home. □ Well, it’s time to cash in my chips and go home. □ I’m really tired. I’m going to cash in. 3. and cash one’s checks in† Euph. to die; to finish the “game of life.” □ There’s a funeral procession. Who cashed his chips in? □ Poor Fred cashed in his chips last week.

cash or credit [a purchase made] either by paying cash or by putting the charges on a credit account. □ When Fred had all his purchases assembled on the counter, the clerk asked, “Cash or credit?” □ That store does not give you a choice of cash or credit. They want cash only.

cash something in† to exchange something with cash value for the amount of money it is worth. □ I should have cashed my insurance policy in years ago. □ It’s time to cash in your U. S. savings bonds.

cash something in† for something) to exchange a security for money; to convert a foreign currency to one's own currency; to turn gaming tokens or poker chips in for money. (See also cash (one’s chips) in.) □ I cashed the bonds in for a cashier's check. □ I cashed in my bonds for their face value.

cash-and-carry a method of buying and selling goods at the retail level where the buyer pays cash for the goods and carries the goods away. (As opposed to paying on credit or with the cost of delivery included.) □ Sorry, we don't accept credit cards. This is strictly cash-and-carry. □ I bought the chair cash-and-carry before I realized that I had no way to get it home.

cast a spell (on someone) 1. Lit. to enchant someone with a magic spell. □ The wizard cast a spell on the frog, turning it into a prince with bad skin. 2. Fig. to intrigue and delight someone. □ She is a real beauty. She cast a spell on every man she met.

cast around for someone or something and cast about for someone or something to seek someone or something; to seek a thought or an idea. (Alludes to a type of person or thing rather than a specific one.) □ John is casting around for a new cook. The old one quit. □ Bob is casting about for a new car.

cast aspersions on someone to make a rude and insulting remark. □ I resent your casting aspersions on my brother and his ability! □ It is rude to cast aspersions on people in general.

cast doubt(s) (on someone or something) to cause someone or something to be doubted. □ The police cast doubt on my story. □ How can they cast doubt? They haven’t looked into it yet. □ The city council cast doubt on John and his plan.

cast in the same mold Fig. of two or more people or things very similar. □ The two sisters are cast in the same mold—equally mean. □ All the members of the family are cast in the same mold and they all had success as entertainers.

cast off (from something) [for the crew of a boat or ship] to push away from the dock or pier; to begin the process of navigating a boat or ship. □ The crew cast off from the dock. □ It’s time to cast off.
Cast one’s bread upon the waters. Prov. Act generous because you feel it is right and not because you expect a reward. (Biblical.). Joseph is casting his bread upon the waters, supporting Bob while he works on his novel. Cast your bread upon the waters; make a generous contribution to our cause.

cast one’s eyes down† Fig. to tilt one’s head or gaze downward. (Usually a sign of shame or to appear not to have seen someone.) She cast her eyes down as they saw each other again. He cast down his eyes in shame.

cast one’s lot in† (with someone or something) to join in with someone or a group. He cast his lot in with the others. She cast in her lot with the others. She cast in with a questionable crowd.

cast (one’s) pears before swine Fig. to waste something good on someone who doesn’t care about it. (From a biblical quotation.) To sing for them is to cast pears before swine. To serve them French cuisine is like casting one’s pears before swine.

cast one’s vote to vote; to place one’s ballot in the ballot box. The citizens cast their votes for president. The wait in line to cast one’s vote was almost an hour.

cast someone as something 1. Lit. to choose someone to play a particular role in a play, opera, film, etc. The director cast her as the young singer. They cast me as a villain. 2. Fig. to decide or fantasize that someone is going to follow a particular pattern of behavior in real life. I’m afraid my teachers cast me as a dummy when I was very young. They cast me as someone who would not succeed.

cast someone aside† and cast someone off†; cast someone away† Fig. to dispose of someone; to reject or discard someone. He simply cast his wife aside, and that was it.

cast someone or something up† [for the waves] to bring up and deposit someone or something on the shore. The waves cast the wreckage up, and it was found on the shore. The waves cast up the wreckage of a boat.

cast something aside† and cast something off†; cast something away† to throw something away. You can’t just cast aside a new coat that you’ve only worn once.

cast something back (some place) to throw something back somewhere. I cast the fish back in the water. Cast back those stones and all the others you took from the pile.

cast something down† to hurl or throw someone or something down. She cast the glass down, breaking it into a thousand pieces. She cast down the tray and all that was on it.

cast something off† Go to cast someone or something aside†.

cast the first stone Fig. to make the first criticism; to be the first to attack. (From a biblical quotation.) Well, I don’t want to be the one to cast the first stone, but she sang horribly. John always casts the first stone. Does he think he’s perfect?

cast-iron stomach Fig. a very strong stomach that can withstand bad food or anything nauseating. If I didn’t have a cast-iron stomach, I couldn’t eat this stuff. Fred—known for his cast-iron stomach—ate ten whole hot peppers.

A cat can look at a king. Prov. No one is so important that an ordinary person cannot look at him or her; everyone has the right to be curious about important people. Jane: I get so angry at those people who read tabloid mag-azines. The private lives of television stars are none of their business. Alan: Don’t be so hard on them. A cat can look at a king.

A cat has nine lives. Prov. Cats can survive things that are severe enough to kill them. (You can also refer to a particular cat’s nine lives.) My cat fell off a third-floor balcony and just walked away. How can he do that? Jane: A cat has nine lives. I think my cat used up one of her nine lives when she survived being hit by that car.

A cat in gloves catches no mice. Prov. Sometimes you cannot get what you want by being careful and polite. I’ve hinted to Mary several times that I need her to pay me the money she owes, but she just ignores me. Jane: A cat in gloves catches no mice. Tell her bluntly that you need the money.

the cat is out of the bag Fig. the secret has been made known. (See also let the cat out of the bag.) Now that the cat is out of the bag, there is no sense in pretending we don’t know what’s really happening.

catapult someone or something into something 1. Lit. to throw someone or something into a place using a catapult. The soldiers catapulted the huge stone into the fortress. 2. Fig. to thrust or force someone or something into something, such as fame, glory, front-page news, etc. The success catapulted her into the spotlight.

The scan-dal catapulted the contractual arrangements into public scrutiny.

catch a glimpse of someone or something Go to catch sight of someone or something.

catch a whiff of something Go to a whiff of something.

catch (a)hold of someone or something to grasp or seize someone or something. See if you can catch hold of the rope as it swings back and forth. I couldn’t catch ahold of her.

catch cold and take cold Fig. to contract a cold (a common respiratory infection.) (Use with catch is more frequent.) Please close the window, or we’ll all catch cold. I take cold every year at this time.

catch forty winks and take forty winks; have forty winks Fig. to take a nap; to get some sleep. I’ll just catch forty winks before getting ready for the party. I think I’ll go to bed and take forty winks. See you in the morning.

Catch me hell. Go to hell.

catch hell (about someone or something) and get hell (about someone or something); catch hell (for something) to be scolded (about someone or something). This isn’t the first time Bill’s caught hell about his drinking. We knew we were gonna catch hell when Ma saw how we’d ruined her garden. Somebody is going to catch hell for this!

catch it to get into trouble and receive punishment. I know I’m going to catch it for denting mom’s car when I get home. Bob hit Billy in the face. He really caught it from the teacher for that.

Catch me later. and Catch me some other time. Please try to talk to me later. Bill (angry): Tom, look at this phone bill! Tom: Catch me later. “Catch me some other time,” hollered Mr. Franklin over his shoulder. “I’ve got to go to the airport.”
catch someone with something

**catch**

**catch (on) fire** to ignite and burn with flames. □ Keep your coat away from the flames, or it will catch fire. □ The curtains blew against the flame of the candle and caught on fire.

**catch on (to something)** Fig. to figure something out. (See also get onto someone.) □ I finally caught on to what she was talking about. □ It takes a while for me to catch on.

**catch on (with someone)** Fig. [for something] to become popular with someone. □ I hope our new product catches on with children. □ I’m sure it will catch on.

**catch one off (one’s) guard** Go to catch someone off guard.

**catch one’s breath** Fig. to struggle for normal breathing after strenuous activity. □ The jogger stopped to catch her breath. □ It took Jimmy a minute to catch his breath after being punched in the stomach.

**catch one’s death (of cold) and take one’s death (of cold)** Fig. to contract a cold, a common respiratory infection; to catch a serious cold. (See also catch cold.) □ If I go out in this weather, I’ll catch my death of cold. □ Dress up warm or you’ll take your death.

**catch one with one’s pants down** Fig. to discover someone in the act of doing something that is normally private or hidden. (Literal uses are possible.) □ Some council members were using tax money as their own. But the press caught them with their pants down and now the district attorney will press charges.

**catch onto someone or something** Go to onto someone or something.

**catch onto something** [for something] to snap on or get grabbed by something else. (See also onto something.) □ This little piece has to catch onto this gear each time it comes around. □ A few threads of my shirt caught onto the cactus needles and ruined the whole thing.

**catch sight of someone or something and catch a glimpse of someone or something** to see someone or something briefly; to get a quick look at someone or something. □ I caught sight of the plane just before it flew out of sight. □ Ann caught a glimpse of the robber as he ran out of the bank.

**catch some rays and bag some rays** Fig. to get some sunshine; to tan in the sun. □ We wanted to catch some rays, but the sun never came out the whole time we were there. □ I went to Hawaii to bag some rays.

**catch some Zs and cop some Zs; cut some Zs** to get some sleep. (In comic strips, Zs are used to show that someone is sleeping or snoring.) □ I gotta catch some Zs before I drop. □ Why don’t you stop a little bit and try to cop some Zs?

**catch someone at a bad time** to attempt to speak or deal with someone at a time inconvenient for that person. □ I’m sorry. You look busy. Did I catch you at a bad time?

**catch someone at something and catch someone doing something** to discover someone doing something, especially something bad or shameful. □ We caught her at her evil deeds. □ Don’t let me catch you doing that again!

**catch someone by surprise** Go to take someone by surprise.

**catch someone doing something** Go to catch someone at something.

**catch someone flat-footed** Go to catch someone red-handed.

**catch someone in the act (of doing something)** to discover someone doing a [bad] deed at the very moment when the deed is being done. (See also caught in the act.) □ I caught her in the act of stealing the coat. □ He was caught in the act of taking money from the cash box.

**catch someone napping** and catch someone off balance; catch someone up short to come upon someone who is unprepared; to surprise someone. (See also asleep at the switch.) □ The enemy soldiers caught our army napping. □ The thieves caught the security guard napping. □ I didn’t expect you so soon. You caught me off balance. □ The teacher asked a trick question and caught me up short. □ The robbers caught Ann off balance and stole her purse.

**catch someone off guard and catch one off (one’s) guard** Fig. to catch a person at a time of carelessness. □ Tom caught Ann off guard and frightened her. □ She caught me off guard, and my hesitation told her I was lying.

**catch someone or something in something** to trap someone or something in something. □ We caught David in the snare by accident. □ My platoon was caught in an enemy ambush.

**catch someone out** to discover the truth about someone’s deception. □ The investigator tried to catch me out, but I stuck to my story. □ The teacher caught out the student and punished him immediately.

**catch someone red-handed** and catch someone flat-footed to catch a person in the act of doing something wrong. (See also caught red-handed.) □ Tom was stealing the car when the police drove by and caught him red-handed. □ Mary tried to cash a forged check at the bank, and the teller caught her red-handed.

**catch someone’s eye and get someone’s eye 1.** Fig. to establish eye contact with someone; to attract someone’s attention. □ The shiny red car caught Mary’s eye. □ When Tom had her eye, he smiled at her. 2. Fig. to appear and attract someone’s interest. □ A small red car passing by caught my eye. □ One of the books on the top shelf caught my eye, and I took it down to look at it.

**catch someone up in something** [for excitement or interest] to extend to and engross someone. □ The fireworks caught everyone up in the excitement. □ The accident caught us all up in the resultant confusion.

**catch someone up (on someone or something)** to tell someone the news of someone or something. (Fixed order.) □ Oh, please catch me up on what your family is doing. □ Yes, do catch us up! □ I have to take some time to catch myself up on the news.

**catch someone up short** Go to catch someone napping.

**catch someone with something 1.** to discover or apprehend someone with something—usually something stolen or illicit. □ They caught Elizabeth with the earrings she shoplifted. □ Don’t let them catch you with the money! 2. to apprehend someone with the aid of something. □ The state trooper caught the speeder with radar. □ The cops caught Lefty with the help of an informer.
catch something Fig. to see or listen to something. ☐ I will try to catch that new movie this weekend. ☐ Did you catch that radio program about cancer last night?
catch something from someone to get a disease from someone. ☐ I hope my children catch the chicken pox in kindergarten. Better to have it while you are young. ☐ I don’t want to catch a cold from you.
catch something on something to snap something on something. ☐ I caught the pocket of my trousers on the drawer pull and almost ripped it off. ☐ He caught the sleeve of his uniform on a branch.
catch something up in something to ensnare and capture something in something. ☐ We caught a large number of fish up in the net. ☐ We caught up many fish in the net.
catch the devil Go to the devil.
catch the next wave and wait for the next wave Fig. to follow the next fad. ☐ He has no purpose in life. He sits around strumming his guitar and waiting to catch the next wave.
a catch to it a hidden problem associated with it. ☐ It sounds good at first, but there’s a catch to it. You have to pay all costs up front.
catch up (on someone or something) to learn the news of someone or something. ☐ I need a little time to catch up on the news. ☐ We all need to catch up on what Tony has been doing. ☐ I need some time to catch up.
catch up (on something) to bring one’s efforts with something up-to-date; to do the work that one should have done. ☐ I need a quiet time so I can catch up on my work. ☐ He started school late and now has to catch up.
catch up (to someone or something) and catch up (with someone or something) to move faster in order to reach someone or something who is moving in the same direction. ☐ The red car caught up with the blue one. ☐ Bill caught up with Ann, and they walked to the bank together.
catch up with someone Go to up with someone.
catch wind (with someone or something) Go to catch up (to someone or something).
catch-as-catch-can the best one can do with whatever is available. ☐ We went hitchhiking for a week and lived catch-as-catch-can. ☐ There were ten children in our family, and every meal was catch-as-catch-can.
cater to someone or something 1. Lit. to provide for or care for someone or something. ☐ I believe that we can cater to you in this matter. ☐ Our company caters to larger firms that do not wish to maintain a service department. 2. Fig. to provide special or favorable treatment for someone or something. ☐ I’m sorry, but I cannot cater to you and not to the others. ☐ We do not have the time to cater to special requests.
cauted in the act and caught red-handed Fig. seen doing something illegal or private. (See also catch someone in the act (of doing something) and catch someone red-handed.) ☐ Tom was caught in the act and cannot deny what he did. ☐ Many car thieves are caught red-handed.
cauted in the crossfire 1. Lit. trapped between two lines of enemy fire. ☐ I was caught in the crossfire and dove into a ditch to keep from getting killed. 2. and caught in the middle Fig. caught between two arguing people or groups, making it difficult to remain neutral. ☐ Bill and Ann were arguing, and poor Bobby, their son, was caught in the middle.
cauted short 1. left without any money temporarily. ☐ I’m caught a little short. Can I borrow a few bucks? 2. pregnant and unmarried. ☐ Both of Jane’s sisters got caught short before they graduated high school.
cauted unaware(s) surprised and unprepared. ☐ Sorry. You startled me when you came up behind me. I was caught unaware. ☐ The clerk was caught unaware, and the robber emptied out the cash register before the clerk could sound the alarm.
cauted up in something and caught up with something deeply involved with something; participating actively or closely in something. ☐ Wallace is caught up in his work and has little time for his son, Buxton.
cause a commotion Go to cause (quite a) stir.
cause hard feelings Go to hard feelings.
cause lean times (ahead) Go to lean times (ahead).
cause qualms (about someone or something) Go to qualms (about someone or something).
cause (quite) a stir and cause a commotion to cause people to become agitated; to cause trouble in a group of people; to shock or alarm people. ☐ When Bob appeared without jacket and tie, it caused a stir at the state dinner. ☐ The dog ran through the church and caused quite a commotion.
cause (some) eyebrows to raise and cause some raised eyebrows Fig. to shock people; to surprise and dismay people. (The same as raise some eyebrows.) ☐ John caused eyebrows to raise when he married a woman half his age. ☐ If you want to cause some eyebrows to raise, just start singing as you walk down the street.
cause some raised eyebrows Go to previous.
cause (some) tongues to wag Fig. to cause people to gossip; to give people something to gossip about. ☐ The way John was looking at Mary will surely cause some tongues to wag. ☐ The way Mary was so scantily dressed will also cause tongues to wag.
caution someone about someone or something and caution someone against someone or something to warn someone against someone or something. ☐ Haven’t I cautioned you about that before? ☐ Hasn’t someone cautioned you about Daniel?
cave in [for a roof or ceiling] to collapse. ☐ The roof of the mine caved in when no one was there. ☐ The tunnel caved in on the train.
cave in (to someone or something) Fig. to give in to someone or something. ☐ Finally, the manager caved in to the customer’s demands. ☐ I refuse to cave in under pressure from my opponent.
cavil at someone to find fault with someone; to complain about someone constantly. ☐ Will you never cease caviling at all of us? ☐ There is no need to cavil at me day and night!
cease and desist to completely stop doing something. (A legal phrase.) ☐ The judge ordered the merchant to cease
and desist the deceptive practices. □ When they were ordered to cease and desist, they finally stopped.

cede something to someone to grant a parcel of land to someone. □ We refuse to cede that land to you. □ They ceded the land to the city for a park.

celebrate someone for an accomplishment to honor someone for having done something. □ The people celebrated the astronaut for a successful journey. □ She was celebrated widely for her discovery.

cement something on! Go to next.

cement something on(to) something and cement something on to fasten something onto something with glue or household cement. □ Cement this handle back onto the cup. □ Now, cement on the other handle. □ I will cement it on for you.

cement something together to fasten something together with glue or household cement. □ Use this stuff to cement the vase together. □ Will you cement these parts together?

censure someone for something to criticize someone for something. □ We censured him for something he did.

center around someone or something to make someone or something the central point in something; to be based on someone or something. □ Your salary increases center around your ability to succeed at your job. □ The success of the picnic centers around the weather next week.

the center of attention the focus of people’s attention; the thing or person who monopolizes people’s attention. □ She had a way of making herself the center of attention wherever she went.

center on someone or something to focus on someone or something in particular. □ Let us center on the basic problem and try to solve it. □ I want to center on Liz and her contributions to the firm.

center something on someone or something to base something on someone or something. □ Let us center the discussion on Walter. □ Our whole meeting was centered on the conservation question.

a certain party someone you know but whom I do not wish to name. □ I spoke to a certain party about the matter you mentioned. □ If a certain party finds out about you, what on earth will you do?

certain sure Rur. very sure. □ Tom: Are you sure you saw Bill at work today? Mary: Certain sure. □ If you keep hanging around with them no-good kids, you’ll get in a heap of trouble for certain sure.

Certainly not! Go to Definitely not!

chafe at something Fig. to be irritated or annoyed at something. □ Jane chafed at the criticism for a long time afterward. □ Jerry chafed for a while at what Ken had said.

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link. Prov. A successful group or team relies on each member doing well. □ George is completely out of shape. I don’t want him on our ball team; a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

the chain of command Fig. the series or sequence of holders of responsibility in a hierarchy. □ The only way to get things done in the military is to follow the chain of command. Never try to go straight to the top.

chain someone or an animal up to bind someone or an animal in chains. □ We will have to chain him up until the police get here. □ Please chain up your dog.

chain someone or something down to fasten someone or something down with chains. □ They chained down the bicycle rack so no one could steal it. □ We chained the toolshed down so a strong wind would not blow it over.

chain something to something to connect things together with chains. □ We chained all the bicycles to one another so no one could steal them. □ We will have to chain the lawn furniture to a tree if we leave it out while we are on vacation.

chain something up to lock or secure a door or gate with chains. □ Please chain the gate up again when you come through. □ Yes, chain up the gate.

chalk something out Lit. to draw a picture of something in chalk, especially to illustrate a plan of some type. □ The coach chalked the play out so the players could understand what they were to do. □ Our team captain chalked out the play. 2. Fig. to explain something carefully to someone, as if one were talking about a chalk drawing. □ She chalked out the details of the plan over the phone.

chalk something up Lit. to write something on a chalkboard. □ Let me chalk this formula up so you all can see it. □ I’ll chalk up the formula. 2. Fig. to add a mark or point to one’s score. See also chalk something up (against someone). □ Chalk another goal for Sarah. □ Chalk up another basket for the other side.

chalk something up to someone Fig. to blame someone for something; to register something against someone. □ I will have to chalk another fault up against Fred. □ She chalked up a mark against Dave.

chalk something up to something Fig. to recognize something as the cause of something else. □ We chalked her bad behavior up to her recent illness. □ I had to chalk up the loss to inexperience.

challenge someone on something to dispute someone’s statement, remarks, or position. □ I think Fred is wrong, but I won’t challenge him on his estimate.

challenge someone to something to dare someone to do something; to invite someone to compete at something. □ I challenge you to a round of golf. □ Jerry challenged us to a debate of the issues.

champ at the bit and chomp at the bit 1. Lit. [for a horse] to bite at its bit, eager to move along. □ Dobbin was champing at the bit, eager to go. 2. Fig. to be ready and anxious to do something. □ The kids were champing at the bit to get into the swimming pool. □ The dogs were champing at the bit to begin the hunt.

chance something to risk doing something; to try doing something while being aware of the risk involved. □ I don’t usually ride horses, but this time I will chance it. □ Bob didn’t have a ticket, but he went to the airport anyway, chanceing a cancellation.

chance (up)on someone or something to find someone or something by accident; to happen on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I chanced upon a nice little restaurant on my walk today. □ I chanced on an old friend of yours in town today.
chances are the likelihood is (followed by a clause stating what is likely). □ Changes are that she would have been late even if she had left on time.

change back (from something) to return to the original form, state, or selection, from some other form, state, or selection. □ We are going to change back from our position of last month. □ We didn’t like our new plumber, so we changed back.

change back (into someone or something) to return to the original form. □ The crisis in Congress changed back to a minor matter within a week. □ Then Superman changed back into mild-mannered Clark Kent.

change hands [for something] to be sold or passed from owner to owner. (From the “point of view” of the object that is passed on.) □ How many times has this lot changed hands in the last ten years? □ We built this house in 1970, and it has never changed hands.

change horses in midstream and change horses in the middle of the stream Fig. to make major changes in an activity that has already begun; to choose someone or something else after it is too late. (Alludes to someone trying to move from one horse to another while crossing a stream.) □ I’m already baking a cherry pie. I can’t bake an apple pie. It’s too late to change horses in the middle of the stream. □ The house is half-built. It’s too late to hire a different architect. You can’t change horses in midstream. □ Jane: I’ve written a rough draft of my research paper, but the topic doesn’t interest me as much as I thought. Maybe I ought to pick a different one. Jill: Don’t change horses in midstream.

change horses in the middle of the stream Go to previous.

change into someone or something to alter one’s or its state to another state. □ The ugly witch changed into a lovely maiden. □ An insect larva changes into a cocoon.

the change (of life) menopause. □ The change of life affects each woman differently. □ Jill started the change when she was forty-seven.

a change of pace an addition of some variety in one’s life, routine, or abode. □ Going to the beach on the weekend will be a change of pace. □ The doctor says I need a change of pace from this cold climate.

a change of scenery a move to a different place, where the surroundings are different. □ I thought I would go to the country for a change of scenery. □ A change of scenery would help me relax and organize my life.

change off [for people] to alternate in doing something. □ Tom and I changed off so neither of us had to answer the phone all the time. □ Let’s change off every thirty minutes.

change out of something to take off a set of clothing and put on another. □ I have to change out of these wet clothes. □ You should change out of your casual clothes and put on something more formal for dinner.

change over (from someone or something) (to someone or something) to convert from something to something else; to convert from someone to someone else. □ We decided to change over from oil to gas heat. □ We changed over to gas from oil.

change places with someone to trade or exchange situations or locations with someone. □ He has a much higher salary, but I wouldn’t change places with him for the world. □ Juan decided to change places with Ken in the bus.

change someone or something into someone or something to make someone or something change form or state. □ The wizard claimed he could change a horse into a unicorn. □ He suddenly changed himself into a smiling friend rather than the gruff old man we had long known.

change someone’s mind to cause a person to think differently (about someone or something). □ Tom thought Mary was unkind, but an evening out with her changed his mind. □ I can change my mind if you convince me that you are right.

change someone’s tune to change the manner of a person, usually from bad to good, or from rude to pleasant. □ The teller was most unpleasant until she learned that I’m a bank director. Then she changed her tune. □ “I will help change your tune by fining you $150,” said the judge to the rude defendant.

change something back! to cause something to return to the original or a previous form. □ Whoever changed the television channel should change it back. □ Change back the channel to the game!

change something with someone to trade or exchange something with someone. □ I changed coats with Fred and his is much warmer. □ Will you change seats with me?

change the channel SL to switch to some other topic of conversation. □ Just a minute. I think you changed the channel. Let’s go back to the part about you owing me money. □ Let’s change the channel here before there is a fight.

change the subject to begin talking about something different. □ They changed the subject suddenly when the person whom they had been discussing entered the room. □ We’ll change the subject if we are embarrassing you.

change to something to convert to something; to give up one and choose another. □ We will change to standard time in the fall. □ I decided to change to gas for heating and cooking.

channel something in(to something) 1. Lit. to divert water or other liquid through a channel into something. □ The farmer channeled the irrigation water into the field. 2. Fig. to divert something, such as energy, money, effort, into something. □ The government channeled a great deal of money into rebuilding the inner part of the city. □ I can’t channel any more of our workforce into this project.

channel something off! 1. Lit. to drain off water or some other liquid through a channel. □ The front yard is flooded, and we will have to channel the water off. □ Let’s channel off the water before it gets too deep. 2. Fig. to drain off or waste energy, money, effort, etc. □ Unemployment channeled their resources off. □ The war channeled off most of the resources of the country.

chapter and verse Fig. very specifically detailed, in reference to sources of information. (A reference to the method of referring to biblical text.) □ He gave chapter and verse for his reasons for disputing that Shakespeare had written the play. □ The suspect gave chapter and verse of his associate’s activities.

character assassination Fig. seriously harming someone’s reputation. □ The review was more than a negative
appaisal of his performance. It was total character assassina-
nation.

charge at someone or something to move quickly forward to attack someone or something. □ The elephant charged at the hunter. □ I was afraid that the water buffalo was going to charge our vehicle.

charge down on someone or something (for an animal or vehicle) to race or move quickly against someone or something. □ The angry elephant charged down on the hunters. □ The speeding truck charged down on the small shed.

charge in(to some place) to move quickly or run wildly into a place. □ The people charged into the store on the day of the sale. □ They all charged in trying to be first in line.

Charge it to the dust and let the rain settle it. Rur. Do not expect to be paid for this. (A humorous answer to a question like, “Who is going to pay for this?”) □ Tom: Who’s going to pay me all that money you owe? Mary: Charge it to the dust and let the rain settle it!

*charge (of someone or something) control of someone or something; the responsibility for caring for someone or something. (Typically: take ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ How long have you had charge of this office? □ He took charge of the entire company.

charge off to move quickly or run away. □ He got angry and charged off. □ Juan charged off to talk to the boss.

charge out (of some place) to move quickly or stomp out of some place. □ Carol charged out of the house, trying to catch Sally before she got on the bus. □ Juan got mad and suddenly charged out.

charge someone or something (with something) to make someone or a group pay the cost of something. □ I will have to charge Bill with the cost of repairs. □ The manager will charge your account with about forty dollars.

charge someone up† to excite someone; to make a person enthusiastic about something. (See also charged up.) □ The speaker charged up the crowd. □ He reread the report, hoping to charge himself up enough to make some positive comments.

charge someone with something 1. to place criminal charges against someone. □ The police charged Max with robbery. 2. to order someone to do a particular task. □ The president charged him with organizing the meeting. □ We charged her with locating new office space.

charge something against something to debit or assign the cost of something against something. □ I will have to charge this item against the entertainment account? □ Don’t even try to charge it against your business expenses.

charge (something) for someone to demand an amount of money to pay for someone’s ticket, fare, admission, treatment, etc. □ Tickets are expensive. They charged sixty dollars for each seat. □ I didn’t realize they charged for children.

charge (something) for something to set a price in payment for something. □ You are charging too much for this. □ You really shouldn’t charge for it at all.

charge something off as something to consider something a legitimate expense and deduct it from one’s taxes; to assign something to the tax loss category in accounting. □ I will have to charge this off as a loss. □ Try to charge it off as a business expense.

charge something on something 1. to put the cost of something on a credit card or credit account. □ I would like to charge this purchase on my credit card. □ What card do you want to charge it on? 2. to demand the payment of interest or a penalty on something. □ They charged an enormous amount of interest on the loan. □ The bank charged a penalty on the late payment.

charge something up† 1. Lit. to apply an electrical charge to a battery. □ How long will it take to charge this battery up? □ It takes an hour to charge up your battery. 2. Lit. to load or fill something under pressure or with special contents, such as a fire extinguisher. □ We had to send the extinguishers back to the factory, where they charged them up. □ How much does it cost to charge up an extinguisher? 3. Fig. to reinvigorate something. □ What can we do to charge this story up? □ A murder in the first act would charge up the play. 4. Go to next.

charge something up to someone or something and charge something up† to place the cost of something on the account of someone or a group. (Also without up.) □ I will have to charge this up to your account. □ Do you have to charge this to my account? □ Are you ready to charge up the total to my bill?

charged up 1. Lit. [of something such as a battery] full of electrical power. □ The battery is completely charged up. □ If the battery isn’t charged, the car won’t start. 2. Fig. [of someone] excited; enthusiastic. □ The crowd was really charged up. □ Tom is so tired that he cannot get charged up about anything.

Charity begins at home. Prov. You should take care of family and people close to you before you worry about helping others. □ I don’t think our church should worry so much about a foreign relief fund when there are people in need right here in our city. Charity begins at home. □ If you really want to make the world a better place, start by being polite to your sister. Charity begins at home.

*a charley horse a painful, persistent cramp in the arm or leg, usually from strain. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Don’t hike too far or you’ll get a charley horse.

charm someone with something to enchant or fascinate someone with something. □ He charmed her with stories of his house on the beach. □ She charmed him with her bright smile.

charm the pants off someone Fig. to use very charming behavior to persuade someone to do something. (Use with caution.) □ She is so nice. She just charms the pants off you. □ He will try to charm the pants off you, but you can still refuse to take the job if you don’t want to do it.

chart something out† (for someone or something) to lay out a plan or course for someone or something. □ The navigator charted the course out for the captain. □ The captain charted out the course for us.

chase after someone or something Go to after someone or something.

chase around after someone or something to look here and there for something; to seek someone or something in many different places. □ I don’t want to have to spend
chatter from

chase someone or an animal in
1. Go to next.
2. Some place and chase someone or an animal in (to) some place to drive someone or an animal into a place of confinement. □ They chased all the cattle into the corral. □ The cowboys chased in the cattle.
3. To follow someone or something around in pursuit. (There is an implication that the person or thing pursued is attempting to elude whatever is in pursuit.) □ The dog chased us around in play. □ It chased around all the children.
4. To drive someone or something away from or out of a place. □ The police sirens chased the thief from the building. □ We chased away all the children from the pond.
5. To track down and seize someone or something. □ Larry set out to chase the pickpocket down. □ The police chased down the suspect.
6. To drive someone or something (away from) some place. □ I will chase Tom up for you. □ I will try to chase up a buyer for your car.
7. To drive someone or something up something to drive someone or an animal up something, such as a tree, a hill, a cliff, etc. □ The ranchers chased the mountain lion up a tree. □ The bull chased the rodeo clown up into the stands.
8. To talk idly or informally about someone or something. □ We need to chat about Molly. □ I want to chat about your expenditures a little.
9. To talk idly and actively about someone or something. □ All the guests were chattering about something or other. □ People are chattering about you and Claire. Do you want to know what they are saying?
10. [For one’s teeth] to shake noisily with a chill from the cold, the dampness, a fever, etc. □ My teeth were chattering from the extreme cold. □ It was a terrible illness. My teeth chattered from the chills that followed the fever.
11. To use deception while competing against someone. □ They say she cheats at cards. □ The mob is likely to cheat at getting the contracts.
12. To commit adultery; to be unfaithful to one’s spouse or lover. □ “Have you been cheating on me?” cried Mrs. Franklin. □ He was caught cheating on his wife.

chase someone or an animal out of something to get something from someone by deception. □ Are you trying to cheat me out of what is rightfully mine? □ She cheated herself out of an invitation because she lied about her affiliation.

Cheats never prosper. and Cheaters never prosper. Prov. If you cheat people, they will not continue to do business with you, and so your business will fail. □ Customer: You charged me for ten artichokes, but you only gave me nine. Grocer: Too bad. You should have counted them before you paid for them. Customer: Cheats never prosper, you know.

check back (on someone or something) to look into the state of someone or something again at a later time. □ I’ll have to check back on you later.

check back (with someone) to inquire of someone again at a later time. □ Please check back with me later.

check in (at something) to go to a place to record one’s arrival. □ When you get there, check in at the front office.

check in (on someone or something) to look into (on someone or something).

check in (with someone) to go to someone and indicate that one has arrived some place. □ Please check in with the desk clerk.

check in(to something) 1. To sign oneself into a place to stay, such as a hotel, hospital, motel, etc. □ She checked into a private hospital for some kind of treatment. □ They checked into the first motel they came to on the highway.
2. To go into something.

check on someone or something to look into the legitimacy or condition of someone or something. □ Sarah will check on the matter and report to us. □ I will check on Jeff while he’s not feeling well.

check out [For someone or something] to prove to be correctly represented. □ Everything you told me checks out with what other witnesses said.

check out (of something) and check out (from something) to do whatever is necessary to leave a place and then depart. (check out of something) is more frequent.) □ I will check out of the hotel at about noon. □ I will check out from the office and come right to where you are.

check out the plumbing Euph. to go to the bathroom. (The order is fixed.) □ I think I’d better check out the plumbing before we get on the highway.

Check, please. and Could I have the bill?; Could I have the check? Could you give me the check or the bill for this food or drink? □ When they both had finished their dessert and coffee, Tom said, “Check, please.” □ Bill: That meal was really good. Waiter! Could I have the check, please. Waiter: Right away, sir.

check someone in† to record the arrival of someone. □ Ask the guard to check you in when you get there. □ Tell the guard to check in the visitors as they arrive.

check someone or something off† to mark or cross out the name of a person or thing on a list. □ I am glad to see that you were able to come. I will check you off. □ I checked the items off. □ I checked off the recent arrivals.

check someone or something out† to evaluate someone or something. □ That stock sounds good. I’ll check it out. □ I’ll check out the competition.
check someone or something out\(^4\) (of something) to do the paper­work necessary to remove someone or something from something or some place. ☐ I will have the manager check you out of the hotel and send you the bill. ☐ The librarian checked out the computer to me.

check someone or something over\(^1\) to examine someone or something closely. ☐ You should have the doctor check you over before you go back to work. ☐ The doctor checked over the children who had shown the worst symptoms. ☐ The mechanic checked the car over.

check someone or something through (something) to allow one to pass through something after checking one’s iden­tification, tickets, passes, etc. (Fixed order.) ☐ The guard checked us through the gate, and we went about our busi­ness. ☐ We checked them through security.

check someone’s bags through (to some place) and check someone’s luggage through (to some place) to have one’s luggage sent directly to one’s final destination. ☐ Please check these bags through London to Madrid.

check something in\(^1\) 1. to record that someone has returned something. ☐ I asked the librarian to check the book in for me. ☐ Did the librarian check the book in on time? ☐ Did you really check in the book on time? 2. to take something to a place, return it, and make sure that its return has been recorded. ☐ I checked the book in on time. ☐ Did you really check in the book on time? 3. to examine a shipment or an order received and make certain that everything ordered was received. ☐ I checked the order in and sent a report to the manager. ☐ Tim checked in the order from the supplier to make sure that everything was there.

check something out\(^1\) to examine or try something; to think about something. ☐ It’s something we all have to be concerned with. Check it out. ☐ Check out the new comedy show on tonight.

check that cancel that; ignore that. ☐ Check that. I was wrong. ☐ At four, no, check that, at three o’clock this afternoon, the shipment arrived and was signed for.

check through something to examine something or a collection of things. (Usually refers to papers or written work, or to details in the paperwork.) ☐ Check through this and look for missing pages. ☐ I’ll check through it for typographical errors also.

check up (on someone or something) to determine the state of someone or something. ☐ Please don’t check up on me. I can be trusted. ☐ I see no need to check up.

check with someone (about something) to ask someone about something. ☐ You should check with the concierge about the bus to the airport. ☐ Please check with your agent.

checks and balances a system, as in the U.S. Constitu­tion, where power is shared between the various branches of government. ☐ The newspaper editor claimed that the system of checks and balances built into our Constitution has been subverted by party politics. *a checkup a physical examination by a physician. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) ☐ She got a checkup yesterday. ☐ I’m going to have a checkup in the morning. I hope I’m okay.

cheek by jowl Fig. side by side; close together. ☐ The pedestrians had to walk cheek by jowl along the narrow streets. ☐ The two families lived cheek by jowl in one house.

cheer for someone or something to give a shout of encour­agement for someone or something. ☐ Everyone cheered for the team. ☐ I cheered for the winning goal.

cheer someone or something on\(^1\) to encourage someone or a group to continue to do well, as by cheering. ☐ We cheered them on, and they won. ☐ We cheered on the team.

cheer up [for a sad person] to become happy. ☐ After a while, she began to cheer up and smile more. ☐ Cheer up! Things could be worse.

cheese someone off\(^1\) sl. to make someone very angry. ☐ You sure know how to cheese Laurel off. ☐ Bobby chased off every person in the club.

*cheesed off sl. angry; disgusted. (Typically: be ~; get ~; get someone ~.) ☐ Clare was really cheesed off at the waiter. ☐ The waiter was cheesed off at the cook.

cherry-pick something Fig. to choose something very carefully. (As if one were closely examining cherries on the tree, looking for the best.) ☐ We have to cherry-pick the lumber we want to use for the cabinetry. Nothing but the best will do.

chew (away) at something to gnaw or chew something for a period of time. ☐ The puppy chewed away at the leather belt all night.

chew on someone or something 1. to gnaw at something. ☐ The dog was chewing on my shoe. 2. Go to chew something over.

chew one’s own tobacco sl. to mind one’s own business. ☐ Sally: You seem awfully happy all of a sudden. How come? Tom: Chew your own tobacco. ☐ I’m just sitting here chewing my own tobacco, not bothering anybody.

chew one’s cud Fig. to think deeply; to be deeply involved in private thought. (Alludes to the cow’s habit of bringing food back from the first stomach into the mouth to chew it, called chewing the cud.) ☐ He’s chewing his cud about what to do next.

chew someone or something up\(^1\) to damage or ruin someone or something by pinching, grinding, biting, etc. ☐ Stay away from the mower blade or it will chew you up. ☐ The lawn mower chewed up the flowers.

chew someone out\(^1\) and eat someone out\(^1\) Fig. to scold someone. ☐ The sergeant chewed the corporal out; then the corporal chewed the private out. ☐ The boss is always chewing out somebody.

chew something away\(^6\) to gnaw something off; to gnaw at something until it’s all gone. ☐ You can see what’s left of it. Most of it has been chewed away by some animal. ☐ Your puppy chewed away the top of my shoe!

chew something off something and chew something off\(^1\) to bite or gnaw something off something. ☐ The puppy chewed the heel off my shoe. ☐ The puppy chewed off the heel and mangled the tongue.

chew something over\(^1\) 1. Inf. to talk something over; to discuss something. ☐ We can chew it over at lunch. ☐ Why don’t we do lunch sometime and chew over these matters?
chew something up  l Fig. to grind food with the teeth until it can be swallowed. □ You had better chew that stuff up well. □ Please chew up your food well.

cold out and cool out  Sl. to calm down. □ Before we can debate this matter, you're all gonna have to chill out. So sit down and stop pickering. □ Everybody cooled out after the emergency, and everything was fine.

chill someone's action  Sl. to squelch someone; to prevent someone from accomplishing something. □ Freddie is trying to chill my action, and he'd better stop and leave me alone.

*chilled to the bone  Fig. very cold. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I got chilled to the bone in that snowstorm. □ The children were chilled to the bone from their swim in the ocean.

chime in (with something)  Fig. to add a comment to the discussion. □ Little Billy chimed in with a suggestion. □ He chimed in too late; the meeting was breaking up.

chicken feed  Fig. a small amount of anything, especially of money. (See also for chicken feed. Compare this with for peanuts.) □ Of course I can afford $800. That's just chicken feed. □ It may be chicken feed to you, but that's a month's rent to me.

chicken out of something  Inf. to decide not to do something for or with someone. □ Come on! Don't chicken out now! □ Freddy chickened out of the plan at the last minute.

chicken out on someone  Inf. to decide not to do something for or with someone. □ Come on, don't chicken out on me now! □ Ken chickened out on us and won't be going with us.

chicken-hearted  cowardly. □ Yes, I'm a chicken-hearted softie. I never try anything too risky.

The chickens come home to roost.  Prov. You have to face the consequences of your mistakes or bad deeds. □ Jill: Emily found out that I said she was incompetent, and now she won't recommend me for that job. Jane: The chickens have come home to roost, I see.

chide someone for something  to tease or scold someone for doing something. □ Maria chided Gerald for being late.

chilled to the bone  Fig. very cold. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I got chilled to the bone in that snowstorm. □ The children were chilled to the bone from their swim in the ocean.

chicken music  Fig. Inf. talk; conversation. □ Whereas those two get together, you can be sure there'll be plenty of chin music. □ Bill just loves to hear himself talk. He'll make chin music for hours at a time.

a chink in one's armor  Fig. a special weakness that provides a means for attacking or impressing someone otherwise invulnerable. (Alludes to an opening in a suit of armor that allows a weapon to penetrate.) □ Jane's insecurity is the chink in her armor. □ The boss seems mean, but the chink in his armor is that he is easily flattered.

chip away [for something] to break off or break away in small chips. □ The edges of the marble step chipped away over the years. □ Some of the stone figures had chipped away so badly that we couldn't see what they were.

chip (away) at something to break off tiny pieces of something little by little. □ The Mason chipped away at the bricks. □ He chipped at the block of marble gently.

chip in (with something) (for something) 1. to contribute a small amount of money to a fund that will be used to buy something. □ Could you chip in a dollar on the gift, please? 2. chip in (on something) (for someone) to contribute money toward a gift for someone. □ Would you please chip in on the present for Richard? □ Will you chip in for Randy?

chicken out of something  Inf. to decide not to do something for or with someone. □ Come on, don't chicken out on me now! □ Ken chickened out of the plan at the last minute.

chide someone for something  to tease or scold someone for doing something. □ Maria chided Gerald for being late.

chicken feed  Fig. a small amount of anything, especially of money. (See also for chicken feed. Compare this with for peanuts.) □ Of course I can afford $800. That's just chicken feed. □ It may be chicken feed to you, but that's a month's rent to me.

chicken out of something  Inf. to decide not to do something for or with someone. □ Come on! Don't chicken out now! □ Freddy chickened out of the plan at the last minute.

chicken out on someone  Inf. to decide not to do something for or with someone. □ Come on, don't chicken out on me now! □ Ken chickened out on us and won't be going with us.

chicken-hearted  cowardly. □ Yes, I'm a chicken-hearted softie. I never try anything too risky.

The chickens come home to roost.  Prov. You have to face the consequences of your mistakes or bad deeds. □ Jill: Emily found out that I said she was incompetent, and now she won't recommend me for that job. Jane: The chickens have come home to roost, I see.

chide someone for something  to tease or scold someone for doing something. □ Maria chided Gerald for being late.

The child is father of the man, and the child is father to the man.  Prov. People's personalities form when they are children; A person will have the same qual-

ities as an adult that he or she had as a child. (From William Wordsworth's poem, "My Heart Leaps Up.") □ In Bill's case, the child was father of the man; he never lost his childhood delight in observing nature.

child's play  something very easy to do. □ The test was child's play to those who took good notes. □ Finding the right street was child's play with a map.

Children and fools tell the truth.  Prov. Children have not yet learned, and fools never did learn, that it is often advantageous to lie. □ Fred: What will I tell Ellen when she asks why I'm so late getting home? Alan: Tell her the truth—we were out having a few drinks. Fred: Children and fools tell the truth, Alan.

Children should be seen and not heard.  Prov. Children should not speak in the presence of adults. (Often used as a way to rebuke a child who has spoken when he or she should not.) □ You may come out and meet the party guests if you'll remember that children should be seen and not heard.
choke on something in 1 (on something) Go to chip in (on something).

choke on something in 1 (on something) (for someone) Go to chip in (with something) (on something) (for someone).

chips and dip potato chips, or some other kind of crisp snack food, and a sauce or dressing to dip them into before eating them. There were tons of chips and dip and all kinds of cold drinks available for everyone.

chisel in (on someone or something) Sl. to use deception to get a share of something. You had better not chisel in on your deal.

chisel someone out of something and chisel something out of someone; chisel something from someone to get something away from someone by cheating. The scam tried to chisel pension money out of retired people.

chock full of something Fig. very full of something. These cookies are chock full of big chunks of chocolate.

choke on something to gag and cough on something stuck in the throat. The dog choked on the meat.

choke someone off 1 to prevent someone from continuing to talk. (A figurative use; does not imply physical choking.) The opposition choked the speakers’ debate off before they finished. Why did they want to choke off the speakers?

choke someone up 1 Fig. to cause someone to feel like starting to cry. Sad stories like that always choke me up. The movie was sad and it choked up most of the audience.

choke something back 1 to fight hard to keep something from coming out of one’s mouth, such as sobs, tears, angry words, vomit, etc. I tried to choke the unpleasant words back, but I could not. She choked back her grief, but it came forth nonetheless.

choke something down 1 to eat something, even though it is hard to swallow or tastes bad. I tried to choke the unpleasant words back, but I could not. She choked back her grief, but it came forth nonetheless.

choke something down 1 1. Lit. to restrict or strangle a living creature’s windpipe. The dog choked on the meat. The collar choked off its airstream. 2. Fig. to put an end to debate or discussion; to stop the flow of words from any source. Are they going to choke the debate off? The chair tried to choke off debate but failed.

choke something up 1 1. to clog something up; to fill up and block something. Branches and leaves choked the sewer up. Rust choked up the pipes. 2. to cough or choke until something that has blocked one’s windpipe is brought up. The old man choked up the candy that was stuck in his windpipe. He choked up the chunk of meat and could breathe again.

choke up 1 to feel like crying. I choked up when I heard the news. He was beginning to choke up as he talked. to become emotional or saddened so that one cannot speak. I choked up when I heard about the disaster. I was choking up, and I knew I would not be able to go on.

chomp at the bit Go to chomp at the bit.

choose among someone or something to make a choice of a person or thing from a variety of possibilities. We will choose among the names on the list you gave us. I need to choose among the car models available.

choose between two people or things to choose one from a selection of two persons or things in any combination. For dessert, you can choose between chocolate and vanilla ice cream.

choose from someone or something to make a selection from a group of persons or things. You will have to choose from these people only.

choose someone as something to select someone to be something. We will choose her as our representative.

choose someone or something for something to select someone or something for a particular purpose, office, title, etc. I chose red for the color or the carpet.

choose something for someone to select something for someone, perhaps as a gift. I will probably choose flowers for your mother.

choose (up) sides to select from a group to be on opposing sides for a debate, fight, or game. Let’s choose up sides and play basketball.

chop someone off 1 Fig. to stop someone in the middle of a sentence or speech. (Abruptly, as if actually chopping or cutting.) I’m not finished. Don’t chop me off! The moderator chopped off the speaker.

chop someone or something (up?) (in(to) something) to cut something up into something smaller, perhaps with an axe or a cleaver. The butcher chopped up the beef loin into small fillets.

chop something back 1 to prune vegetation; to reduce the size of plants by cutting. Why don’t you chop those bushes back while you have the shears out? Chop back the bushes, please.

chop something down 1 1. Lit. to cut down something, such as a tree, with an ax. Please don’t chop my favorite tree down. Don’t chop down this tree! 2. Fig. to destroy something, such as a plan or an idea. The committee chopped the idea down in its early stages. They chopped down a great idea!

chop something off (of) something and chop something off 1 to cut something off something, as with an axe or saw. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) We chopped the dead branches off the tree. You should chop off the other branch.

chortle about someone or something and chortle over someone or something to chuckle or giggle about someone or something funny. I was chortling about Elaine’s silly puppy for a long time.

chortle with something Go to chug with something.

chow (something) down Sl. to eat something, usually quickly or without good manners. We can chow this
Christmas comes but once a year.

Christmas comes but once a year. Prov. Since Christmas only happens once a year, we should treat it as a special time by being good to others or by indulging children. □ Christmas comes but once a year, so we urge you to give to those less fortunate through this Christmas charity campaign.

chuck it in Inf. to quit; to give up. (Fixed order.) □ If I was so depressed, I almost chucked it in. □ If I didn’t have to keep the job to pay my bills, I’d have chucked it in long ago.

chuck someone or something away to push or shove someone or something out of the way quickly or roughly. □ She chucked the children away and ran to lock the door to protect them. □ He chucked away his clothes in a drawer. □ The rock star approached, and the guard chucked the teenagers away.

chuck someone out of some place and chuck someone out to throw someone out of some place. □ The bouncer chucked the drunks out of the tavern. □ He chucks out about three drunks a night.

chuck someone under the chin to tap someone, as a child, lightly under the chin, as a sign of affection. □ He said hello to little Mary and chucked her under the chin. □ Please don’t chuck me under the chin! I am not a child, you know!

chuck something away to throw something away; to dispose of something. □ Would you please just chuck this garbage bag away? □ I don’t want to chuck away any paper that’s been used on only one side.

chuck something down Sl. to eat something very quickly. □ Don’t just chuck your food down. Enjoy it! □ I’ll be with you as soon as I chuck down this hamburger.

chuck someone into something and chuck something in to pack something into something. □ She chucked her clothes into the suitcase and left. □ Just chuck in all your clothes and let’s go.

chuck something over something to throw something over something. □ Here, chuck this over the wall, and let’s go. □ If you chuck another can over the fence, I will file a complaint.

chuck something up to vomit something up. □ Don’t give chocolate to the dog. It will just chuck it up later. □ The dog chucked up the grass it had eaten.

chuckle about someone or something and chuckle over someone or something to giggle about someone or something. □ I had to chuckle about Wally and his story about that broken-down old car. □ We chuckled over how angry Jed was.

chuckle with something and chortle with something to giggle in some manner because one is gleeful or happy. □ He chuckled with unsuppressed mirth at the antics of the strangely dressed people. □ Sally chortled with glee at the thought of Ken slipping on the ice.

chug along 1. Lit. [for a train engine] to labor along slowly. (Steam locomotives made the sound “chug, chug.”) □ The train chugged along to the top of the hill. 2. Fig. to move along at a steady pace. □ We chugged along for two hours but finally made it home.

chum up to someone to try or seem to become friendly with someone. □ Todd chummed up to Martin. □ I don’t want to have to chum up to anyone I don’t want to work with.

chum up with someone to become friendly with someone. □ He seems to have chummed up with Fred. □ Juan quickly chummed up with all the guys in his class.

a chunk of change Fig. a lot of money. □ Tom’s new sports car cost a real big chunk of change!

chunk something Rur. to throw something. □ The kids were out chunking rocks into the lake. □ Somebody chunked a snowball at me!

Church ain’t out till they quit singing. Rur. things have not yet reached the end. □ Charlie: No way our team can win now. Mary: Church ain’t out till they quit singing. There’s another inning to go.

chuck key a two-ended device used to remove bottle tops and to pierce a hole in can lids. □ I’m looking for the church key so I can open this beer. □ She opened the can of tomato juice with the church key.

churn something out to produce something in large numbers, perhaps carelessly. □ We churn toys out by the thousand. □ This factory can churn out these parts day and night.

churn something up to stir up a liquid; to mix up material suspended in water. □ The oars of our boat churned the shallow water up, leaving little clouds of sediment in our wake. □ The oars churned up the mud.

circle around (over someone or something) [for a plane or a bird] to fly around above someone, something, or some place. □ The plane circled around over us for a few minutes and then went on. □ It circled around over the field.

circle around someone or something Go to around someone or something.

circulate among someone or something to move at random within a gathering of people or things. □ Karen circulated among the guests, serving drinks. □ The guests circulated among the various rooms in the house.

circulate something through something to route something through something; to make something travel through something. □ Walter circulated the memo from the boss through the department. □ I would like for you to circulate this through the members of the club.

circulate through something 1. Lit. [for a fluid in a closed system of pipes or tubes] to flow through the various pathways of pipes and tubes. □ Cold water circulates through the entire building and keeps it cool. □ Blood circulates through the veins and arteries, reaching all parts of the body. 2. Fig. to move through a group of people or an area, from person to person. □ Rumors circulated through the department about Tom’s retirement. □ Please circulate through the room and hand out these papers to each person.

Circumstances alter cases. Prov. In unusual situations, people are allowed to do unusual things. □ Cashier: I’m sorry, this store does not accept personal checks. Customer: But I need this medicine, and I don’t have any cash. I’ve shopped at this store for fifteen years. Surely you can trust me this once. Cashier: Well, all right. Circumstances alter cases.
cite someone for something 1. to honor someone for doing something; to give someone a citation of honor for doing something good. □ The town council cited her for bravery. □ They cited Maria for her courageous act. 2. to charge or arraign someone for breaking a law; to issue a legal citation to someone for breaking a law. □ An officer cited the driver for driving too fast. □ The housing department cited the landlord for sanitary violations.

city slicker someone from the city who is not familiar with country ways. □ Them city slickers think we're stupid just because we talk different. □ The city slicker didn't know the first thing about fishing for trout.


claim a life Fig. [for something] to take the life of someone. □ The killer tornado claimed the lives of six people at the trailer park. □ The athlete's life was claimed in a skiing accident.

claim something for someone or something to declare rights to or control of something for someone, or that something is the property of someone, a group, or a nation. □ The small country claimed the mountainous area for itself. □ Roger claimed all the rest of the ice cream for himself.

claim something for something to make a claim for money in payment for damages. □ David claimed one thousand dollars for the damaged car. □ She claimed a lot of money for the amount of harm she experienced.

clam up to say nothing. (Closing one's mouth in the way that a clam closes up.) □ The minute they got him in for questioning, he clammed up. □ You'll clam up if you know what's good for you.

clamber onto something and clamber in(to something); clamber on to climb onto something clumsily. □ The kids clambered onto the tractor and tried to start it. □ The wagon stopped and the kids clambered on. □ All the campers clambered into the bus.

clamber up (something) to climb up something, especially in a particular way. □ The wall climbers clambered up the wall quickly. □ Tricia clambered up the ladder and cautiously went down again.

clamor against someone or something to raise a great outcry against someone or something. □ The protesters clamored against the mayor. □ The citizens clamored against the new taxes.

clamor for someone or something to raise a great outcry for someone or something. □ Everyone was clamoring for Mark. They just loved him. □ The children were clamoring for ice cream.

clamp down (on someone or something) to become strict with someone; to become strict about something. □ Because Bob's grades were getting worse, his parents clamped down on him. □ The police have clamped down on speeders in this town.

clamp something on(to) something and clamp something on' to press or squeeze something onto something else. □ Clamp this board onto the workbench. □ Clear a place near the edge of the table, and then clamp on the meat grinder.

clap eyes on someone or something to see someone or something, perhaps for the first time; to set eyes on someone or something. □ I wish she had never clapped eyes on her fiancé. □ I haven't clapped eyes on a red squirrel for years.

clap someone in(to) some place to shove or push someone into a place, usually jail. □ Be good or the sheriff will clap you into jail. □ The cops clapped Max into a cell.

clap something on(to) something to slap or attack something onto something else. □ The police came and clapped a sign onto the car saying it was abandoned. □ Do not clap any signs on my fence.

clap something out' to clap the rhythmic beat of something in order to learn it. (Said of music.) □ All right, now. Let's clap the rhythm out. □ We'll clap out the rhythm in time with our singing.

clap something together to slap two things, usually hands, together so that they make a noise. □ The boys clapped their hands together whenever a goal was scored. □ One of the orchestra members clapped two blocks of wood together periodically, making a very loud noise.

clash against something to wage a battle or attack against someone or something. □ The troops clashed against the enemy. □ We clashed against the opposite side for over three days.

clash (with someone) (over someone or something) to fight or argue with someone about someone or something. □ The customer clashed with the pharmacist over the price of the medicine. □ I clashed over my pay increase with the school principal.

clash with something [for the color of something] to conflict with or mismatch another color. □ This red carpet clashes with the purple of the drapes. □ This red does not clash with purple. It looks gorgeous.

clasp someone or something to something to hold on to and press someone or something to a part of one's body. □ He clasped a wad of cloth to the bleeding wound. □ She clasped the child to her breast and hugged him.

class someone or something with someone or something to group someone or something with someone or something considered similar. □ Please don't class this car with anything you've ever driven before. □ The sportswriters classed this team with some of the all-time best in history.

clatter around and clatter something around to move around among things, making noise. □ Stop clattering around! It's late. □ I wish you would not clatter those dishes around.

claw one's way to the top Fig. to climb to the most prestigious level of something ruthlessly. □ He was the type of hard-hitting guy who claws his way to the top. □ She clawed her way to the top, fighting at every step.

claw something off someone or something and claw something off' to rip or tear something off from someone or something. □ We saw a guy clawing his burning clothes off himself. □ He clawed off his burning clothes.

*clean as a hound's tooth and *clean as a whistle 1. Rur. Cliché very clean. (Also: as ~.) □ After his
clean the floor up† with clean
clean
clean
clean
clean

Go to previous.

a clean bill of health Fig. a physician's determination that a person is in good condition, especially following an illness, surgery, etc. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~) □ Sally got a clean bill of health from the doctor. □ Now that Sally has a clean bill of health, she can go back to work.

clean one's act up† to reform one's conduct; to improve one's performance. □ We were told to clean our act up or move out. □ I cleaned up my act, but not in time. I got kicked out.

clean one's plate Go to clean up one's plate.

clean out (of something) Go to fresh out (of something).

clean someone or something down† to clean someone or something by brushing or with flowing water. □ He was covered with mud, and we used the garden hose to clean him down. □ Please clean down the sidewalk.

clean someone or something out of something and clean someone or something out† to remove people or things from something or some place. □ Someone should clean those bums out of political office. □ Let's clean out the garage this weekend; I can't get the car in.

clean someone or something up† to get something clean. □ Please go into the bathroom and clean yourself up. □ I'll clean up the kids before we leave for dinner. □ Can you clean this place up a little?

clean someone out† 1. Fig. to get or use up all of someone's money. □ The bill for supper cleaned me out, and we couldn't go to the flick. □ The robbers cleaned out all the bank's cash. 2. Fig. to empty someone's bowels. □ That medicine really left me cleaned out. □ The stream was as clear as crystal. □ She cleaned the windowpane until it was clear as crystal.

clean someone's plow Rur. to beat someone up. □ If Joe crosses me one more time, I'll clean his plow for sure. □ Somebody must have really cleaned Bill's plow last night. He had two black eyes this morning!

clean something off† and clean something off something to take something off something; to remove something such as dirt or dirty dishes. □ Please clean the table off and put the dishes in the kitchen. □ I'll clean off the table. □ Judy cleaned the writing off the wall.

clean something out† to remove dirt or unwanted things from the inside of something. □ Someone has to clean the garage out. □ I'll clean out my closet tonight.

a clean sweep a broad movement clearing or affecting everything in its pathway. (See also make a clean sweep. Usually figurative.) □ The manager and everybody in accounting got fired in a clean sweep of that department. □ Everybody got a pay rise. It was a clean sweep.

clean the floor up with someone Fig. to beat someone up. □ If you don't shut up, I'll clean the floor up with you. □ You won't clean the floor up with me!

clean up (on something) Fig. to make a lot of money on something. □ The promoters cleaned up on the product. □ If we get this invention to market soon, we can clean up.

clean (up) one's plate to eat all the food on one's plate. □ You have to clean up your plate before you can leave the table. □ Mom said we can't watch TV tonight unless we clean our plates.

clean-cut having to do with a person (usually male) who is neat and tidy. □ He's a very clean-cut guy, and polite too. □ He's sort of clean-cut looking, but with curly hair.

cleaned out 1. Fig. broke; with no money. □ I'm cleaned out. Not a cent left. □ Tom's cleaned out. How will he pay his bills now? 2. Fig. with one's digestive tract emptied. □ That medicine really left me cleaned out.

Cleanliness is next to godliness. Prov. It is very important to keep yourself clean. □ Child: How come I have to take a bath? Mother: Cleanliness is next to godliness. □ The woman sitting next to me on the bus had obviously never heard that cleanliness is next to godliness.

clear as a whistle 1. Fig. very clear, as with the sound of a bell. (*Also: as ~.) □ I fixed the radio, so now all the stations came in clear as a bell. □ Through the wall, I could hear the neighbors talking, just as clear as a bell.

*clear as crystal 1. Cliché very clear; transparent. (*Also: as ~.) □ The stream was as clear as crystal. □ She cleaned the windowpane until it was clear as crystal. 2. Cliché very clear; easy to understand. (*Also: as ~.) □ The explanation was as clear as crystal. □ Her lecture was not as clear as crystal, but at least it was not dull.

*clear as mud 1. Cliché not clear at all. (*Also: as ~.) □ Your swimming pool needs cleaning; the water is clear as mud. 2. Cliché not easy to understand. (*Also: as ~.) □ This physics chapter is clear as mud to me. □ I did all the reading, but it's still as clear as mud.

clear as vodka Go to clear as crystal.

*clear of something without touching something; away from something. (*Typically: keep ~; move ~; remain ~; stand ~.) □ Please stand clear of the doors while the train is moving. □ Make sure the dog moves clear of the driveway before backing the car up.

clear off ((of) some place) to depart; to get off someone's property. □ Clear off my property! □ Clear off, do you hear?

clear out (of some place) to get out of some place. □ Will you all clear out of here? □ Please clear out!

*clear sailing and *smooth sailing Fig. a situation where progress is made without any difficulty. (*Typically: be ~; have ~.) □ Once you've passed that exam, it will be clear sailing to graduation. □ Working there was not all smooth sailing. The boss had a very bad temper.

clear someone of something to show that a person is innocent; to exonerate someone of a crime. (See also clear someone's name.) □ An investigation cleared me of any wrongdoing. □ They were unable to clear themselves of the charges.

clear someone or something out of some place and clear someone or something out† to make someone or something leave a place. □ Please clear all the people out of here. □ Clear out the people quickly, please.
clear someone’s name to prove that someone is not guilty of a crime or misdeed. (See also clear someone of something.) □ I was accused of theft, but the real thief confessed and I cleared my name.

clear something away to take something away. □ Please clear the children’s toys away. □ Would you clear away the dishes?

clear something for publication to approve the release of something so it can be published. □ The government refused to clear the story for publication. □ I want to clear this for publication as soon as possible.

clear something from some place to take something away from a place. □ Please clear all these papers from the desk. □ I’ll clear off the dishes.

clear something off something and clear something off† to take something off something. □ Please clear the dishes off the table.

clear something up† 1. to make something more clear. □ Let the muddy water stand overnight so it will clear up. □ A strong wind blew in and cleared up the smoke in the air.

clear something up† 2. to explain something; to solve a mystery. □ I think that we can clear this matter up without calling in the police. □ First we have to clear up the problem of the missing jewels.

clear something up† 3. to cause a rash or inflammation to return to normal; to cause skin to “clear.” □ There is some new medicine that will clear your rash. □ 4. to cure a disease or a medical condition. □ The doctor will give you something to clear up your congestion.

clear something with someone or something to get someone’s approval for something. □ You will have to clear this expenditure with the main office. □ I will clear your trip with Dad.

clear the air 1. Lit. to get rid of stale or bad air. □ Open some windows and clear the air. It’s stuffy in here. 2. Fig. to get rid of doubts or hard feelings. □ All right, let’s discuss this frankly. It’ll be better if we clear the air.

clear the decks 1. Lit. for everyone leave the deck of a ship and prepare for action. (A naval expression urging seaman to stow gear and prepare for battle or other action.) □ An attack is coming. Clear the decks. 2. Fig. get out of the way; get out of this area. □ Clear the decks! Here comes the teacher. □ Clear the decks and take your seats.

clear the table to remove the dishes and other eating utensils from the table after a meal. (Compare this with set the table.) □ Will you please help clear the table? □ After you clear the table, we’ll play cards.

Clear the way! Please get out of the way, because someone or something is coming through and needs room! □ The movers were shouting, “Clear the way!” because they needed room to take the piano out of the house.

clear up 1. [for the sky] to become more clear or sunny. □ Suddenly, the sky cleared up. □ When the sky cleared up, the breeze began to blow. 2. [for something] to become more understandable. □ At about the middle of the very confusing lecture, things began to clear up. □ I was having trouble, but things are beginning to clear up. 3. [for a rash or skin condition] to clear the skin and return to normal. □ I’m sure your rash will clear up soon. 4. [for a minor illness] to improve or become cured. □ His cold cleared up after a couple of weeks.

cleave to someone to be sexually faithful, usually to one’s husband. (Biblical. As in the traditional marriage ceremony, “And cleave only unto him.”) □ She promised to cleave only to him for the rest of her life.

click with someone 1. [for something] to be understood or comprehended by someone suddenly. □ His explanation clicked with Maggie at once. 2. [for someone or something new] to catch on with someone; to become popular or friendly with someone very quickly. □ The new product clicked with consumers and was an instant success. □ I clicked with Tom the moment I met him.

climb down (from something) to dismount something; to come down from something. □ The child climbed down from the roof. □ Please climb down!

climb on Go to climb on(to) something.

climb on the bandwagon Go to on the bandwagon.

climb on(to) something and climb on to ascend to or mount something. □ I climbed on the side of the truck. □ Tommy climbed on the truck.

climb out of something to get, crawl, or move out of something. □ He climbed out of the wreckage and examined himself carefully for injuries. □ He climbed out very carefully.

climb the wall(s) Fig. to be very agitated, anxious, bored, or excited. □ He was home for only three days; then he began to climb the wall. □ I was climbing the walls to get back to work.

climb up (something) to ascend something; to scale something. (Fixed order.) □ The hikers took two hours to climb up the hill. □ The adventurer tried to climb up the side of the cliff.

cling to something to become attached to something. □ The child clung tightly to his mother. □ As she drifted in the sea, she clung to a floating log. 2. Fig. to hold onto the thought or memory of someone or something; to have a strong emotional attachment to or dependence on someone or something. □ Her immigrant parents clung to the old ways. □ Harold clung to the memory of his grandmother.

cling together [for two or more people or animals] to hold on tightly to each other. □ The two children clung together throughout the ordeal. □ The baby baboon and its mother clung together and could not be separated.

clip something out of something Fig. to restrain someone; to reduce or put an end to someone’s privileges. (Alludes to clipping a bird’s wings to keep it from flying away.) □ You had better learn to get home on time, or I will clip your wings. □ My mother clipped my wings. I can’t go out tonight.

clip something from something to cut something out of or away from something; to cut something off something. □ I clipped the picture from the magazine. □ I clipped the straggly hairs from his head.

clip something on(to) someone or something and clip something on† to attach something to someone or something with a clip. □ I clipped a little name tag onto him before I put him on the plane. □ I clipped on a name tag.

clip something out of something and clip something out† to remove something from something by clipping or cut-
ting. □ Please clip the article out of the magazine. □ Could you clip out the picture, too?

**cloak someone or something in secrecy** Fig. to hide or conceal someone or something in secrecy. □ Patrick cloaked his activities in secrecy. □ The agents cloaked the spy in secrecy, making her identity a mystery.

**cloak-and-dagger** involving secrecy and plotting. □ A great deal of cloak-and-dagger stuff goes on in political circles. □ A lot of cloak-and-dagger activity was involved in the appointment of the director.

**clock in** to record one’s time of arrival, usually by punching a time clock. □ What time did she clock in? □ She forgot to clock in today.

**clock out** to record one’s time of departure, usually by punching a time clock. □ I will clock out just before I go home. □ Jim clocked out early Tuesday to go to the doctor.

**clock someone in** to observe and record someone’s time of arrival. □ The manager says he clocked you in at noon.

**clock someone or something at something** to measure the speed of someone or something to be a certain figure. □ I clocked the runner at a record speed for the race. □ Karen clocked the race at three minutes flat.

**clock someone out** to observe and record someone’s time of departure. □ Jane clocked herself out and went home.

**clock someone at speeds of some amount** Go to speeds of some amount.

**clock something up** 1. to record the accumulated hours, miles, etc., of some device or machine. (The recording is usually done by a meter of some type such as a speedometer, an elapsed time meter, etc.) □ She must have clocked two hundred flying hours up in six months. □ She clocked up a lot of hours. 2. to reach a goal that is worthy of being recorded. (Typically sports journalism. Compare this with chalk something up.) □ Patrick clocked a fantastic number of points up this year. □ He sure clocked up a lot of goals.

**clock-watcher** someone—a worker or a student—who is always looking at the clock, anticipating when something will be over. □ There are four clock-watchers in our office. □ People who don’t like their jobs can turn into clock-watchers.

**clog someone up** [for some kind of food] to constipate someone. □ This cheese clogs me up. I can’t eat it.

**clog something up** [for something] to obstruct a channel or conduit. □ The leaves clogged the gutters up. □ They clogged up the gutter.

**clog something with something** to block or obstruct a channel or conduit with something. □ The neighbors clogged the creek with their brush and leaves. □ Please don’t clog the drain with garbage.

**clog up** [for a channel or conduit] to become blocked. □ The canal clogged up with leaves and mud.

**close a deal** and **close the deal** to formally conclude bargaining; to bring negotiating to an end by reaching an agreement. □ We negotiated the terms of the agreement, and this afternoon we will close the deal.

**close a sale** and **close the sale** to complete the sale of something; to seal a bargain in the sale of something.

The salesman closed the sale and the customer drove off in a brand new car.

**close as two coats of paint** Cliché close and intimate. (*Also as [ ]*) □ When Tom and Mary were in high school, they were as close as two coats of paint. □ All their lives, the cousins were close as two coats of paint.

**close at hand** within reach; handy. □ I’m sorry, but your letter isn’t close at hand. Please remind me what you said in it. □ When you’re cooking, you should keep all the ingredients close at hand.

**Close, but no cigar**. Cliché Some effort came close to succeeding, but did not succeed. (Alludes to not quite winning a cigar as a prize.) □ Jill: How did you do in the contest? Jane: Close, but no cigar. I got second place.

**a close call** Go to a close shave.

**close choker and a tight spitter** Rur. someone who hates to spend money; a cheapskate. □ He’s a close choker and a tight spitter. Everything about him looks run-down, but he’s probably the richest man in the county.

**close down** and **shut down** [for someone] to close a business, office, shop, etc., permanently or temporarily. □ This shop will have to close down if they raise taxes. □ The fire department closed down all the stores on the block because of the gas leak.

**close enough for government work** and good enough for government work sufficiently close; done just well enough. (Alludes to the notion that work for the government is not done with care or pride.) □ I didn’t do the best job of mending your shirt, but it’s close enough for government work.

**close enough to use the same toothpick** Rur. very close. (Used to describe close friends.) □ We’ve been friends since we were five years old. We’re close enough to use the same toothpick.

**close (in) around** someone or something to move to surround someone or something. □ The police closed in around the thieves. □ We closed in around the enemy camp.

**close in for the kill** and **move in for the kill** 1. Lit. to move in on someone or something for the purpose of killing. □ The wolves closed in for the kill. □ When the lions closed in for the kill, the zebras began to stampede. 2. Fig. to get ready to do the final and climactic part of something. □ The car salesman closed in for the kill with contract and pen in hand.

**close in (on someone or something)** 1. Lit. to move inward on someone or something. □ The cops were closing in on the thugs. □ They closed in quietly and trapped the bear. 2. Fig. [for threats or negative feelings] to overwhelm or seem to surround someone or something. □ My problems are closing in on me. □ I feel trapped. Everything is closing in.

**close on something** to formally complete the sale and transfer of property, especially real estate. □ We closed on the new house on April 16. □ We were able to close on our old house on June 2.

**close one’s eyes to something** and **shut one’s eyes to something** 1. Lit. to close one’s eyes to avoid seeing something unpleasant. □ I had to close my eyes to the carnage about me. I couldn’t bear to look. 2. Fig. to ignore something; to pretend that something is not happening.
Maria simply shut her eyes to the bad morale in her department.

**close only counts in horseshoes (and hand grenades).** Prov. Coming close but not succeeding is not good enough. □ I came close to winning the election, but close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades.

**close ranks** to move closer together in a military formation. □ The soldiers closed ranks and marched on the enemy in tight formation.

**close ranks (behind someone or something)** to support someone or something; to back someone or something. □ We will close ranks behind the party’s nominee. □ Let’s close ranks behind her and give her the support she needs.

**close ranks (with someone)** to join with someone in a cause, or agreement. □ We can fight this menace only if we close ranks. □ Let’s all close ranks with Ann and adopt her suggestions.

**close shave** and a **close call** a narrow escape. (See also have a close shave.) □ Wow, that was a close shave. I thought the guard would spot us. □ The speeding car passed only a few inches from us—a real close call.

**close someone or something down** to force someone or something to close. **close someone or something down** (behind someone or something) to sell off a particular kind of merchandise with the intention of not selling it in the future. □ The health department closed the restaurant down. □ They closed down the same place last year, too.

**close someone or something in** to contain something or some place; to seal someone or something inside something. □ Don’t close the bird in such a small cage. □ Don’t close me in! Leave the door open.

**close someone out of** something to prevent someone from getting into something, such as a class, a room, a waiting list, etc. □ They closed me out of the class I wanted. □ I got in, but they closed out everyone after me in line.

**close someone up** to close a surgical wound at the end of a surgical procedure. □ Fred, would you close her up for me? □ Fred closed up the patient.

**close something down** and **shut something down** to make something stop operating; to put something out of business. □ The police closed the illegal casino down. □ The manager shut down the factory for the holidays.

**close something off** to prevent entrance into something; to block something off. □ Please don’t close this passageway off. □ They closed off the passageway anyway.

**close something out** 1. to sell off a particular kind of merchandise with the intention of not selling it in the future. □ These are not selling. Let’s close them out. □ They closed out all of last season’s merchandise. 2. to prevent further registration in something. □ We are going to have to close this class out. □ The registrar closed out the class.

**close something to** someone to prevent someone or some type of person from participating in or attending something. □ We closed membership to anyone who signed up late. □ They had to close the registration to nonresidents.

**close something up** 1. to close someone’s business, office, shop, etc., temporarily or permanently. □ Tom’s restaurant nearly went out of business when the health department closed him up. □ The health department closed up the restaurant. 2. to close something that is open, such as a door or a box. □ Please close the door when you leave.

**close the books on** someone or something Fig. to declare that a matter concerning someone or something is finished. (The books here originally referred to financial accounting records.) □ It’s time to close the books on Fred. He’s had enough time to apologize to us.

**close the deal** Go to close a deal.

**close the door on** someone or something Go to shut the door (up) on someone or something.

**close the door to** someone or something Go to shut the door (up) on someone or something.

**close the sale** Go to close a sale.

**close to home** Fig. affecting one personally and intimately. □ Her remarks were a bit too close to home. I took her review as a personal insult.

**close to someone** friendly or intimate with someone. (Typically: be ~; get ~) □ She is very shy and really won’t let anyone get close to her. □ It is difficult to get close to a loner like Wally.

**close to someone or something** 1. near someone or something. (Typically: get ~; stand ~; sit ~; move ~) □ Don’t get close to me. I have a cold. □ If you get close to the fire, you may get burned. 2. approximating someone or something in some quality or measure. (Typically: be ~; get ~) □ This brand of frozen fish does not even get close to that brand in flavor and freshness. □ Tom doesn’t even get close to Nancy when it comes to artistic ability.

**close up** 1. Lit. [for an opening] to close completely. □ The door closed up and would not open again. □ The wound will close up completely in a day or so. 2. Fig. [for a place of business] to close for business. □ The store closed up and did not open until the next day.

**close up shop** Fig. to quit working, for the day or forever. (Fixed order.) □ It’s five o’clock. Time to close up shop. □ I can’t make any money in this town. The time has come to close up shop and move to another town.

**close with someone or something** to end a performance with a particular act or event. □ The show is almost over and we will close with Sarah Miles, who will announce her own song title. □ The evening closed with a magic act.

**closedfisted (with money)** Go to tightfisted (with money).

**closet someone with** someone to put someone into a private room with someone else for the purposes of conducting business. □ She closeted herself with the president and finally, once and for all, had her say.

**clothe someone in** something to dress someone in something. □ She clothed her children in the finest garments. □ He clothed himself in his tuxedo for the wedding.

**Clothes make the man.** Prov. People will judge you according to the way you dress. □ Jim was always careful about how he dressed. He believed that clothes make the man.

**cloud over** 1. Lit. [for the sky] to fill with clouds; [for the sun] to be obscured by clouds. □ It was beginning to cloud over, so we went inside. □ The sky clouded over and it began to get chilly. 2. Fig. [for something once clear] to
cloud up

come opaque; to become clouded.

**cloud up** 1. Lit. [for the sky] to get cloudy, as if it were going to rain. All of a sudden it clouded up and began to rain.

2. Fig. [for someone] to grow very sad, as if to cry.

Whenever Mary got homesick, she’d cloud up. She really wanted to go home.

**clown around** (with someone) Fig. to join with someone in acting silly; [for two or more people] to act silly together.

The kids are having fun clowning around.

**clue** someone in on something to inform someone of something.

Please clue me in on what’s been going on.

**clunk** something down to drop or fall, making the sound “clunk.” A large piece of metal clunked down right in front of me.

A tree branch clunked down on the roof and damaged a few shingles.

**clunk something down** to drop or place something heavily on something so that it makes a clunking noise.

He clunked the big box down on the table.

**cluster around** someone or something [for a group of people or things] to bunch together, surrounding someone or something.

She clustered the cups around the punch bowl.

**cluster together** to bunch or group together.

All of the bats clustered together on the roof of the cave.

The children clustered together in small groups here and there on the playground.

**cluster someone or something around** someone or something to bunch people or things together around someone or something.

She clustered the cups around the punch bowl.

**cluster** one or more things up (on something) to bunch together, surrounding someone or something.

Karen clustered the children around the fire. The kids clustered around the police officer.

**clutch at something** to grasp at or grab for someone or something.

He clutched at the roots of the trees along the bank, but the flood swept him away.

Karen clutched at me, but lost her grip.

**clutch at straws** Fig. to continue to seek solutions, ideas, or hopes that are insubstantial.

When you talk of cashing in quick on your inventions, you are just clutching at straws.

**clutch** one or more things up to mess something up; to fill something or some place up with too many things.

Heaps of newspapers cluttered the room up and made it a fire hazard.

Who cluttered up this house?

**coach** someone for something to train or drill someone in preparation for doing something.

Elliott coached his roommate every night for the contest.

**coalesce into something** [for two or more things] to blend or fuse and become one thing.

The fading colors coalesced into a gray blur.

In the distance, the crowd coalesced into a single blob.

**coast along** to roll or move along with little or no effort.

We just coasted along on the flat prairie. We coasted along until we came to the bottom of the hill.

**coast is clear**. There is no visible danger.

I’m going to stay hidden here until the coast is clear.

You can come out of your hiding place now. The coast is clear.

**coast-to-coast** from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans (in the continental U.S.A.); all the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (considered in either direction).

My voice was once heard on a coast-to-coast radio broadcast.

Our car made the coast-to-coast trip in eighty hours.

**coat and tie** [for men] a jacket or sports coat and necktie. (A respectable but less than formal standard of dress.)

My brother was not wearing a coat and tie, and they would not admit him into the restaurant.

I always carry a coat and tie in my car just in case I have to dress up a little for something.

**coat someone or something with something** to put a layer of something on someone or something.

Her manager coated her with grease before she began the Channel swim.

The cook coated the chicken with batter and dropped it into the hot fat.

**coax** someone or an animal in(to something) 1. to urge or persuade someone or an animal to go into something.

We coaxed the lion into the cage with fresh meat.

The teacher coaxed the child into the kindergarten classroom.

2. to urge or persuade someone or an animal into doing something.

We coaxed her into singing for us.

Janet coaxed the dog into sitting up and begging.

**coax someone or an animal out of something** 1. to urge or persuade someone or an animal to give something up.

He almost wouldn’t sell it, but I coaxed him out of it.

I coaxed the cat out of the canary it was holding in its mouth.

2. to urge or persuade someone or an animal to come out of something.

She coaxed the puppy out of the carton.

Janet coaxed the child out of the closet with a promise of a piece of cake.

**coax someone to do something** to urge someone to do something.

The kids coaxed her to let them go swimming.

Can I coax you to try some of this pie?

**cobble something up** and cobbles something together to make something or put something together hastily or carelessly.

Who cobbled this thing up? Take it apart and start over.

The kids cobbled up their model planes badly.

It looks like you cobbled together that report just last night.

**cock a snook at someone** to show or express defiance or scorn at someone.

He cocked a snook at the traffic cop and tore up the ticket.

The boy cocked a snook at the park attendant and walked on the grass.

**cock of the walk** someone who acts more important than others in a group.

The deputy manager was cock of the
walk until the new manager arrived. □ He loved acting cock of the walk and ordering everyone about.

cock-and-bull story a hard-to-believe, made-up story; a story that is a lie. □ Don’t give me that cock-and-bull story. □ I asked for an explanation, and all I got was your ridiculous cock-and-bull story!

*cozy as the king of spades* boastful; overly proud. (*Also: as ~.) □ He’d challenge anyone to a fight. He’s as cozy as the king of spades. □ She strutted in, cozy as the king of spades.

cobble someone or an animal into something to force or compel someone or an animal to do something. □ I could not coerce her into coming along with us. □ You cannot coerce a cat into anything.

cooexist with someone or something to exist agreeably or tolerably with or at the same time as someone or something. □ I decided that I would have to coexist with your policies, despite my objections. □ It is hard for cats to coexist with dogs.

coffee and coffee and a doughnut or a pastry. □ I’ll have coffee and. □ We stopped at a little shop for coffee and.

coffee and Danish a cup of coffee and a Danish sweet. □ We purchased a coffee-table book left on the coffee table for visitors to examine. □ This book is more of a coffee-table book than an art book. I prefer something more scholarly. □ We purchased a coffee-table book for Jan’s birthday.

cogitate on something Rum. to think about something. □ Cogitate on this idea for a while. □ I will have to cogitate on this for a few days. I’ll get back to you.

cohabit with someone 1. [for an unmarried person] to live with a person of the opposite sex. □ They were cohabitating with one another for several years. 2. Eup. to copulate with someone. □ She had been cohabiting with him, and she admitted it in court.

coil (itself) around someone or something [for something or an animal] to wrap itself around someone or something. □ The monkey’s tail coiled itself around the branch. □ The huge python coiled itself around poor Roger.

coil (itself) up [for something] to wrap or roll itself into a coil. □ The snake coiled itself up, trying to hide. □ It coiled up, ready to strike.

cold comfort no comfort or consolation at all. □ Sally said she should try skydiving, but I had cold feet.

*cold as a welldigger’s ass* (in January) Go to cold as a welldigger’s ass (in January).

cold as a witch’s tit Go to cold as a welldigger’s ass (in January).

cold as marble Go to cold as a welldigger’s ass (in January).

coldcock someone to knock someone unconscious. □ He hit him once and looks like he coldcocked him. □ She coldcocked him with her walking stick.

cold feet Fig. fear of doing something; cowardice at the moment of action. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ The bridegroom got cold feet on the day of the wedding. □ Sally said she should try skydiving, but I had cold feet.

Cold hands, warm heart. Prov. People whose hands are usually cold have kind and loving personalities. □ Nancy: I don’t like holding hands with Joe. His hands are so cold. Jane: Cold hands, warm heart.

cold, hard cash cash, not checks or credit. □ I want to be paid in cold, hard cash, and I want to be paid now! □ Pay me now! Cash on the barrelhead—cold, hard cash.

cold-shoulder to ignore someone; to give someone a cool reception. (See also the cold shoulder.) □ The hostess cold-shouldered me, so I spilt my appetizers in the swimming pool. □ Tiffany cold-shouldered the guy who was trying to flirt with her.

*the cold shoulder* Fig. an attitude of rejection. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ If you greet her at a party, you’ll just get the cold shoulder. □ I thought that Sally and I were friends, but lately I’ve been getting the cold shoulder.

cold sober Go to stone (cold) sober.

cold turkey Sl. immediately; without tapering off or cutting down gradually. (See also go cold turkey. Originally drug slang. Now used of breaking any habit.) □ Tom stopped smoking cold turkey. □ She gave up her drinking habit cold turkey and had no ill effects.
collaborate with someone or something to work together on something with someone or a group. ① I will collaborate with Amy on this research. ② I was forced to collaborate with a totally uninformed committee.
collapse into something 1. Lit. to fall down into something with suddenness, as if out of energy. ① She was so tired, she collapsed into the chair. ② Juan collapsed into a chair and fell fast asleep. ② Fig. [for someone] to fall into a particular kind of despair. ① The poor man collapsed into a deep depression. ② Scott collapsed into his own personal brand of grieving.
collapse under someone or something to cave in under the weight of someone or something. ① The grandstand collapsed under the weight of the spectators. ② The bridge collapsed from the force of the flood.
collar-and-tie men Rur. businessmen who wear dress shirts and ties. ① After Jim graduated from college, he went off to join the collar-and-tie men. ② Us working folks at the plant have an awful time getting the collar-and-tie men to see our point of view.
collate something with something to compare or match something with something. ① Try to collate these figures with that other list. ② I can’t collate these notations with the spreadsheet they go with.
collect around someone or something to gather around someone or something; to accumulate around someone or something. ① The guests collected around the table that held the birthday cake. ② The children collected around the birthday boy.
collect (money) for someone or something to solicit money that is owed. ① I’m collecting money for payment on your loan. ② I’m collecting money for Fred, who is in the hospital. ① I am collecting for the church building fund.
collect (money) for something to solicit money that is owed. ① I’m collecting money for payment on your loan. ② Someone is calling to collect the newspaper delivery.
collect on something to take or receive payment on a debt or promise. ① I have come to collect on your debt. ② I will have to assign your account to an agency to collect on this bill.
collect one’s thoughts Fig. to take time to think through an issue; to give some thought to a topic. ① I’ll speak to the visitors in a moment. I need some time to collect my thoughts.
collect something from someone 1. to gather up something from someone; to gather money from someone. ① I’m here to collect used clothing from you. ② She is out collecting donations from the neighbors. ② to take a medical specimen from a person. ① I am here to collect a urine specimen from the patient. ② The phlebotomist collected the specimen from Todd and left the room.
collect something up1 to gather something up. ① Collect your things up, and let’s go. ② I collected up all my luggage and left.
collide with someone or something to crash with or bump into someone or something. ① The bus collided with a truck. ② Maria collided with Alice, but neither was hurt.
collude with someone or something to plot or conspire with someone or a group. ① The CEO colluded with the board of directors in the stock scandal.
color something in1 to paint or draw color on a pattern or outline. ① Here is a sketch. Please color it in. ② Color in the sketch, please.
comb something for someone or something Fig. to look all over or all through something for a particular person or thing. ① The police combed the entire neighborhood for the criminals. ② I combed the entire house for the missing paper.
comb something out of something and comb something out1 to remove substances or knots and snarls from something by combing. ① I had to comb the gum out of her hair. ② It took me over an hour to comb out the gum.
comb through something Fig. to look through something, examining it thoroughly. ① I combed through all my belongings, looking for the lost papers. ② The vet combed through the dog’s coat, looking for tick bites.
combine something against someone or something to join something together in opposition to someone or something. ① We will combine forces against the enemy. ② Our game plan combined our various talents against the opposite team.
combine something with something to mix something with something else. ① I want to combine the red flowers with the pink ones for a bouquet. ② First, combine the eggs with the sugar.
come a cropper Fig. to have a misfortune; to fail. (Meaning ‘fall off one’s horse.’) ① Bob invested all his money in the stock market just before it fell. Boy, did he come a cropper. ① Jane was out all night before she took her final. She really came a cropper.
come aboard and go aboard to get onto a boat or ship. ① Please come aboard. We are shoving off now. ② Please ask everyone to go aboard.
come about 1. to happen. ① How did this damage come about? ② This came about due to the windstorm. ② [for a ship or boat] to turn. ② Look how easily this boat comes about. ② Now, practice making the boat come about.
come across 1. to be compliant. ① Oh, she’ll come across, just you wait; she’ll do what we want. ② to agree; to yield. ① How can we get him to come across? ② to deliver what is expected of one. ② You had better come across with what you owe.
come between someone and someone else

me. □ You owe me money, and I wish you would come across.

come after someone or something Go to after someone or something.

Come again. 1. Please come back again sometime. □ Mary: I had a lovely time. Thank you for asking me. Sally: You’re quite welcome. Come again. □ “Come again,” said Mrs. Martin as she let Jimmy out the door. 2. Run. (usually Come again?) I didn’t hear what you said. Please repeat it. □ Sally: Do you want some more carrots? Mary: Come again? Sally: Carrots. Do you want some more carrots?

come along (with someone) to come with or go with someone. □ Please come along with me to the store. □ Come along, let’s go.

Come and get it! and Come ‘n’ get it! Dinner’s ready. Come eat! □ The camp cook shouted, “Time to eat! Come and get it!”

come apart to break apart; to break up. □ The missile came apart in midair. □ I was afraid our car would come apart on that rough road.

come apart at the seams Go to fall apart at the seams.

come (a)round 1. finally to agree or consent (to something). □ I thought he’d never agree, but in the end he came around. □ She came round only after we argued for an hour. 2. to return to consciousness; to wake up. □ He came around after we threw cold water in his face. □ The boxer was knocked out, but came round in a few seconds.

come around (for a visit) Go to come around (to visit).

come around (to doing something) to agree to do something eventually, after a long wait. □ Finally, she came around to painting the kitchen. □ She hesitated for a long time, but eventually we got Lynn to come around.

come around (to some place) 1. to come to some place for a visit. □ You must come around to our place for a while. □ Do come around and have dinner with us sometime. 2. and come around (to visit) and come around (for a visit) to pay a casual visit to someone. □ Why don’t you come around to visit next week? □ Why don’t you come around for a visit? You are welcome any time.

come as no surprise will not be surprising [for someone] to learn [something]. □ It will come as no surprise for you to learn that the company is losing money this year. □ It came as no surprise that the president had been lying.

come at someone or something 1. to make a threatening move toward someone or something. □ The gorilla came at the cage and shook the bars. □ Walter came at the cake as if he were going to snatch the whole thing. 2. to attack someone or something. □ The elephant came at us and we moved away. □ The cat came at the mouse and pounced on it.

come away empty-handed to return without anything. □ All right, go gambling. Don’t come away empty-handed, though. □ Go to the bank and ask for the loan again. This time don’t come away empty-handed.

come away (from someone or something) to move away from someone or something. □ Please come away from the fire. You will get burned if you don’t. □ Come away! You can walk with me for a while.

come away with someone to go away or travel away with someone. □ Come away with me for a ride in the country. □ Come away with me and we’ll find a nice place to eat.

come back to return; to return to an advantageous or favorable state or condition. □ Walter practiced every day, hoping to come back from his injury. □ When will the good old days come back?

Come back and see us. and Come back and see me. Come visit us [or me] again. (Often said by a host or hostess to departing guests.) □ Bill: Good night. Thanks for having me. Sally: Oh, you’re quite welcome. Come back and see us. □ Bob: I enjoyed my visit. Good-bye. Mary: It was very nice of you to pay me a visit. Come back and see me.

Come back anytime. Please come and visit us again. You’re always welcome. (Often said by a host or hostess to departing guests.) □ Mary: So glad you could come. Bill: Thank you. I had a wonderful time. Mary: Come back any- time. □ Bob: Thanks for the coffee and cake. Bye. Mary: We’re glad to have you. Please come back anytime.

come back (from some place) to return from a place. □ When will you come back from Detroit? □ Please come back soon.

come back to haunt one and return to haunt one Fig. [for a bad memory] to recur; for the consequences of a bad decision to affect one negatively later. □ I never dreamed that a little thing like a traffic ticket could come back to haunt me years later.

come back (to someone) [for a memory] to return to someone’s consciousness. □ Everything you said suddenly came back to me. □ All the old memories came back to me and made me feel very sad.

come back (to someone or something) to return to someone or something. □ Please come back to me. I’m lonely. □ Come back to your home!

Come back when you can stay longer. Come back again sometime when your visit can be longer. (Often said by a host or hostess to departing guests.) □ John: I really must go. Sue: So glad you could come. Please come back when you can stay longer. □ Bill: Well, I hate to eat and run, but I have to get up early tomorrow. Mary: Well, come back when you can stay longer.

come before someone or something 1. [of persons or things in an order or a line] to be in front of or in advance of someone or something. □ This one comes before that one. □ She comes before me. 2. [for one] to present oneself in the presence of someone or a group. □ Thank you for coming before this committee with your testimony. □ The judge said I would have to come before her again next month. 3. [for an issue] to be raised before someone, a board, committee, etc.; [for an issue] to appear on the agenda of someone or a deliberative body. □ The matter of the broken windows came before the school board at last. □ The question came before the business manager.

come between someone and someone else 1. Lit. to be in between two people. □ That’s my place, there. I come between Maria and Lynn. □ In the line of contestants, I come between Bob and Bill. 2. Fig. to interfere in some-
come down in the world  

- come down in the world 1. sl. to happen.  
- come down in the world 2. lit. to arrive on earth from above.  
- come down in the world 3. lit. to arrive on earth from above.

come down to earth  

- come down to earth 1. lit. to arrive on earth from above.  
- come down to earth 2. fig. to become realistic; to become alert to what is going on around one.  
- come down to earth 3. fig. to become realistic; to become alert to what is going on around one.

come down on something to be reduced to something; to amount to no more than something.  

come down from something to move from a higher status to a lower one. (See also come down in the world.)  

come down from something 1. sl. to happen.  
- come down from something 2. lit. to arrive on earth from above.  
- come down from something 3. lit. to arrive on earth from above.

come down with something to become or to be sick with some illness.  

come down with something 1. sl. to happen.  

come by something  

- come by something 1. lit. to travel by a specific means, such as a plane, a boat, or a car.  
- come by something 2. lit. to inherit something—such as a character trait—from one's parents.  
- come by something 3. sl. to inherit something—such as a character trait—from one's parents.

come clean (with something) to stop and think things over.  

come clean with something  

- come clean with something 1. sl. to happen.  
- come clean with something 2. lit. to arrive on earth from above.  

come full circle Fig. to return to the original position or state of affairs.  

come hell or high water Fig. no matter what happens.

come between something and something else  

- come between something and something else to have a position between one thing and another.  
- come between something and something else to have a position between one thing and another.

come between someone and something else  

- come between someone and something else to have a position between one thing and another.  
- come between someone and something else to have a position between one thing and another.

come by something honestly  

- come by something honestly 1. sl. to happen.  
- come by something honestly 2. sl. to happen.

come close (to someone or something)  

- come close (to someone or something) 1. sl. to happen.  
- come close (to someone or something) 2. sl. to happen.

come clean (with something) (about something) Fig. to be honest with somebody about something.  

come clean with something (about something)  

- come clean with something (about something) 1. sl. to happen.  
- come clean with something (about something) 2. sl. to happen.

come by something  

- come by something 1. sl. to happen.  
- come by something 2. sl. to happen.

come to some place  

- come to some place 1. sl. to happen.  
- come to some place 2. sl. to happen.

come between something and something else  

- come between something and something else to have a position between one thing and another.  
- come between something and something else to have a position between one thing and another.
or high water. □ Come hell or high water, I intend to own my own home.

come in out of the rain 1. □ Come in out of the rain! You'll get wet. 2. □ The chickens come in out of the rain in the evening.

come home from some place to arrive home from another place. □ The soldiers came home from the war. □ When will you come home from the office?

come home (to roost) 1. Lit. [for a fowl or other bird] to return to its home, as for a night's rest. □ The chickens come home to roost in the evening. 2. Fig. [for a problem] to return to cause trouble [for someone]. (See also come home to someone.) □ As I feared, all my problems came home to roost.

come home to someone Fig. [for a fact] to be recognized suddenly by someone. □ Suddenly, it came home to me that you thought I was Ronald. □ The importance of the events of the day finally came home to me.

come home to someone or something to arrive home and find someone or something there. (See also come home to someone.) □ I like to come home to a happy house. □ I look forward to coming home to you.

come in 1. to enter. (Often a command or polite request.) □ Please come in. □ If you will come in and have a seat, I will tell Betty that you are here. 2. to arrive; [for a shipment of something] to arrive. □ New models come in almost every week. □ When do you expect a new hatch to come in? □ The tomatoes will come in at the end of July. □ The election results came in early in the evening. 3. [for a broadcast signal] to be received satisfactorily. □ Can you hear me? How am I coming in? □ You are coming in all right.

come in a certain position to finish in a certain position or rank. □ Fred came in fourth in the race. □ He was afraid he would come in last.

Come in and make yourself at home. Please come into my house and make yourself comfortable. □ Sue: Oh, hello, Tom. Come in and make yourself at home. Tom: Thanks. I will.

Come in and sit a spell. and Come in and set a spell.; Come in and sit down.; Come in and take a load off your feet. □ Come in and sit on a seat and a visit. (The variant with set informal or folksy.) □ “Hi, Fred,” smiled Tom, “Come in and sit a spell.” □ Tom: I hope I'm not intruding. Bill: Not at all. Come in and set a spell.

come in for something to be eligible for something; to be due something. □ You are going to come in for a nice reward. □ Your report came in for a lot of criticism at the last board meeting.

come in handy [for something] to be useful. □ I think that this gadget will come in handy in the kitchen.

come (in) on a wing and a prayer Go to on a wing and a prayer.

come in on something Go to in on something.

come out in the rain 1. Lit. to seek shelter from the rain. □ Come out in the rain! You'll get wet. 2. Fig. to wake up to reality; to come down to earth. (See also doesn't have enough sense to come out in the rain.) □ Hey, man! Come out in the rain! Don't you see that your boss is taking advantage of you!

come in useful to be useful. □ Your report has come in useful a number of times.

come into a (small) fortune Go to come into (some) money.

come into being to begin existence. □ This idea came into being during the last decade. □ When did this organization come into being?

come into bloom and Come into blossom 1. [for a flower] to bloom. □ This rose comes into bloom later in the summer. □ When do they normally come into bloom? 2. [for a plant, bush, or tree] to begin to have many blossoms. □ When do these bushes come into bloom? □ They come into blossom in June.

come into blossom Go to previous.

come into conflict [for things or people] to conflict or to be at odds with one another. □ The various policies came into conflict at the last moment. □ Bill and Bob came into conflict over almost everything.

come in(to) contact (with someone or something) 1. Lit. to touch someone or something, probably unknowingly. □ How many people have come into contact with the sick man? □ He came in contact with almost no one. 2. Fig. to meet up with and learn about someone or something. □ Have you ever come into contact with trigonometry before? □ I have never come in contact with anything so difficult.

come into effect to become valid, effective, or operable. □ When did these rules come into effect? □ They came into effect while you were on vacation.

come into existence to begin existence; to begin to be. □ This country came into existence in the early part of the fifteenth century. □ When did this little town come into existence?

come into fashion to become stylish or fashionable. □ Do you think that a design like this will ever come into fashion? □ That kind of dance will never come into fashion.

come into focus to become notable; to become recognized as independent and capable, usually after much effort or time. □ Maria is coming into her own as a concert pianist.

come into play to become an important factor in something; to go into force. □ All your hard practice and preparation will now come into play in the finals.

come into power to become independent; to be recognized as independent and capable, usually after much effort or time. □ When did your dog come in power?

come into one's or its own to become independent; to be recognized as independent and capable, usually after much effort or time. □ Maria is coming into her own as a concert pianist.

come into service to begin to be used; to begin to operate and function as designed. □ When did this elevator
come into service? [I think that this machine came into service during World War II.]
come into sight and come into view to become visible; to move closer so as to be seen. [The tall buildings of the city came into sight first. A large herd of elephants came into view in the distance.
come into (some) money and come into a (small) fortune to get some money unexpectedly, usually by inheritance. [She came into a lot of money when she turned twenty. I hope I can come into some money some day.
come into someone’s possession Go to in someone’s possession.
come into the world Fig. to be born. [I came into this world nearly seventy years ago. Little Timmy came into the world on a cold and snowy night.
come into view Go to come into sight.
come Monday Rur. when Monday comes. (Can be used with other expressions for time, as in come next week, come December, come five o’clock. See the second example.) [Joe plays so hard on the weekend that come Monday, he’s all worn out. You may think that putting up storm windows is a bother, but come December, you’ll be glad you did it.

Come ‘n’ get it! Go to Come and get it!
come naturally (to someone) to be natural and easy for someone. [Her ability to deal easily with people comes naturally to her.
come of age Go to of age.
come off Inf. to happen; to take place. [What time does this party come off? How did your speech come off? It came off very well.

Come off it! 1. Inf. Stop acting arrogantly! (See also come off (of) something.) [Come off it, Tiff. You’re not the Queen of England. 2. Inf. Give up your incorrect point of view! [Come off it! You’re wrong, and you know it!
come off (of) something 1. [for something to detach from, fall off, or drop off something. (See also Come off it! Of is usually retained before pronouns.) [The paint came off the west side of the house because of the hot sun. A wheel came off Timmy’s tricycle. 2. to get down off something; to get off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) [Come off the roof immediately. Please come off of that horse!
come off second best to be second to someone or something; to get the poorer end of a bargain. [As usual, he came off second best with a little less prize money than the winner. I don’t want to come off second best again.
come on 1. Stop it! Stop doing that. (Usually Come on!) [Mary: Are you really going to sell your new car? Sally: Come on! How dumb do you think I am? 2. please oblige me. [Mother: Sorry. You can’t go! Bill: Come on, let me go to the picnic! “Come on,” whined Jimmy, “I want some more!” 3. to hurry up; to follow someone. [If you don’t come on, we’ll miss the train. 4. [for electricity or some other device] to start operating. [After a while, the lights came on again. 5. to walk out and appear on stage. [You are to come on when you hear your cue. 6. [for a pain] to begin hurting; [for a disease] to attack someone. 7. The pain began to come on again, and Sally had to lie down.
come on as something to appear to be something; to project one’s image as something. [The senator comes on as a liberal, but we all know better. He comes on as a happy guy, but he is miserable.
come on (duty) to begin to work at one’s scheduled time. [When did you come on duty tonight? What time does she come on?

Come (on) in. and come on in(to) something Enter.; Come into this place. (A polite invitation to enter someone’s home, office, room, etc. It is more emphatic with on.) [Bob: Hello, you guys. Come on in. We’re just about to start dinner. Bill: Come in. Nice to see you. Mary: I hope we’re not too early. Bill: Not at all. [Come on into the house and have a cold drink.

Come on in, the water’s fine! 1. Lit. Get into the water and swim! (Usually a polite command.) [As Todd swam along, he said to Rachel, “Come on in. The water’s fine.” 2. Fig. to begin to do anything. [You will like skiing. Come on in, the water’s fine. [I think you would like working here, and I’m happy to offer you the job. Come on in, the water’s fine.
come on like gangbusters Go to come on strong.
come on somehow to advance in some fashion, manner, rate, or degree. [Darkness comes on early these days. The illness comes on by degrees.
come on strong and come on like gangbusters to seem aggressive; to impress people initially as very aggressive and assertive. [She has a tendency to come on strong, but she’s really a softie. The new president comes on strong at first.
come on the scene and arrive on the scene 1. Lit. to arrive at a place. [When we came on the scene, the ambulances were already there. The police arrived on the scene and began directing traffic. 2. Fig. to become part of a situation. [She thought she was in love with Harry until Bob came on the scene.
come on (to someone) Sl. to attempt to interest someone romantically or sexually. [He was trying to come on to me, but I found him unappealing.
come on(to) someone or something to find someone or something by accident; to happen onto someone or something. [When I was out on my walk, I came on a little shop that sells leather goods. I came on an old friend of yours downtown today.
come out 1. Lit. to exit; to leave the inside of a place. [Please come out. We have to leave. [When do you think they will all come out? 2. Fig. to result; to succeed; to happen. [I hope everything comes out fine. It will come out okay. Don’t worry. 3. Fig. to come before the public; [for a book] to be published; [for a report] to be made public. A new magazine has just come out. 4. Fig. to become visible or evident. [His pride came out in his refusal to accept help. The real reason finally came out, and it was not flattering. 5. Fig. [for a young woman] to make a social debut. (Now only done in certain U.S. regions.)
come out in(to) the open

come out against someone or something to announce or reveal that one is opposed to someone or something.  
Our governor came out against the new tax bill.

come out ahead to end up with a profit, benefit, or advantage.  
It was a tricky deal, and no one came out ahead of anyone else.  
I never come out ahead after paying my bills.

come out at an amount and come out to an amount to result in a certain amount, as the result of mathematical computation.  
The total charges came out at far more than we expected.

come out at someone or something and come out toward(s) someone or something to emerge and attack someone or something.  
The dogs came out at us, but we got away.  
Betsy's bulldog came out toward my bike as I rode by.

come out badly [for efforts at something] to have a bad result.  
I hope trying to get back together with Joan doesn't come out badly.

come out for someone or something and come out in favor of someone or something to announce or reveal that one supports someone or something.  
The defense lawyers all came out for the judge's ruling.  
Roger came out for Lynn, who was running for mayor.  
I thought the mayor would come out in favor of more public housing.

come out in large numbers to emerge in large numbers.

come out (in blossom) Go to come out in large numbers.

come out (in blossom) Go to come out in droves.

come out in droves Go to come out in large numbers.

come out in force Go to come out in force.

come out in large numbers Go to come out in large numbers.

come out in something 1. Lit. to come outside wearing something in particular.  
You shouldn't come out in that skimpy jacket.  
I didn't mean to come out in my pajamas.

I just wanted to get the newspaper.  
2. Fig. to break out with a rash.  
The baby has come out in a rash again.

come out in the open Go to come out in the open.

come out in the wash Fig. to work out all right.  
(Alludes to a clothing stain that can be removed by washing.)  
Don't worry about that problem.  
It'll all come out in the wash.  
This trouble will go away.  
It'll come out in the wash.

come out in(to) the open and come (out) into the open 1. Lit. [for someone or something] to move from a concealed position to an open area.  
Sooner or later, she will have to come out in the open.  
The deer finally came into the open.  
2. Fig. [for someone who has been hiding] to appear in public.  
The thief came out into the open and was recognized by one of the witnesses to the crime.  
The FBI agents finally came into the open.

come out in(to) the open with something Fig. to make something known publicly.  
The auditors came out into the open with the story of the bankruptcy.  
After much fuss about its secret dealings, the city council came out in the open with the whole story.

come out of a clear blue sky and come out of the clear blue sky; come out of the blue suddenly; without warning.  
Then, out of a clear blue sky, he told me he was leaving.  
My sister Mary appeared on my doorstep out of the blue, after years with no word from her.

come out of left field [for a problem or dilemma] to come from an unexpected place.  
(See also out of left field.)

This new problem came out of left field.  
We were really surprised.  
Your remarks came out of left field.  
I can't understand your complaint.

come out of nowhere Go to come out of nowhere.

come out of one's shell Fig. to become more friendly; to be more sociable.  
(Alludes to a shy turtle putting its head out of its shell.)

Come out of your shell, Tom.  
Go out and make some friends.

come out (of someone or something) to emerge from someone or something.  
Did that pile of books really come out of just one office?  
The lion came out of its den.

come out (of something) 1. and come out from something Lit. to exit from something.  
When will they come out of that meeting?  
The people came out of the houses and celebrated.

2. Fig. to result from something.  
Nothing at all came out of our discussions.

come out of the blue Go to come out of a clear blue sky.

come out of the closet Go to come out of the closet.

come out (of the little end of the horn) Rur. to lose a great deal; to end with less than one started with.  
(See also end up with the short end of the stick.)

After the stock market crash, plenty of folks came out of the little end of the horn.

come out of the woodwork Go to come out of the woodwork.

come out on something [for someone] to do well or poorly on a business venture.

How did you come out on the Adams project?  
We came out ahead on the Adams project, but for the quarter we came out with a loss overall.

come out on top Fig. to end up being the winner.  
I knew that if I kept trying, I would come out on top.

Harry came out on top as I knew he would.

come out smelling like a rose Fig. to succeed; to do better than anyone else in some situation.  
Everyone else in the firm lost money in the real estate deal, but Bob came out smelling like a rose.

If I can just finish my research paper on time, I'll come out smelling like a rose by the end of the school year.

come out to an amount Go to come out at an amount.

come out to be to end up being a certain way.  
I do not know what this sculpture will come out to be.  
When I start writing a poem, I never know what it will come out to be.

come out well to end up well.  
I hope things come out well.

Everything will come out well in the end.

come out with something 1. to publish something.  
When are you going to come out with a new edition?  
The publisher decided not to come out with the book.

2. to express or utter something.  
He came out with a strong dissenting opinion.  
It was over an hour before the president came out with an explanation.
come over 1. to join this party or side; to change sides or affiliation. □ Tom was formerly an enemy spy, but last year he came over. □ I thought that Bill was a Republican. When did he come over? 2. to come for a visit. □ See if Ann wants to come over. □ I can’t come over to visit now. I’m busy.

come over someone [for something] to affect a person, perhaps suddenly. (See also come over someone or something.) □ I just don’t know what came over me. □ Something came over her just as she entered the room.

come over someone or something to move over and above someone or something. (See also come over someone.) □ A cloud came over us and rained like fury. □ Darkness came over the city and streetlights blinked on.

come rain or (come) shine Go to next.

come rain or shine and come rain or (come) shine no matter whether it rains or the sun shines; in any sort of weather. (See also rain or shine.) □ Don’t worry. I’ll be there come rain or shine. □ We’ll hold the picnic—rain or shine.


come (right) on top of something Fig. [for something] to happen immediately after something else. □ The accident expenses came right on top of the costs of her illness. □ The bad news came on top of some other problems we were having.

come short of something Fig. to do something almost; to fail to achieve something completely. □ The workers came short of finishing the job on time. □ We came short of our goal for the year.

come someone’s way [for something] to come to someone. □ I wish a large sum of money would come my way. □ I hope that no bad luck comes my way.

come through 1. [for someone] to do what one is expected to do, especially under difficult conditions. □ You can depend on Jane. She’ll always come through. □ Tom came through at the last minute with everything we needed. 2. [for something] to be approved; [for something] to gain approval. □ Our mortgage loan approval finally came through. □ Your papers came through, and you can be sure that the matter has been taken care of. 3. Go to come through (for someone or something). 4. Go to come through something. 5. Go to come through (with something).

come through (for someone or something) Fig. to produce or perform as promised for someone or a group. □ You knew I would come through for you, didn’t you? □ The team came through for its loyal fans again.

come through something and come through Fig. to pass through something. □ Please come through the entrance slowly. □ Please chain the gate up again when you come through.

come through something (with flying colors) Fig. to survive something quite well. (See also with flying colors. Colors here refers originally to flags.) □ Todd came through the test with flying colors. □ Mr. Franklin came through the operation with flying colors.

come through (with something) to produce or deliver something as promised. □ Finally, Bob came through with the money he had promised. □ I knew he would come through.

come to to become conscious; to wake up. □ We threw a little cold water in his face, and he came to immediately.

come to a bad end Fig. to have a disaster, perhaps one that is deserved or expected; to die an unfortunate death. □ My old car came to a bad end. Its engine seized up. □ The dishonest merchant came to a bad end.

come to a boil 1. Lit. [for a liquid] to reach the boiling point. □ The soup came to a boil and the chef reduced the flame. 2. Fig. [for a problem or situation] to reach a critical or crucial stage. (Alludes to water reaching an active boil.) □ Finally, things really came to a boil. □ Everything came to a boil after Mary announced her engagement. 3. Fig. [for someone] to get very angry. □ Fred was coming to a boil and clearly he was going to lose his temper.

come to a climax Go to next.

come to a close and come to an end; come to a climax to end; to progress to an ending. □ The celebration came to an end about midnight.

come to a conclusion 1. to reach a decision. □ We talked for a long time but never came to any conclusion. □ Can we come to a conclusion today, or do we have to meet again? 2. [for a process] to reach the end and be finished. □ At last, the yearlong ordeal of buying a house came to a conclusion. □ I was afraid that the opera would never come to a conclusion.

come to a dead end and reach a dead end 1. Lit. to reach a point where one can go no farther and can turn in no new direction. □ The road comes to a dead end about a mile farther. 2. Fig. to have run out of possible ideas, solutions, energy, etc. □ I’ve come to a dead end. I’m fresh out of ideas. □ The committee reached a dead end on the matter and tabled the whole business.

come to a halt to stop; to slow down and stop. □ Slowly, the train came to a halt. □ After the bus came to a halt, more people got on.

come to a head Fig. [for a problem] to reach a critical or crucial stage. □ At the end of the week, everything came to a head and Sam was fired.

come to a pretty pass Fig. to encounter a difficult situation. (This pretty expresses irony.) □ This project has come to a pretty pass. I don’t know how we can possibly finish on time. □ Mary had come to a pretty pass. She quit her job to be with her husband, and then he left her.

come to a standstill [for something] to slow down and finally stop; to stop completely. (Usually refers to something that is progressing, such as work, traffic, negotiations.) □ As the strike began, the production line came to a standstill. □ At the height of rush hour, traffic comes to a standstill.

come to a stop [for someone or something] to stop moving or happening. □ The bus finally came to a stop so I could get off. □ The dog’s barking finally came to a stop.

come to a turning point Go to a turning point.

come to an end Go to come to a close.

come to an impasse Fig. to reach a deadlock, stalemate, etc., in a situation. (Alludes to a blocked roadway.) □ The committee has come to an impasse in its deliberations.
come to an understanding (with someone) Go to reach an understanding with someone.

come to an untimely end Fig. to come to an early death. □ Poor Mr. Jones came to an untimely end in a car accident. □ Cancer caused Mrs. Smith to come to an untimely end.

come to attention to assume a formal military posture, standing very straight. □ Almost immediately, the soldiers came to attention.

come to blows (over someone or something) and come to blows (about someone or something) to reach the point of fighting about someone or something. □ Let’s not come to blows over this silly disagreement.

come to fruition Fig. to occur or turn out as suspected or intended. □ When will all of these good things come to fruition? □ Our hard work and the end we planned for will come to fruition soon.

come to grief Fig. to experience something unpleasant or damaging. □ In the end, he came to grief because he did not follow instructions.

come to grips with someone or something Fig. to begin to deal with someone or something difficult or challenging in a sensible way. □ We must all come to grips with this tragedy. □ I cannot come to grips with Ed and his problems.

come to harm to experience something bad; to get damaged or harmed. □ I sincerely hope that you do not come to harm. □ I hope no one comes to harm.

come to light Fig. for something to become known or to be discovered. □ Many surprises have come to light since then. □ Nothing new has come to light since we talked last.

come to mind Fig. for a thought or idea to enter into one’s consciousness or be remembered. □ Do I know a good barber? No one comes to mind right now. □ Another idea comes to mind. Why not check in the phone book?

come to much 1. to amount to a large amount of money. (Usually used with a negative.) □ The bill did not come to much, considering what we had for dinner and drinks. 2. to count for much; to be important or meaningful. (Usually negative.) □ No one thought he would come to much. □ All that discussion did not come to much.

come to naught Go to come to nothing.

come to no good to end up badly; to come to a bad end. □ The street gang leaders came to no good in the end.

come to nothing and come to naught to amount to nothing; to be worthless. □ So all my hard work comes to nothing. □ Yes, the whole project comes to naught.

come to one’s feet to stand up. □ The audience came to its feet, cheering. □ Fred came to his feet to greet Roger.

come to one’s senses to begin thinking sensibly. □ I’m glad he finally came to his senses and went on to college. □ I wish you would come to your senses and look for a better job.

come to oneself to begin acting and thinking like one’s normal self. □ I began to come to myself and realize the wrong I had done. □ Please come to yourself and stop acting so strangely.

come to pass to happen; to take place. □ And when do you think all these good things will come to pass? □ Do you think it will really come to pass?

come to rest to stop; to slow down and stop. □ The ball rolled and rolled and finally came to rest. □ Where did the ball come to rest?

come to someone’s assistance to arrive and provide assistance to someone. □ A kindly truck driver came to our assistance, and we were able to call for help. □ I hope someone will come to my assistance soon.

come to someone’s attention and come to someone’s notice to be told, revealed to, or discovered by someone. □ It has come to my attention that you are not following the rules. □ Your comments have just come to my notice.

come to someone’s notice Go to previous.

come to someone’s or something’s rescue to rescue or save someone or something. □ The paramedics came to our rescue at once. □ A big donor came to the college’s rescue.

come to something to end up being helpful or significant. (See also amount to something; when it comes to something.) □ Do you think this work will come to anything? □ I don’t think this will come to what we were promised.

come to terms (about something) and come to terms on something (about someone or something) to bring a particular quality to a task or job. □ She came to terms with the loss of her sight. □ She couldn’t come to terms with her estranged husband.

come to terms (about someone or something) 1. to come to an agreement with someone. □ I finally came to terms with my lawyer about his fee. □ Bob, you have to come to terms with the money you owe. 2. to learn to accept someone or something. □ She had to come to terms with the way things were. □ She couldn’t come to terms with the money she had.

come to the fore Fig. to become prominent; to become important. □ The question of salary has now come to the fore. □ Since his great success, he has really come to the fore in city politics.

come to the job with something and come to the position with something; come to the task with something to bring a particular quality to a task or job. □ She comes to the job with great enthusiasm. □ Ann comes to this position with a lot of experience.

come to the point and get to the point to get to the important part (of something). □ He has been talking a long time. I wish he would come to the point. □ We are talking about money, Bob! Come on, get to the point.

come to the position with something Go to come to the job with something.

come to the same thing Go to come to the job with something.

come to the task with something Go to come to the job with something.
come to think of it I just remembered. □ Come to think of it, I know someone who can help. □ I have a screwdriver in the trunk of my car, come to think of it.
come to this to result in this situation. (Usually said out of surprise.) □ Who would believe it would come to this? □ So, it has come to this?
come together 1. to touch together; to meet. □ The ends of the boards just came together. They were almost too short. □ We came together in the park, just as we had agreed. 2. to attend something together; to arrive at an event together. □ Alice and I are going to come together. □ We will come to the party together.
come together (on something) to discuss and agree on something. □ I hope we can come together on a price. □ I’m sure we can come together.
come true to materialize as expected or hoped. □ Jane’s wishes had come true. □ Dave wondered if his dreams would ever come true.
come under something to be classed in the category of something. □ This request comes under the category of a plain nuisance. □ Your proposal comes under the heading of new business and is out of order.
come under the hammer and go under the hammer Fig. [for something] to be auctioned. □ The house at the corner is coming under the hammer next week. □ The repossessed farm will go under the hammer.
come unglued Fig. to lose emotional control; to break out into tears or laughter. □ When Sally heard the joke, she almost came unglued. □ When the bank took away my car, I came unglued and cried and cried.
come up 1. Lit. to come from a lower place to a higher one. □ You can come up now. They are gone. □ Come up and enjoy the view from the tallest rooftop in the county. 2. Lit. to come near; to approach. □ He came up and began to talk to us. □ A heron came up while we were fishing, but it just ignored us. 3. Fig. to come to someone’s attention. □ The question of what time to be there never came up. □ The matter came up, but it was never dealt with.
come up a storm Rur. to become stormy. □ It came up a storm as I was on my way home, and I got soaked to the skin.
come up against someone or something Go to up against someone or something.
come up for air 1. Lit. to lift one’s head out of the water to breathe. □ After staying under water for almost a minute, Jason had to come up for air. 2. Fig. to stop what one is doing for a different activity or rest. □ Whenever you get off the phone and come up for air, I have a question for you. □ I want you to go to the store for me when you come up for air. 3. Fig. to stop kissing for a moment and breathe. □ Don’t those kids ever come up for air? □ When are you two going to come up for air?
come up for auction Go to up for auction.
come up for reelection Go to up for reelection.
come up for sale Go to up for sale.
come up for something to be eligible for something; to be in line or sequence for something. □ She comes up for reelection in April. □ How soon does your driver’s license come up for renewal?
come (up) from behind to advance in competition; to improve one’s position relative to the positions of other things or people. □ The horse was working hard to come up from behind. □ Lee was losing in the election, but he began to come from behind in the last week.
come up heads and come up tails Fig. [for a tossed coin] to turn out to be either heads or tails. □ We tossed a coin, and it came up heads. □ The coin came up tails.
come up in the world Go to move up in the world.
come up smelling like a rose and come up smelling like roses Fig. to end up looking good or respectable after being involved in some difficult or notorious affair. □ I was surprised that my congressional representative came up smelling like a rose after his colleagues investigated him.
come up tails Go to come up heads.
come up through the ranks Fig. to rise to a position of leadership by working up through the sequence of lower positions. □ He came up through the ranks to become a corporate executive. □ The general came up through the ranks. There is no other way to become a general.
come up to someone’s expectations to be as good as someone expected. □ Sorry, but this product does not come up to my expectations and I want to return it.
come up to someone’s standards to meet or be equal to someone’s standards or requirements. □ Does this ice cream come up to your standards? □ Ann’s concert recital did not come up to her own standards.
come up with someone or something to find or supply someone or something; to manage to find or improvise something. □ I came up with a date at the last minute. □ My mom is always able to come up with some yummy snack for me in the afternoon.
come (up)on someone or something to find or happen on someone or something. (See also happen (up)on someone or something.) □ I came upon Walter while I was in the bookstore. □ I came on this little store near Maple Street that has everything we need.
come what may Cliché no matter what might happen. □ I’ll be home for the holidays, come what may. □ Come what may, the mail will get delivered.
come with (someone or something) to depart in the company of someone or something; to travel with someone or a group. □ Come with me. We’ll go to my place. □ Are you going to come with the tour? □ Are you going to come with?
come with the territory and go with the territory Fig. to be expected under circumstances like this. (Alludes to the details and difficulties attendant to something like the assignment of a specific sales territory to a salesperson. When one accepts the assignment, one accepts the problems.) □ There is a lot of paperwork in this job. Oh, well, I guess it comes with the territory. □ There are problems, but they go with the territory.
come within a hair’s breadth of someone or something Go to come within an inch of someone or something.
come within an ace of something to come very close to [doing] something. □ I came within an ace of leaving school. I’m glad you talked me out of it. □ Donna came within an ace of having an accident.
come within an inch of doing something Fig. almost to do something; to come very close to doing something. □ I came within an inch of going into the army. □ I came within an inch of falling off the roof.

come within an inch of someone or something and come within a hair’s breadth of someone or something to come very close to someone or something. □ The bullet came within an inch of Heather. □ The car came within a hair of the bus.

come within earshot of something Go to within earshot of (something).

come within range Go to within range.

come within range of something Go to within range of (something).

come within something 1. to be in the category of something; to be under the domain of someone or something. □ This comes within the domain of the treasurer. □ This matter doesn’t come within my area of expertise. 2. to be inside a stated range, such as price, time, weight, range, etc. □ This comes within my price range. I’ll take it.

come-hither look an alluring or seductive look or glance, usually done by a woman. □ She blinked her bedroom eyes and gave him a come-hither look. □ She had mastered the come-hither look, but was not ready for the next part.

*comfortable as an old shoe Cliché very comfortable; very comforting and familiar. (*Also: as ~.) □ My old house may seem small to you, but I think it’s cozy. It’s as comfortable as an old shoe.

Coming events cast their shadows before. Prov. Significant events are often preceded by signs that they are about to happen. (From Thomas Campbell’s poem, “Lochiel’s Warning.”) □ If you pay attention to the news, you can generally tell when something momentous is about to happen. Coming events cast their shadows before.

coming out of something to praise someone for doing something. □ The committee commended Ralph for his good work.

commend someone or something to someone or something to recommend or speak well of someone to someone or a group. □ I commend Walter to your organization. He would make a fine employee. □ We commended your organization to Martha, who may wish to become a member.

comment about someone or something and comment (upon) someone or something to make a remark about someone or something. □ There is no need to comment upon this event. □ Please don’t comment on Liz’s problems.

commiserate with someone to share one’s misery with another person who is also miserable. □ I stopped by Bruce’s house to commiserate with him on being laid off.

commit oneself on something to agree to something; to promise or pledge to do something. □ I’m sorry, but I can’t commit myself on this matter until I know more details.

commit oneself to someone or something to devote oneself to someone or something; to be faithful to someone or something. □ He committed himself to his wife. □ She settled down and committed herself to her job.

commit oneself to something 1. to agree to something; to promise or pledge to do something. □ Yes, I will commit myself to the repair of the door frame. □ Will you commit yourself to finishing on time? 2. to promise to support and assist something. □ I can’t commit myself to your cause at the present time. Maybe next month when I am less busy. □ She committed herself to being there on time.

commit someone or something for something to promise someone or something for a particular purpose or time. □ I can’t commit myself for Friday night. □ We are unable to commit any more funds for your project.

commit someone or something to something to pledge or assign someone or something to something. □ The boss committed Ralph to the task. □ I cannot commit any more money to your project.

commit something to memory to memorize something. □ Do we have to commit this poem to memory? □ The dress rehearsal of the play is tomorrow night. Please make sure you have committed all your lines to memory by that time.

commit to someone to marry or enter into an exclusive relationship with another person. □ Jane says she loves me, but she’s not ready to commit to any one person. □ If you can’t commit to me, then this relationship is over.

commode-hugging drunk Sl. heavily alcohol intoxicated; drunk and vomiting. □ Willie got commode-hugging drunk in the space of two hours.

*common as an old shoe and *common as dirt low class; uncouth. (*Also: as ~.) □ That ill-mannered girl is just as common as an old shoe. □ Despite Mamie’s efforts to appear to be upper class, most folks considered her common as dirt.

common as dirt Go to previous.

a common thread (to all this) Fig. a similar idea or pattern to a series of events. □ All of these incidents are related. There is a common thread to all this.

commune with something Fig. to experience wordless or spiritual communication with something. □ She went on long walks to commune with nature. □ He enjoyed going off on a retreat to commune with his inner self.

commend
communicate something to someone to say or write something to someone; to tell someone something. □ Will you please communicate my regards to her? □ I intend to communicate your request to the front office this morning.

communicate with someone 1. Litt. to correspond or talk with a person. □ I have to communicate with Wally first. □ As soon as I have communicated with Fred, I can give you an answer. 2. Fig. to make oneself understood with a person. (Often used with a negative.) □ I just don't seem to communicate with Sam, no matter what I do. □ We just can't seem to communicate with each other.

commute between places to travel between the place where one works and the place where one lives. □ I have to commute between Chicago and Detroit every week. □ Mary has commuted between New York City and New Jersey for years.

commute from some place to travel from some place. □ Betty commutes from only a few miles away and will be here very soon.

commute something into something to change something into something. □ No one, as it turns out, can commute lead into gold. □ I had hoped to commute this argument into a sensible discussion, but it is hopeless.

compare notes on someone or something to share observations on someone or something. □ We took a little time to compare notes on our ancestors and have discovered that we are cousins.

compare someone or something to someone or something to liken people or things to other people or things; to say that some people or things have the same qualities as other people or things. (See the comment at compare someone or something with someone or something.) □ I can only compare him to a cuddly teddy bear. □ He compared himself to one of the knights of the round table.

compare someone or something with someone or something to consider the sameness or difference of sets of things or people. (This phrase is very close in meaning to compare someone or something to someone or something, but for some connotates stronger contrast.) □ Let’s compare the virtues of savings accounts with investing in bonds. □ When I compare Roger with Tom, I find very few similarities. □ Please compare Tom with Bill on their unemployment records.

compartmentalize something into something to segment or divide something into smaller things; to assign the parts of something into categories. □ We will have to compartmentalize this large area into a number of smaller offices. □ His brain seems to be compartmentalized into a number of different centers.

compel someone to do something to force someone to do something; to drive someone to do something. □ You can’t compel me to do that. □ She compelled herself to try, even though she was ill.

compensate for something to counterbalance or counteract something; to make up for something. □ Your present kindness will not compensate for your previous rudeness.

compensate someone for something to pay someone (back) money for something. □ Don’t worry. I will compensate you for your loss. □ Let us compensate you for your expenses.

compete against someone to contend against someone; to play against someone in a game or contest. □ I don’t see how I can compete against all of them. □ She refused to compete against her own brothers.

compete against something to struggle against something; to seem to be in a contest with something. □ It was hard to be heard. I was competing against the noise of construction. □ Please stop talking. I do not wish to compete against the audience when I lecture.

compete for someone or something to contend against or contest [someone] for someone or something; to struggle for someone or something [against a competitor]. □ They are competing for a lovely prize. □ Ed and Roger are competing for Alice’s attention.

compete in something to enter into a competition. □ I do not want to compete in that contest. □ Ann looked forward to competing in the race.

compete with someone or something to contend against someone, something, or a group; to play in a competition against someone, something, or a group. □ I can’t compete with all this noise. □ We always compete closely with our crosstown rivals, Adams High School.

compile something from something to make up something from something; to collect and consolidate something from something. □ She compiled a book of poetry from verses written by her friends. □ Lynn compiled a picture book from family photographs going back almost a century.

complain about someone or something to protest someone or something; to grouse about someone or something. □ Oh, stop complaining about the weather. □ You are always complaining about me.

complain of something to moan and suffer from a disease; to report the symptoms of a disease or health condition. □ Kenneth complained of a headache and general weakness. □ The patient was complaining of a headache.

complain to someone to grouse or protest to someone. □ Don’t complain to me. □ I will complain to the manager.

compliment someone on something to say something nice to someone about something connected to that person. □ I was pleased with Alice’s work and complimented her on it. □ They complimented me on my new tie.

comply with something to conform to something; to obey guidelines or regulations; to agree to something. □ I hope you decide to comply with our rules. □ I am happy to comply with your request.

comport oneself with some manner to behave in a certain manner. □ I hope you are able to comport yourself with better behavior next time. □ The old man was able to comport himself with dignity.

composed of something assembled or made out of something. □ This cloth is composed of a number of different kinds of fibers. □ The committee is composed of people from every department.

compound something with something to unite some substance with another; to mix something with something else. □ Can this unpleasant medicine be compounded with something to make it palatable?
compress something into something 1. to squeeze or press something into something, such as a mold or container.  
☐ We compressed the tomatoes into the jar.  ☐ I cannot compress any more clothing into the suitcase.  
2. to form something into a shape by applying pressure.  ☐ He compressed the mass of paper into a tight ball.  ☐ The clay was compressed into the shape of a brick upon the application of pressure to the mold.

compromised of something or someone made up of someone or something. (The use of of after comprise is regarded as bad grammar by some.)  ☐ The committee was comprised of representatives from all areas.  ☐ The dessert was comprised of a number of different delicious substances.

compromise on someone or something (with someone) and compromise (on someone or something) with someone to reach agreement with someone on a disputed matter concerning someone or something; to make concessions to someone on some point concerning someone or something.  ☐ I intend to compromise on this matter with them.  ☐ Are you going to compromise with me on this issue?

compute something at something to calculate the total of something to be a certain figure.  ☐ I compute the total at nearly three thousand dollars.  ☐ The tax department computed the penalty at an enormous amount.

con someone into something to deceive someone into doing something.  ☐ The dishonest contractor conned her into buying a new furnace even when her old one was fine.  ☐ You are just conniving yourself into believing your plan will work.

con someone out of something to trick someone out of money or something of value.  ☐ Anne conned her little sister out of her allowance.  ☐ Dave conned me out of my autographed baseball.

conceal someone or something from someone or something to hide someone or something from someone or something.  ☐ Are you trying to conceal something from me?  ☐ I cannot conceal Roger from the police.  ☐ We could not conceal the present from mom.

concede something to someone or something to yield something to someone or a group; to grant something to someone or something.  ☐ At midnight, Ronald conceded the election to his opponent.

concede to someone or something to yield to someone or a group; to give in to someone or a group.  ☐ In the end we conceded to the demands of the petition.  ☐ I will not concede to you.

*conceited as a barber’s cat Rur. very conceited; vain.  (*Also: as ~.)  ☐ Ever since he won that award, he’s been as conceited as a barber’s cat.

conceive of someone or something to think of or invent the notion of someone or something.  ☐ Who on earth ever conceived of doing this?  ☐ Edison conceived of many very useful things that we now use every day.

conceive of someone or something as someone or something to think of someone as being someone else; to think of something as being something else.  ☐ I can’t conceive of you as a pilot.  ☐ I can conceive of this grassy spot as a very interesting setting for a cottage.

concentrate at some place to gather thickly at a place.  ☐ The moths concentrated at the window at night, attracted by the light.  ☐ All the thirsty children concentrated at the water fountain.

concentrate someone or something at something to cause people or things to gather at a place; to cause people or things to converge or converge at a place.  ☐ You shouldn’t concentrate all the guards at one entrance.  ☐ The general concentrated all the big guns at the entrance to the valley.

concentrate something on someone or something to focus something on someone or something; to center on someone or something.  ☐ Let’s try to concentrate our efforts on finishing this job today.  ☐ She concentrated her attention on Lynn.

concentrate (up)on someone or something to focus one’s thinking on someone or something; to think intensely about someone or something.  (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)  ☐ Please concentrate upon Jeff.  He is the one we should discuss.  ☐ Try to concentrate on your work more.

concern oneself about something or someone and concern oneself over something or someone to turn one’s thoughts and consideration to someone or something.  ☐ I hope you will concern yourself over your work a little more.  ☐ Please don’t concern yourself about me. I’ll do okay.

concern someone in something to bring someone into some matter; to engage someone in something; to occupy someone with something.  ☐ Don’t concern Dave in our party planning. He doesn’t know anything about entertaining.  ☐ The wrong committee was concerned in this from the very beginning.

concern someone with something or someone to busy someone with something or someone; to worry someone with thoughts of someone or something.  ☐ I hope Jennifer does not concern herself with this matter.  ☐ Try to concern him with something other than his work.

concur on someone or something (with someone) and concur (on someone or something) with someone to agree with someone about someone or something.  ☐ I certainly do concur on this matter with all of you.  ☐ I concur with you on Tom.  ☐ We concurred with the committee on you as our choice for the job.  ☐ We concurred on the plans with the council.

condemn someone as something to blame or judge someone as being something bad.  ☐ The team condemned Larry as a traitor.  ☐ Max was condemned as a common thief.

condemn someone for something to blame or judge someone for something or for having done something.  ☐ I really can’t condemn her for doing it. I would have done the same too.  ☐ Don’t condemn yourself for the accident. It was no one’s fault.

condemn someone to something (for a judge) to sentence someone to something; to relegate someone to a particular punishment.  ☐ By confessing, he condemned himself to many years in prison.  ☐ I don’t want to condemn you to a life of unpleasantness.

condense something (in)to something to compress or reduce something to something; to shrink or abridge something into a smaller version.  ☐ Condense this into half its original volume.  ☐ You should condense this novel to a short story.
confide in someone to trust someone with one's secrets or personal matters. ❍ Sally always confided in her sister Ann. ❍ She didn't feel that she could confide in her mother.

confide something in someone and confide something to someone to tell a secret or private matter to someone, trusting that the person will not reveal the secret. ❍ I learned not to confide anything secret in Bob. ❍ Tom really needed to confide his inner fears to someone.

confide in someone or an animal to do something to agree to do something that is humbling or belittling. ❍ I will not confide in someone to respond to that remark. ❍ “Will you confide in me to join us for dinner?” teased Bob.

confide someone to talk down to someone; to treat people as if they were below oneself; to patronize someone. ❍ Please do not confide to me. ❍ There is no need to confide to the children. They are just small, not stupid.

condition someone or something to something 1. to train or adapt someone or an animal to do something. ❍ I conditioned the dog to beg for a treat. ❍ I conditioned myself to run for hours at a stretch. ❍ I conditioned the dog to the extreme cold.

conditioned the dog to something to train or adapt someone or an animal to something. ❍ We could never condition the cat to the finer points of domestication. ❍ I conditioned myself to the extreme cold.

conditioned himself to do something ❍ to condition himself to run for hours at a stretch.

condescend to someone or something to do something to train or adapt someone or an animal to something. ❍ I conditioned the dog to beg for a treat. ❍ I conditioned myself to the extreme cold.

condescended to something ❍ to condense himself to run for hours at a stretch.

condescend to someone to talk down to someone; to treat people as if they were below oneself; to patronize someone. ❍ Please do not condense to me. ❍ There is no need to condense to the children. They are just small, not stupid.

condescend to someone or something ❍ to condense to something.
conjecture on something to speculate on or guess about something. □ I will not even conjecture on the outcome. □ Dave conjectured on what might happen next.

conjure someone or something up! 1. Lit. to make someone or something appear, seemingly by the use of magic. □ The magician conjured seven white doves up. □ Then an old wizard conjured up a horse. 2. Fig. to manage to locate someone or something. □ I think I can conjure a pencil up for you. □ Do you think you can conjure up a large coffee urn in the next half hour? 3. Fig. to manage to think up or imagine someone or something in one's mind. □ Can you conjure a vision of grandma up? □ All I could do was to conjure up happy memories.

cork off and cork out 1. Sl. (from years ago.) to fall asleep. □ I corked off about midnight. □ I was so tired that I nearly corked off. □ I was afraid I would cork out while I was driving. 2. Sl. (always cork out.) [for something] to break down; to quit running. □ My car corked out finally. □ I hope my computer doesn’t cork out.

cork out Go to previous.

connect someone or something (up to) someone or something and connect someone or something (up with) someone or something 1. Lit. to connect people or things in any combination, physically or by wires. □ The nurse connected Maggie up to the electrocardiograph. □ Eric connected the machine to the wall plug. □ The receptionist connected my call up to Susan. 2. Fig. to make a mental connection between people and things in any combination. □ I connected myself up to a person with similar interests. □ I often connect up Bob to sailing, because I first met him on a boat. 3. Fig. to argue that someone or something is linked to a criminal or a criminal act. □ I can connect Eric to the crime. □ The police connected the stolen goods to Susan.

connect (up) to something to attach to something; to attach or link something to some electrical device or electrical signal. □ When we finish the house, we will connect up to the utilities. □ We have to connect to the Internet ourselves.

connect (up) with someone or something 1. to form an association with someone or a group. (The up is informal.) □ Let’s connect up with some other people and form an organization through which we can express our views. □ We need to connect with like-minded people that can help us with our problems. 2. to meet with someone or a group; to communicate with someone or a group, especially over the telephone. □ I tried to connect up with Bob over the phone, but I could never reach him. □ We could not connect with the council to discuss these matters.

connect (with someone) Fig. to meet someone; to talk to someone on the telephone. □ Let’s try to connect on this matter tomorrow. □ We finally connected and discussed the matter fully over dinner.

connect (with the ball) [for a batter] to hit a baseball. □ Wally connected for a double. □ He swung, but didn’t connect with the ball.

connive at something (with someone) and connive (at something) with someone to scheme at something (with someone); to plot something (with someone). □ Are you conniving at something with Ronald? □ Are you and Ronald conniving with Tom at something I should know about? □ Stop conniving with people!

Consign it! Rue. Damn it! (A mild oath.) □ Consign it! I can’t find my keys. □ That’s the second batch of muffins I’ve burned today, consign it! 

Conscience does make cowards of us all. Prov. People sometimes fear to do what they want or what they believe is necessary because they think it is wrong. (From Shakespeare’s play, Hamlet.) □ Alan: I really want to go to the ball game with you guys this afternoon, but it just doesn’t seem right to skip work to do it. Fred: Conscience does make cowards of us all, right, Alan?

conscript someone into something to call someone into military service; to draft someone. □ The war-torn country was even conscripting children into the army. □ Fred was conscripted into the army.

consecrate someone or something to God to pledge someone to the service of God; to dedicate something to the glory or service of God. □ They consecrated the new church building to the glory of God.

consent to something to agree to permit something to happen. □ I will not consent to your marriage. □ There is no need for you to consent to anything.

consider someone (as) something to think of a person as a particular type of person. □ I don’t consider you as a possible candidate. □ I consider myself an excellent cook.

consider someone for something to think about offering someone a job, office, or other responsibility. □ Would you consider David for the job? □ I could not possibly consider you for the position.

consign something to someone or something to entrust something to someone, something, or some place. □ We consigned all the toughest assignments to our top employees. □ What shipping company should we consign these boxes to? 2. to assign something for shipment to a place. □ Bill consigned this batch to Denver.

consist of someone or something to include people or things; to be made up of people or things. □ This bread consists of flour, water, sugar, oil, and yeast. □ The U.S. Senate consists of two elected officials from each state.

console someone on something to comfort someone about something. □ I want to console you on your recent loss. □ They consoled Fred on the continuing difficulties he was having.

console someone with something to use something to comfort someone. □ We consoled her with a sympathy card and flowers. □ He sat down and consoled himself with a beer or two.

consort with someone to associate with someone. □ It is said that she consorts with thieves. □ No one worth anything would consort with Max. 2. Euph. to have sex with someone. □ Over the years it is rumored that she consorted with numerous young men.

*conspicuous by one’s absence Cliché noticeably absent (from an event). (Typically: be ~; made ~.) □ How could the bride’s father miss the wedding? He was certainly conspicuous by his absence.

conspire with someone (against someone or something) and conspire (with someone) against someone or sone-
Constant dropping wears away a stone.

**content** with something to fight or compete against someone or something. [Do you have to contend against all this criticism?  
Ed refuses to have to contend against Eric.

**content** with a problem to put up with a difficulty; to struggle with the problems caused by someone or something. [I cannot contend with your temper anymore.  
I wish we did not have to contend with this changeable weather.

**content** with something to fight someone for something; to compete with someone to win something. [I don't want to have to contend with Sally for the award.  
I don't want to have to contend for the job with Ed.

**content** oneself with something to be satisfied with (usually less of) someone or something. [You will just have to learn to content yourself with fewer nice vacations now that you have kids entering college.

A contended mind is a perpetual feast. Prov. If you are mentally at peace, you will always feel that you have enough of everything, and will not have to strive to get more. [Jill: Lillian doesn't make very much money, but she seems to be happy all the time. I wonder how she manages that? Jane: A contended mind is a perpetual feast.

**continue** by doing something to keep going by starting to do something else or the next step. [You are doing very well in this piano lesson. Please continue by playing the other sonata. [After the interruption, Wally continued by explaining his position on the trade negotiations.

**continue** one's losing streak Go to a losing streak.

**continue** with something to keep doing whatever was being done before. [Oh, please continue with your discussion. [Do you mind if I continue with my knitting as we talk?

**contract** something out1 to make an agreement with someone to do a specific amount of work. (Rather than doing it oneself or in one's own place of business.) [I will contract this out and have it done by consultants. [I contracted out this kind of job the last time.

**contract** with someone (for something) and **contract** (with someone) for something to make an agreement with someone to produce or supply something, or to do something. [I will have to contract with an expert for that part of the project. [We contracted with a local builder for a new kitchen. [Did you contract for plumbing work with Eric?

**contradiction in terms** a statement containing a seeming contradiction. [A wealthy pauper is a contradiction in terms. [A straight-talking politician may seem to be a contradiction in terms.

**contrary to** something in spite of something that seems to suggest otherwise; regardless of something else. [Contrary to what you might think, I am neat and tidy. [Contrary to public opinion, my uncle is well and healthy.

**contrast** someone or something with something to get someone or something dirty with something; to pollute someone or something with something. [Something in the hospital contaminated the patient with a serious infection. [The campers learned not to contaminate the outdoors with anything they carried in.

**consult** (with) someone (about someone or something) to ask someone about someone or something. [Please consult with me about all your plans. [You should consult the architect about your needs. [Please consult with me first.

**contact** with someone a link to someone resulting in something. [Someone to produce or supply something, or to do something. [I have had no contact with Bill since he left town. [Tom made contact with a known criminal last month.

**content** something out of something to get something out of something. [Did you contract for plumbing work with Mr. Smith?

**content** out of something to do something. [I hope you will contribute at least a dollar to Mary for Tom's birthday present. [Will you contribute a dollar for Tom to Mary when she comes around? [Can you contribute a dollar for the gift?

**content** over someone or something the power to direct or manage someone or something. [I have no control over

**content** the house from wood? [Shall we construct the building out of stone?

**construct** something from something and **construct** something out of something to build something using something. [Do you want to construct the house from wood? [Shall we construct the building out of stone?

**construct** something as something to interpret something to mean something. [Please do not construe this as criticism. [We mistakenly construed her comments as positive.

**consult** with someone (for something) to ask someone about someone or something. [I have had no contact with Bill since he left town. [Tom made contact with a known criminal last month.

**consult** with me about all your plans. [Please consult with me first.

**consult** with someone (about something) for something to put up with a difficulty; to tolerate something. [I don't want to have to contend for the job with Ed. [I don't want to have to contend with Sally for the award.

**consult** with someone (about something) (for someone) to contribute something to someone for the benefit of someone or something. [I hope you will contribute at least a dollar to Mary for Tom's birthday present. [Will you contribute a dollar for Tom to Mary when she comes around? [Can you contribute a dollar for the gift?
Mary. I can’t stop her from running away. □ Who gave you control over what goes on in this house?

control the purse strings and hold the purse strings Fig. to be in charge of the money in a business or a household. □ I control the purse strings at our house. □ Mr. Williams is the treasurer. He controls the purse strings.

convalesce from something to recover from a disease, operation, or injury. □ I spent three weeks in bed convalescing from the flu. □ Donna needed some time to convalesce from her surgery.

converge (up)on someone or something 1. Lit. to gather near or around someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Everyone converged on the wounded sailor. □ The shoppers converged on the store as it opened for the big sale. 2. Fig. to meet on someone or something; to grow together so as to focus on something or something; to grow together so as to focus on one or something; to grow together so as to focus on one or something.

converged on Eric.

on the matter of simplifying the tax code.

we cook out some chicken tonight?

/convince (with something) to persuade someone that something is true. □ You will never convince me of what you say. □ I will probably convince myself of the need to find a better job.

convulse someone with something to cause someone to quake or jerk because of pain or emotion. (Can be physical or figurative; see examples.) □ He convulsed with abdominal pain from something he ate. □ The audience was convulsed with laughter.

cook someone’s goose Fig. to damage or ruin someone. □ I cooked my own goose by not showing up on time. □ Sally cooked Bob’s goose for treating her the way he did.

cook (something) out† to cook food out of doors. □ Shall we cook out some chicken tonight? □ Yes, let’s cook out.

cook something to perfection to cook something perfectly. □ John cooked my steak to perfection. □ The entire dinner was cooked to perfection!

cook something up† 1. Lit. to prepare a batch of some kind of food by cooking. □ Fred cooked a batch of beans up for the ranch hands. □ He cooked up some food for dinner.

2. Fig. to devise or concoct something. □ Fred cooked up a scheme that was supposed to earn him a lot of money. □ I don’t have a plan right now, but I think I can cook one up.

cook something up† (with someone) Fig. to arrange or plan to do something with someone. (The something is usually the word something. See also cook something up.) □ I tried to cook something up with Karen for Tuesday. □ I want to cook up something with John. □ Let’s see if we can cook something up.

cook the accounts and cook the books to cheat in bookkeeping; to make the accounts appear to balance when they do not. □ Jane was charged with cooking the accounts of her mother’s store. □ It’s hard to tell whether she really cooked the accounts or just didn’t know what she was doing.

cook the books Go to previous.

cook up a storm Go to up a storm.

cooked up contrived. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ The whole thing seems so cooked up. □ What a cooked-up story! Of course, you don’t believe it.

cooking with gas doing [something] exactly right. □ That’s great! Now you’re cooking with gas! □ I knew she was finally cooking with gas when she answered all the questions correctly.

*cool as a cucumber extremely calm; imperturbable. (*Also: as ~.) □ Joan felt nervous, but she acted as cool as a cucumber. □ The politician kept cool as a cucumber throughout the interview with the aggressive journalist.

cool, calm, and collected Cliché [of a person] very calm and poised. □ James did very well in his TV appearances. He stayed cool, calm, and collected. □ The bad news didn’t seem to distress Jane at all. She remained cool, calm, and collected.

cool down Go to cool off.

Cool it! Inf. Calm down!; Take it easy! □ Don’t get mad, Bob. Cool it! □ Cool it, you guys! No fighting around here.

cool off and cool down 1. Lit. to lose or reduce heat. □ I wish my soup would cool off. I’m hungry. □ It’ll cool down this evening, after dusk. 2. Fig. to let one’s anger die away. (As the “heat” of anger declines.) □ I’m sorry I got angry. I’ll cool off in a minute. □ Cool off, Tom. There is no sense getting so excited. 3. Fig. to let one’s passion or love die away. (As the “heat” of passion declines.) □ Ted: Is Bob still in love with Jane? Bill: No, he’s cooled off a lot.

cool one’s heels Fig. to wait (for someone); to wait for something to happen. □ I spent an hour cooling my heels in the waiting room while the doctor saw other patients. □ All right, if you can’t behave properly, just sit down here and cool your heels until I call you.

cool out Go to chill out.

cool someone down and cool someone off† 1. Lit. to cool someone by reducing the heat or applying something cold.

□ Here, have a cold drink. Cool yourself down. □ The ice...
finally cooled down the feverish child. □ We need to cool off the pudding in a hurry. 2. Fig. to reduce someone's anger. (Reducing the "heat" of anger.) □ I just stared at him while he was yelling. I knew that would cool him down. □ The coach talked to them for a long time. That cooled them off. 3. Fig. to reduce someone's passion or love. (Reducing the "heat" of passion.) □ When she slapped him, that really cooled him down. □ Seeing Mary was too intense, so Bill cooled himself off by breaking it off for a while.

cool someone out1 Sl. to calm someone; to appease someone. □ Cool yourselves out, you people. We gotta be sensible. □ The manager appeared and tried to cool out everybody, but that was a waste of time.

cooled out Sl. calm; unabashed. □ Ted is a really cooled out kind of guy. □ When she's cooled out, she's great.

cooler heads prevail Fig. the ideas or influence of less emotional people prevail. (Used of a tense situation.) □ One hopes that cooler heads will prevail and soon everything will calm down.

cooop someone or something up4 to confine someone or something in a small place. □ Don't coop me up. I can't stand small places. □ We had to coop up the dogs for a while.

cooperate with someone (on something) and cooperate (with someone) on something to work together in harmony with someone on something. □ Please cooperate with me on this project. □ Can you cooperate on this with me? □ I hope we can cooperate on this.

co-opt someone into something to convince someone of a differing view to adopt one's position or philosophy. □ They tried to co-opt the students into rioting. □ There is no point in trying to co-opt them into it. They are too clever.

coordinate something with something 1. to make something harmonize with something else. □ I want to coordinate my hat with my shoes. □ Is this tie coordinated with my jacket? 2. to synchronize something with something else. □ Let us coordinate our actions in this matter. □ I think we should coordinate our departure times with that of Fred.

cop a packet to become badly injured; to be wounded severely. (Originally military.) □ My uncle copped a packet in Normandy. □ If you want to cop a packet or worse, just stand up in that shallow trench, son.

cop a plea Fig. to plead guilty to a lesser charge to avoid a more serious charge or lessen time of imprisonment. □ He copped a plea and got off with only two months in the slammer.

cop a squat Sl. to sit down. □ Hey, man! Come in and cop a squat here next to me. □ Cop a squat and crack a tube.

cop an attitude Sl. to take a negative or opposite attitude about something. □ My teenage son coped an attitude when I asked why he seemed to be sneaking around.

cop onto something Sl. to understand or become aware of something. □ I think I'm coping onto the significance of this at last. □ Try to cop onto what I'm saying, Otto.

cop out (of something) and cop out (on something) 1. Sl. to withdraw from doing something. □ Are you copping out of this job? □ No, I'm not copping out! 2. Sl. to break one's promise about doing something. □ You said you would and now you are copping out of it. □ I'm not copping out.

I just can't find the time. 3. Sl. to plead guilty (to a lesser charge). □ Frank copped out and got off with a night in the cooler.

cop out (on someone) Sl. to break one's promise to someone. (See also previous.) □ Come on! Don't cop out on me! □ You promised me you would do it! Don't cop out now!

cop out (on something) Go to cop out (of something).

cop some Zs Go to catch some Zs.

cop something from someone or something Sl. to steal or swipe something from someone or something. □ Some thug copped my watch from me. □ Max copped food from a number of stores.

cope with someone or something to endure someone or something; to manage to deal with someone or something. □ I don't think I can cope with any more trouble. □ I can't cope with your being late for work anymore.

copulate with someone [for someone] to have sexual intercourse with someone. □ He said he wanted to copulate with whom?

copy something down1 (from someone or something) to copy onto paper what someone says; to copy onto paper what one reads. □ Please copy this down from Tony. □ Ted copied down the directions from the invitation. □ Jane copied the recipe down from the cookbook.

copy something out1 Go to copy something out of something.

copy something out4 (by hand) to copy something in handwriting. □ I have to copy this out again. I lost the first copy. □ Please copy out this article for me.

copy something out of something and copy something out1 to copy something onto paper from a book or document. □ Did you copy this out of a book? □ I did not copy this paper or any part of it out of anything. □ I copied out most of it.

cordon something off1 to mark off an area where people should not go with a rope, tape, ribbon, etc. □ The police cordoned the scene of the crime off, and we could not even get close. □ They cordoned off the area.

cork high and bottle deep Rur. very drunk. □ By the time the party was over, he was cork high and bottle deep.

cork something up1 1. Lit. to close and seal a bottle with a cork. □ I think we should cork this up and save it for later. □ Cork up the bottle for later. 2. Fig. to stop up one's mouth and be quiet. □ Cork it up and listen! □ Cork up your mouth!

corner the market on something and corner the something market Fig. to develop or obtain a monopoly of something. □ The company sought to corner the market on frozen yogurt. □ Standard Oil had the oil market cornered at the end of the nineteenth century.

corral someone or something Fig. to herd someone or something into a corral or other enclosed space. □ It took the cowboys two hours to corral the mustangs. □ The nursery school teacher herded the kids off the playground and corralled them in the classroom.

correlate something with something to match or equate something with something else. □ Can you correlate her comment with what she said yesterday? □ The scientist could not correlate the new data with his hypothesis.
correlate with something to match or equate with something. □ This does not correlate with your earlier story. □ What she said yesterday does not correlate with what she is saying today.

correspond to something to match up with something; to harmonize with something. □ This pin on this part corresponds to the receptacle on the other part it fits into.

correspond with someone about something correspond with someone about something to write letters back and forth with someone about something or something. □ I will have to correspond with the manager about that. □ I corresponded about this with my brother. □ I corresponded with my brother for over a year. □ We corresponded about Fred.

cost a king's ransom Go to a king's ransom.

cost a pretty penny and cost an arm and a leg; cost the earth Fig. to be expensive; to cost a lot of money. □ Mary's dress is real silk. It must have cost a pretty penny. □ Taking care of a fancy car like that can cost a pretty penny, let me tell you. □ It cost an arm and a leg, so I didn't buy it. □ A house that size with an ocean view must cost the earth!

cost an arm and a leg Go to previous.

cost something out to figure out the total cost of some set of costs or a complex purchase of goods or services. □ Give me a minute to cost this out, and I will have an estimate for you. □ Do you have time to cost out these specifications this week?

cost the earth Go to cost a pretty penny.

cotton on to someone or something Rur. to begin to like or agree to someone or something quickly. □ She began to cotton to Fred, despite his country ways. □ She cottoned onto Jane's way of thinking.

cotton up to someone Rur. to try to make friends with someone; to flatter or fawn on someone in hopes of favorable treatment. □ James set out to cotton up to the parents of his friends. □ Just watch her cotton up to the teacher!

a couch potato a lazy individual, addicted to television-watching. □ All he ever does is watch TV; he's become a real couch potato. □ Couch potatoes can tend to become very fat and unhealthy, you know.

couch something in something to express something in carefully chosen or deceptive words. □ He tended to couch his explanations in arcane vocabulary. □ She coached her words in an overly polite manner.

cough one's head off Fig. to cough long and hard. (See also laugh one's head off.) □ I had the flu. I nearly coughed my head off for two days.

cough something out to say something while coughing. □ He coughed the words out, but no one could understand him. □ He coughed out the name of his assailant.

cough something up 1. to get something out of the body by coughing. □ She coughed some mucus up and took some more medicine. □ She coughed up phlegm all night. 2. Euph. to vomit something. □ The dog coughed the rabbit up. □ The dog coughed up the food it had eaten. 3. Sl. to produce or present something, such as an amount of money. □ You will cough the money up, won't you? □ You had better cough up what you owe me, if you know what's good for you.

could do with someone or something to want or need someone or something; to benefit from someone or something. □ I could do with a nice cool drink right now. □ I could do with some help on this project.

could fight a circle-saw (and it a-runnin') Rur. eager to fight. □ He was so mad he could fight a circle-saw and it a-runnin'. □ She's a good watchdog. She could fight a circle-saw.

Could I be excused? Would you give me permission to leave?; Would you give me permission to leave the table? (Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Bill: I'm finished, Mom. Could I be excused? Mother: Yes, of course, when you use good manners like that.

(Could I) buy you a drink? 1. Lit. Could I purchase a drink for you? (An offer by one person—usually in a bar—to buy a drink for another. Then the two will drink together. Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ When Sally and Mary met at the agreed time in the hotel bar, Sally said to Mary, “Could I buy you a drink?” 2. Fig. Could I make you a drink? (A slightly humorous way of offering to prepare and serve someone a drink, as in 'one's home. Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Bill: Come in, Fred. Can I buy you a drink? I've got wine and beer. Fred: Great. A beer would be fine, thanks.

Could I call you? 1. I am too busy to talk to you now. Do you mind if I telephone you later on? (Usually in a business context. Also used with can in place of could. May is too polite here.) □ Sally: I can't talk to you right now. Could I call you? Tom: Sure, no problem. □ Bill: I've got to run. Sorry. Can I call you? Bob: No, I'm leaving town. I'll try to get in touch next week. 2. Do you mind if I call you and ask for another date sometime?; Do you mind if I call you sometime (in order to further our relationship)? (Usually in a romantic context. Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Mary: I had a marvelous time, Bob. Bob: Me, too. Can I call you? Mary: Sure. □ Bob: I had a marvelous time, Mary. Mary, I may call you? Mary: Maybe in a week or two. I have a very busy week ahead. I'll call you, in fact.

Could I come in? Do you mind if I enter? (A polite request. Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Tom (standing in the doorway): Hello, I'm with the Internal Revenue Service. Could I come in? □ Bill: Hi, Tom. What are you doing here? Tom: Could I come in? I have to talk to you. Bill: Sure. Come on in.

Could I get by, please? Would you please allow me space to pass by? (Also used with can or may in place of could. May is almost too polite.) □ Poor Bill, trapped at the back of the elevator behind a huge man, kept saying, “Could I get by, please?” □ “Can I get by, please?” Jane said, squeezing between passengers on the crowded bus.

(Could I) get you something (to drink)? an expression offering a drink, usually an alcoholic drink. (Compare this with (Could I) buy you a drink? Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Bill: Hi, Alice! Come on in! Can I get you something to drink? Alice: Just a little soda, if you don't mind. □ Waiter: Get you something to drink? John: No, thanks. I'll just order dinner now.
(Could I) give you a lift?

(Could I) give you a lift? Can I offer you a ride to some place? (Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Bill stopped his car at the side of the road where Tom stood. “Can I give you a lift?” asked Bill. □ Bob: Going north? Could I have a lift? Bill: Sure. Hop in. Bob: Thanks. That’s such a long walk to the north end of campus. □ Sue: Can I have a lift? I’m late. Mary: Sure, if you’re going somewhere on Maple Street.

Could I have a word with you? and How about a word with you? Would you please give me a ride (in your car)? (This usually refers to a destination that is the same as the driver’s or on the way to the driver’s destination. Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Bob: Going north? Could I have a lift? Bill: Sure. Hop in. Bob: Thanks. That’s such a long walk to the north end of campus. □ Sue: Can I have a lift? I’m late. Mary: Sure, if you’re going somewhere on Maple Street.

Could I have a word with you? Go to I’d like (to have) a word with you.

Could I have someone call you? Could I take a message so your call can be returned? (A question asked by someone who answers the telephone when the person the caller is seeking is not available. The someone can be a person’s name or a pronoun, or even the word someone. Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Tom: Bill’s not here now. Could I have him call you? Bob: Yeah. Ask him to leave a message on my machine. Tom: Sure. □ “Could I have her call you?” asked Mrs. Wilson’s secretary.

Could I have the bill? Go to Check, please.


Could I join you? and (Do you) care if I join you?; (Do you) mind if I join you? Will you permit me to sit with you? (An inquiry seeking permission to sit at someone’s table or join someone else in some activity. Also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Tom came into the cafe and saw Fred and Sally sitting in a booth by the window. Coming up to them, Tom said, “Could I join you?”


Could I see you again? and Can I see you again?; May I see you again? Could we go out again sometime? □ Tom: I had a wonderful time, Mary. Can I see you again? Mary: Call me tomorrow, Tom. Good night. □ “Could I see you again?” muttered Tom, dizzy with the magic of her kiss.

Could I see you in my office? and Can I see you in my office? I want to talk to you in the privacy of my office. (Typically said by a supervisor to a lower-ranking employee.) □ “Mr. Franklin,” said Bill’s boss sort of sternly, “Could I see you in my office for a minute? We need to talk about something.”

Could I speak to someone? and Can I speak to someone?; May I speak to someone? the phrase used to request to talk to a particular person, usually on the telephone. (Also used with talk in place of speak.) □ Tom (answering the phone): Good morning, Acme Air Products. With whom do you wish to speak? Bill: Can I speak to Mr. Wilson? Tom: One moment. □ Sally: May I speak to the manager, please? Clerk: Certainly, madam. I’m the manager.

Could I take a message? and Can I take a message?; May I take a message? the phrase used on the telephone to offer to take a message and give it to the person the caller is seeking. □ Bill: Can I talk to Fred? Mary: He’s not here. Could I take a message for him?

Could I take your order (now)? and Can I take your order (now)?; May I take your order (now)? an expression used by food service personnel to determine if the customer is ready to order food. □ Waiter: May I take your order now? Mary: Of course, Jane, what are you going to have? Jane: I’m still trying to decide. Waiter: I’ll be back in a minute. □ Waiter: Can I take your order? Mary: Yes: we’re ready.

Could I tell him who’s calling? and Can I tell her who’s calling? May I tell him who’s calling? a question asked by people who answer the telephone to find out politely who is asking for someone. (Him or her can be replaced by a person’s name or by a plural pronoun.) □ Mary (on the phone): Hello. Could I speak to Bill Franklin? Sally: Could I tell him who’s calling? Mary: It’s Mary Peters. Sally: Oh yes, he’s expecting your call. I’ll get him for you.

Could I use your powder room? and Can I use your powder room?; May I use your powder room?; Where is your powder room? Euph. a polite way to ask to use the bathroom in someone’s home. (Alludes to a woman powdering her nose. Sometimes used jocularly by men. See also powder one’s nose.) □ Mary: Oh, Sally, could I use your powder room? Sally: Of course. It’s just off the kitchen, on the left. □ Tom: Nice place you’ve got here. Uh, where is your powder room? Beth: At the top of the stairs.

Could we continue this later? and Can we continue this later? Could we go on with this conversation at a later time? □ As Mary and John were discussing something private, Bob entered the room. “Could we continue this later?” whispered John. “Yes, of course,” answered Mary.

Could you excuse us, please? and Can you excuse us, please?; Would you excuse us, please?; Will you excuse us, please? We must leave. I hope you will forgive us. (A polite way of announcing a departure.) □ Bill: Could you excuse us, please? We simply must rush off. Alice: So sorry you have to go. Come back when you can stay longer.


Could you keep a secret? and Can you keep a secret? I am going to tell you something that I hope you will keep a secret. (Also used with can in place of could.) □ Tom: Could you keep a secret? Mary: Sure. Tom: Don’t tell anybody, but I’m going to be a daddy. □ Sue: Can you keep a secret? Alice: Of course. Sue: We’re moving to Atlanta.
**can’t be happier** totally happy. □ They both couldn’t be happier since they got married.

**could(n’t) care less** [one is] unable to care at all; it does not matter at all. □ John couldn’t care less whether he goes to the party or not. □ I could care less if I live or die.

**couldn’t hit a bull in the ass with a bass fiddle** Rur. unable to aim; very clumsy. (Jocular. Use with caution.) □ Tom: Is Jane a good shot? Charlie: She couldn’t hit a bull in the ass with a bass fiddle.

**couldn’t pour water out of a boot** (if there was instructions on the heel) Rur. stupid. □ I won’t say Jim is dumb, but he couldn’t pour water out of a boot. □ Jane couldn’t pour water out of a boot if there was instructions on the heel—and she’s the smartest one in her family!

**Councils of war never fight.** Prov. A group of people charged with crucial decisions often cannot act decisively. □ We tried to convince the boss not to form a committee, but to decide himself. We knew that councils of war never fight.

**counsel someone about something** to give advice to someone about something. □ Will you counsel George about which tires to buy?

**counsel someone against something** to advise someone against doing something. □ The lawyer counseled her against suing the government. □ I was counseled against going for a walk alone at night.

**count against someone** [for something] to be held against someone; for something to weigh against someone. □ I hope this mistake doesn’t count against me. □ Don’t worry, it won’t count against you at all.

**count down** to count backwards to an event that will start when zero is reached. □ The project manager was counting down—getting ready for the launch of the rocket. □ I can still hear the captain counting down: “Five, four, three, two, one, zero, blast off!”

**count for something** to be valid for something; to be worth something. □ Doesn’t all my work count for anything? □ Your positive attitude counts for a lot as far as I’m concerned.

**count from something (up to) something** to say or list the numbers from one number to some other number. □ Now, count from 100 up to 300 by threes. □ Timmy can count from 1 to 40.

**count heads** and **count noses** Fig. to count people. □ I’ll tell you how many people are here after I count heads. □ Let’s count noses so we can be sure everyone is back on the bus.

**Count no man happy till he dies.** Go to Call no man happy till he dies.

**count noses** Go to count heads.

**count off** [for a series of people, one by one] to say aloud the next number in a fixed sequence. □ The soldiers counted off by threes. □ The sergeant told them to count off.

**count on someone or something** to rely on someone or something; to depend on someone or something. □ We can count on Bill to get the job done. □ Can I count on this car to start every morning of the year?

**count one’s chickens before they hatch** Fig. to plan how to utilize good results of something before those results have occurred. (The same as Don’t count your chickens before they are hatched.) □ You may be disappointed if you count your chickens before they hatch.

**count someone among something** to consider someone as a particular type of person or part of a particular group. □ I count her among my closest friends. □ Rachel counted herself among the luckiest people alive.

**count someone in (for something) and count someone in (on something); count someone in** to include someone as part of something. □ Please count me in for the party. □ Do count me in on it. □ Count in everybody who said they would attend.

**count someone or something as something** to consider someone to be a particular type of person. □ I count Todd as one of the possible candidates. □ I count this entry as a definite prizewinner.

**count someone or something off** to count people or things, to see if they are all there. (See also count off.) □ Let’s count them off to see who’s missing. □ Count off each person, one by one. □ I counted each one off.

**count someone or something up** to count things or people to see how many there are. □ Let’s count them up and see how many we have. □ I counted all the guests up, and there are too many to seat. □ Please count up all these books and tell me how many there are.

**count someone out (for something)** to exclude someone from something. □ Please count me out for the party next Saturday. I have other plans. □ You should count the whole family out. We are going to the beach for the weekend.

**count something against someone** to regard something in a negative way against someone. □ I’m afraid we must count this against you as an unexcused absence. □ Don’t count that last strike against the batter.

**count something as something** to treat or think of something as being a certain thing. □ I count this as a win. □ Did you count that one as a fair ball?

**count something in** to include something in a count of something. □ Did you count the tall ones in? □ Did you count in the tall ones in the corner?

**count something out** 1. to disregard something; to eliminate a possibility. □ We’ll have to count out the possibility of his being elected. □ Never count it out. It can always happen. 2. to give out things, counting them one by one. □ She counted the cookies out, one by one. □ She counted out the cookies to each child.

**count up to something** 1. to say or list the numbers from zero on up to a certain number. □ Can you count up to a million? □ I can count up to any number you name, and I will do it if you will stay around to listen. 2. to equal a specified total; to add up to something. □ That counts up to a lot. □ The money we earned today counts up to just enough to pay for the electricity we used today.

**count (up)on someone or something** to rely on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Can I count upon you to do the job? □ You can count on me.

**count with someone** to be important to someone. □ Your cooperation really counts with me. □ All my efforts do not count with her.
counter someone or something with something to refute someone or something with something. She countered our evidence with an eyewitness. I countered Nancy with a better argument.

counter with something to say something in refutation of something; to strike back with something. Aren't you going to counter with an argument? He countered with a punch in the jaw.

country mile Rur. a great distance. The batter knocked that ball a country mile. I had to walk a country mile to the next gas station.

couple of two; two or three; a few; some; not many. Bill grabbed a couple of beers from the refrigerator. I hung a couple of pictures on the wall.

couple someone with someone to join one person with another to make a pair. Coupled Todd with Amy for the dinner party.

couple something (on)to something and couple something on(to something); couple something on† to attach something to something. Couple this connector to that one. The railroad worker coupled on the next car in line. Coupled the green one onto the red one.

couple something together to attach two parts of something together. Couple these two cars together and put them on track seven. You have to couple the ends of the two hoses together before you turn on the water.

couple something with something to join one thing with another to make a pair. We coupled the budget issue with the staffing issue for our agenda.

couple up (with someone) [for one person] to join another person to form a pair. I decided to couple up with Larry. Larry and I coupled up with each other. By midnight, they all had coupled up and were dancing.

couple with someone Euph. to have sexual intercourse with someone. They coupled with each other in a night of passion.

couple with something to connect or join to something. This railroad car will couple with the engine. These cars did not couple with the others properly, and there was almost an accident.

course of action the procedures or sequence of actions that someone will follow to accomplish a goal. I plan to follow a course of action that will produce the best results. The board planned a course of action that would reduce the railroad worker coupled on the next car in line.

course through something to run, race, or flow rapidly through something. I believe, sometimes, that ice water courses through your veins. No, perfectly red blood courses through them.

courtesy costs nothing. Go to Civility costs nothing.

cover a lot of ground 1. Lit. to travel over a great distance; to investigate a wide expanse of land. The prospectors covered a lot of ground, looking for gold. My car can cover a lot of ground in one day. 2. Fig. to deal with much information and many facts. The history lecture covered a lot of ground today.

cover for someone 1. to make excuses for someone; to conceal someone’s errors. If I miss class, please cover for me. If you’re late, I’ll cover for you. 2. to handle someone else’s work. Dr. Johnson’s partner agreed to cover for him during his vacation.

cover someone in something to place something over someone or something to serve as clothing or concealment. The designer had covered her in see-through fabric that was very revealing.

cover someone or something against something 1. to cover someone or something as protection against something. You should cover your ears against the cold. I covered little Jimmy against the night’s drafts. I covered myself against the driving rain. 2. Rur. [for an insurer] to provide insurance on someone or something against some peril. The insurance policy covered us against losses. This policy covers your car against theft.

cover something for something [for an insurer] to provide protection to someone or something for a particular price. One company will cover the car for about a thousand dollars. This policy covers you for a few dollars a week.

cover someone or something up† to place something on or something to serve as clothing or concealment. Cover the pie up, so Terry won’t see it. Cover up Jimmy so he doesn’t get cold.

cover someone's tracks (up)† to conceal one’s trail; to conceal one’s past activities. She was able to cover her tracks up so that they couldn’t pin the charges on her. It’s easy to cover up your tracks when the investigators check their job. The robber failed to cover his tracks.

cover something up† 1. Lit. to place some sort of cover on something. Please cover up that mess with a cloth. Cover it up. 2. Fig. to conceal a wrongdoing; to conceal evidence. They tried to cover up the crime, but the single footprint gave them away. She could not cover up her misdeeds.

cover the territory 1. Lit. to travel or deal with a specific large area. The sales manager was responsible for all of the eastern states and personally covered the territory twice each year. Fig. to deal with all matters relating to a specific topic. That lecture really covered the territory in only an hour.

cover the waterfront to deal with every detail concerning a specific topic. Her talk really covered the waterfront. By the time she finished, I knew much more than I wanted to know.

cover (up) for someone to conceal someone’s wrongdoing by lying or concealing the evidence of wrongdoing. Are you covering up for the person who committed the crime? I wouldn’t cover for anyone.

cow chip and cow pie; cow patty; cow flop Inf. a piece of cow manure. The pioneers didn’t have much wood, so they burned dried cow chips. How did that big ol’ cow pie get in the middle of my flower bed? Tom slipped on a cow patty.
cram someone or something into something to stuff someone or something with something.

cram for an examination and cram for a test Fig. to study very hard for an exam.

cram someone or something into something and cram someone or something in* to stuff or crush someone or something into something.

cram someone or something with someone or something to fill someone or something with something or stuffing.
cramp someone’s style Fig. to limit someone in some way. ■ I hope this doesn’t cramp your style, but could you please not hum while you work? ■ To ask Bob to keep regular hours would really be cramping his style.

crank someone up† Fig. to motivate; to get someone started. (See also crank something up.) ■ See if you can crank up your brother and get him going on time today. ■ Some mornings, I can’t crank myself up enough to get to work on time.

crank something out† Fig. to produce something quickly or carelessly; to make something in a casual and mechanical way. ■ John can crank a lot of work out in a single day. ■ The automated production line could really crank out parts, but the quality was shoddy.

crash course in a short and intense training

crash and burn 1. to fail spectacularly. ■ Chuck really crashed and burned when he made his pre-presentation at the sales meeting.

crash course in something to take a crash course in something. ■ The student crashed into the door when it opened suddenly. ■ The car crashed into a bus.

crash out (of some place) to break out of some place, such as a prison. ■ Max and Lefty crashed out of the state prison last week, but they were captured. ■ They crashed out at midnight.

crash something together to bring things together with great force, making a loud noise. ■ Fred crashed the cymbals together and the sound could have wakened the dead. ■ Don’t crash those pans together. It drives me crazy.

crash through something to break through something forcefully. ■ The cows crashed right through the fence.

crash to the floor to fall onto the floor and make a crashing sound. ■ The tray of dishes crashed to the floor. ■ Everything crashed to the floor and was broken.

crash together to ram or move together with great force. ■ The two cars crashed together, making a loud noise. ■ The ships crashed together, opening a gaping hole in the side of one of them.

crush with something to hit or make something with great force. ■ The cows crashed out of the state prison and made a loud noise.

crash into someone or something to bump or ram into someone or something accidentally or roughly. ■ The student crashed into the door when it opened suddenly. ■ The car crashed into a bus.

crash out (of some place) to break out of some place, such as a prison. ■ Max and Lefty crashed out of the state prison last week, but they were captured. ■ They crashed out at midnight.

crash something together to bring things together with great force, making a loud noise. ■ Fred crashed the cymbals together and the sound could have wakened the dead. ■ Don’t crash those pans together. It drives me crazy.

crash through something to break through something forcefully. ■ The cows crashed right through the fence.

crash to the floor to fall onto the floor and make a crashing sound. ■ The tray of dishes crashed to the floor. ■ Everything crashed to the floor and was broken.

crash together to ram or move together with great force. ■ The two cars crashed together, making a loud noise. ■ The ships crashed together, opening a gaping hole in the side of one of them.

crash with someone Sl. to spend the night at someone’s place. ■ I don’t need a hotel room. I can crash with Tom. ■ There is no room for you to crash with me.

crave to do something Rur. to want to do something eagerly. ■ I don’t crave to ride the roller coaster, thank you. ■ The kids have been craving to see that movie for weeks.

crawl across something and crawl along something [for someone] to move across something on hands and knees; [for an insect or something similar] to walk across something. ■ The wounded officer had to crawl across the open area to get to safety. ■ The caterpillar crawled across the leaf and stopped at the end. ■ She crawled along the catwalk, fearing to look down.

crawl along something Go to previous.

crawl back to someone Fig. to go back to someone humbly, perhaps asking for forgiveness. ■ I knew you would come crawling back to me! ■ I wouldn’t crawl back to him for all the tea in China.

crawl in(to something) 1. Lit. to enter a place crawling or humbly, perhaps asking for forgiveness. ■ I knew you would come crawling back to me! ■ I wouldn’t crawl back to him for all the tea in China.

crawl out to get out by crawling. ■ The bears finally woke up and crawled out. ■ In the cave, I injured my leg and I had to crawl out.

crawl out (from under someone or something) Go to out (from under someone or something).

crawl out (of something) to get out of something by crawling. ■ The injured man crawled out of the overturned car. ■ Donna crawled out of the cave.

crawl over something to cross over something by crawling. ■ We crawled over the pile of boxes. ■ Timmy crawled over the carpet and stood up at the coffee table.
crawling with some kind of creature [of a surface] covered with insects or animals, moving about. □ The basement was crawling with rats! □ We came home and found the kitchen floor crawling with ants.

crawling with someone Fig. [of a surface] covered with many people or members of a class of people moving about. □ The place was crawling with police and FBI agents. □ The city was crawling with tourists making it almost impossible to go from place to place.

crazy about someone or something and mad about someone or something; nuts about someone or something; crazy for someone or something Fig. very fond of someone or something. □ Ann is crazy about John. □ He's crazy about her, too. □ I'm mad about their new song.

*creast as a betsy bug and *crazy as a peach-orchard boar; *crazy as a loon Rur. acting as if insane. (*Also: as ~.) □ Tom: Susan says she's really the Queen of England. Bill: She's crazy as a betsy bug. □ Jill: David's a little eccentric, isn't he? Jane: Crazy as a loon, I'd say. □ What's wrong with Jim? He's acting as crazy as a peach-orchard boar.

crazy as a loon Go to previous.

crazy as a peach-orchard boar Go to crazy as a betsy bug.

crazy bone Go to funny bone.

crazy for someone or something Go to crazy about someone or something.

crazy in the head stupid or insane. □ Be quiet, Jed. You are just crazy in the head. □ Am I crazy in the head, or did I just see someone walking a leopard on a leash?

A creasting door hangs longest. and A creaking gate hangs longest. Prov. Sickly people often live longer than healthy ones. □ Jill: I'm worried that my grandmother may not live much longer. She's been sick for so many years. Jane: Well, if it's any comfort, I've heard that a creaking door hangs longest.

A creaking gate hangs longest. Go to previous.

the cream of the crop Fig. the best of all. □ This particular car is the cream of the crop. □ These three students are very bright. They are the cream of the crop in their class.

crease something up to get creases or folds into something that is supposed to be flat; to wrinkle one's clothing. (Very similar to messed up.) □ You will crease your jacket up if you don't sit up straight. □ I was sitting so long that I creased up my pants.

create a scene Go to make a scene.

create a stink (about something) and make a stink (about something); raise a stink (about something) Fig. to make a major issue out of something; to make much over something; to make a lot of complaints and criticisms about something. □ Tom created a stink about Bob's remarks. □ Why did he make a stink about that? □ Tom is always trying to raise a stink.

create an uproar and make an uproar to cause an outburst or sensation. □ The dog got into church and made an uproar. □ Her poodle created an uproar in the restaurant.

creature comforts things that make people comfortable. □ The hotel room was a bit small, but all the creature comforts were there.

credit (for something) 1. praise or recognition for one's role in something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) Especially with a lot of ~, much ~.) □ Mary should get a lot of credit for the team's success. □ Each of the team captains should get credit. 2. praise or recognition of someone for having a particular quality. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ We give her a lot of credit for her ability to get people to work out their differences. □ We will give credit to Sharon for her good humor. 3. credit granted to someone's account for some other financial transaction. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I will give you credit for the returned merchandise. □ We got credit for the check Brian sent us.

credit someone or something for something to give someone or something the praise deserved for doing something. □ We must credit Sarah for her efforts on our behalf. □ We have to credit all the rain we've had for saving the crops.

credit someone or something with something 1. Lit. to record a payment, deposit, etc., to the account of someone or something. □ I will credit you with this payment as you request. □ Your account has been credited with this adjustment. 2. Fig. to give someone or something well-deserved praise for doing something or having something. □ We have to credit Jeff with saving us a lot of money. □ We will credit the weather with part of the success of the picnic.

credit something to someone or something 1. Lit. to record a sum owed to the account of someone or something. □ I will credit this payment to your account. □ I am afraid that I accidentally credited your payment to George. 2. Fig. to give someone or something well-deserved praise. □ The entire organization credited much praise to Jeff. □ We had to credit much of our success to simple good luck.

a credit to someone or something of value or benefit to someone or something; of enough value or worth as to enhance someone or something. □ I always want to be a credit to my school. □ John is not what you would call a credit to his family.

creep across something 1. Lit. to move across something slowly and carefully; to sneak across something. □ The soldiers crept across the rope bridge. □ The cat crept across the floor, stalking the mouse. 2. Fig. [for light, fog, etc.] to move slowly across a place or an area. □ A heavy fog crept across the coastal areas. □ The spotlight crept across the stage from one side to the other, as if looking for the performer.

creep along something to move along something slowly and carefully; to sneak along something. □ Creep along the side of the building until you reach the door. □ The cat crept along the narrow kitchen counter.

creep away to travel away slowly and carefully; to sneak away. □ The boys were completely ashamed and crept away. □ The boys were completely ashamed and crept away. □ The cat crept away quietly.

creep by Fig. [for time] to pass slowly. □ The minutes crept by as I awaited Mrs. Barron's telephone call. □ I know the days will creep by until we finally get our test results.

creep in(to something) to go into something or a place slowly and carefully; to sneak into something or a place. □ The cat crept into the bedroom. □ Max planned to creep into the house and take cash and jewelry.
creep out (from under someone or something) Go to out (from under someone or something).

creep out (of something) to go out of something or a place slowly and carefully; to sneak out of something or a place.  
- A little mouse crept out of the cupboard.  
- The fox crept out of the henhouse, carrying a chicken.

creep out of the woodwork Go to out of the woodwork.

creep over someone or something 1. Lit. [for something, such as an insect] to walk or crawl over someone or something.  
- A huge ant crept over me, and I just lay there.  
2. Fig. [for darkness] to move slowly over someone or something.  
- The shadows crept over the picnic and made everyone realize what time it was.  
- Dusk crept over us.

creep under something to move slowly and carefully underneath something; to sneak underneath something.  
- The dog crept under the table to escape punishment.  
- The chipmunk crept under a pile of leaves and disappeared.

creep up [for darkness] to move gradually and slowly [toward someone or something].  
- Dusk crept up and swallowed us in darkness.

creep up on someone or something to sneak up on someone or something.  
- Please don’t creep up on me like that.  
- You scared me to death.  
- The cat crept up over the mouse.

*the creeps and *the willies a state of anxiety or uneasiness.  
- *Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.  
- I get the creeps when I see that old house.  
- I really had the willies when I went down into the dark basement.

crib something from someone or something to cheat by copying something from someone or something.  
- It appears that you cribbed this directly from the person sitting next to you.

a crick in one’s back a twisted or cramped place in the back that causes pain.  
- I can’t move! I’ve got a crick in my back!  
- I had a crick in my back all night and I couldn’t sleep.

a crick in one’s neck Fig. a twisted place or a cramp in the neck that causes pain.  
- I got a crick in my neck from sleeping in a draft.  
- I got a crick in my neck from sleeping in a draft.  
- When I read on the plane, I get a crick in my neck.

Crime doesn’t pay. Prov. Crime will ultimately not benefit a person.  
- No matter how tempting it may appear, crime doesn’t pay.

cringe away from someone or something and cringe from someone or something to pull back or away from someone or something, as from fear.  
- The child cringed away from the teacher.  
- Why did you cringe away from the dentist’s chair?  
- The cat cringed from the fire.  
- The child cringed from the huge dog.

cringe before someone or something to cower or recoil in the presence of someone or something.  
- Jeff cringed before the wrath of the policeman.

crinkle up to wrinkle up.  
- Her nose crinkled up when she laughed.

criticize someone for something to reprimand or censure someone for something.  
- I hope you don’t criticize me too severely for my part in this matter.  
- Maria criticized Ken for not being there on time.

crock someone or something up1 Sl. to damage or harm someone or something.  
- The accident crocked me up a bit.  
- I really crocked up my car last night.

crooked as a barrel of fish hooks and *crooked as a fish hook; *crooked as a dog’s hind leg very dishonest.  
- (*Also: as ~.)  
- Don’t play cards with him.  
- He’s as crooked as a barrel of fish hooks.  
- Mary says all politicians are crooked as a dog’s hind leg.

crooked as a dog’s hind leg Go to previous.

crop out to appear on the surface; [for something] to reveal itself in the open; to begin to show above the surface.  
- A layer of rock cropped out at the edges of the desert.

crop someone or something out1 [for a photographer] to cut or trim out someone or something from a photograph.  
- The photographer cropped Mr. Jones out of the picture.  
- See if you can crop out the ugly fence at the side of the house.

crop up to appear without warning; to happen suddenly; [for something] to begin to reveal itself in the open.  
- Some new problems cropped up at the last minute.

cross a bridge before one comes to it and cross that bridge before one comes to it Fig. to worry excessively about something before it happens.  
- (Note the variations in the examples. See also cross that bridge when one comes to it.)  
- There is no sense in crossing that bridge before you come to it.  
- She’s always crossing bridges before coming to them.  
- She needs to learn to relax.

cross from some place to some place to move across something from one point to another.  
- We crossed from one side of the hall to the other, looking for a seat.  
- I have to cross from Illinois to Missouri over a rickety old bridge.

cross one’s fingers Go to keep one’s fingers crossed (for someone or something).

cross one’s heart (and hope to die) Fig. a phrase said to pledge or vow that the truth is being told.  
- It’s true, cross my heart and hope to die.  
- It’s really true—cross my heart.

cross over 1. to cross something such as a river or a street.  
- This is a very wide river. Where do we cross over?  
- Let’s cross over here where it’s shallow.  
- to change sides, from one to another.  
- Some players from the other team crossed over and joined ours after the tournament.  
- to eliminate a name from a list.  
- Mary says all politicians are crooked as a dog’s hind leg.

cross over into some place to go from one place into another, by crossing a border, river, mountain range, etc.  
- The refugees crossed over into Switzerland.  
- We crossed over into Missouri at dawn.

cross over something to go some place by crossing a border, river, mountain range, etc.  
- Do we want to cross over the river at this point?  
- How do we cross over the highway?

cross paths (with someone) Fig. to meet someone by chance and not by choice.  
- The last time I crossed paths with Fred, we ended up arguing about something inconsequential.

cross someone to oppose someone.  
- You best not cross Jim.  
- He has a very bad temper.  
- This is the last time you cross me, you hear?

cross someone or something off (of) something and cross someone or something off to eliminate a name from a list or record.  
- (Of is usually retained before pronouns.)  
- We
will have to cross her off of our list. □ We crossed off Sarah. □ I crossed the sweater off of the list of what I needed to buy.

cross someone or something out 1 to draw a line through the name of someone or something on a list or record. □ You can cross me out. I'm not going. □ Please cross out Sarah's name. □ I crossed the sweater out. It was an error.

cross someone's mind Go to pass through someone's mind.

cross someone's palm with silver Fig. to pay money to someone in payment for a service. (A fortune-teller might ask for a potential customer to cross her palm with silver. Used in that sense or jocularly for something like tipping a porter.) □ I crossed his palm with silver, but he still stood there. □ You will find that things happen much faster in hotels if you cross the staff's palms with silver fairly often.

cross someone up 1 to give someone trouble; to defy or betray someone; to spoil someone's plans. (Also without up.) □ You really crossed up Bill when you told Tom what he said. □ Please don't cross me up again.

cross something with something 1. to go across something, using a particular type of vehicle. □ The explorers crossed the river with their jeep. □ We can't cross this stream with the canoes. It's too fast. 2. to interbreed something with something else. □ The farmer crossed this smaller breed of chicken with the meatier one. □ It is possible to cross a horse with a donkey.

cross swords (with someone) Fig. to become the adversary of someone. □ Gloria loved an argument and was looking forward to crossing swords with Sally.

cross that bridge when one comes to it Fig. to delay worrying about something that might happen until it actually does happen. (Usually used in the phrase, “Let's cross that bridge when we come to it,” a way of telling someone not to worry about something that has not happened yet. □ Alan: Where will we stop tonight? Jane: At the next town. Alan: What if all the hotels are full? Jane: Let's cross that bridge when we come to it.

cross the Rubicon Fig. to do something that inevitably commits one to following a certain course of action. (Alludes to the crossing of the River Rubicon by Julius Caesar with his army, which involved him in a civil war in B.C. 49.) □ Jane crossed the Rubicon by signing the contract. □ Find another job before you cross the Rubicon and resign from this one.

Cross the stream where it is shallowest. Prov. To do things in the easiest possible way. □ Jill: How can I get Fred to give me permission to start this project? Jane: Cross the stream where it is shallowest. First ask Fred's boss for permission; I'm sure she'll give it to you. Then Fred will have to agree.

Crosses are ladders that lead to heaven. Prov. Having to endure trouble can help you to be virtuous. □ When Mary was diagnosed with cancer, her mother consoled her by saying that crosses are ladders that lead to heaven, and that though she might have to suffer in this world, she would surely be rewarded in the next.

cross-examine someone to question someone in court who has already been questioned by the opposing side; to question a suspect or a witness at great length. □ The lawyer plans to cross-examine the witness tomorrow morning. □ The police cross-examined the suspect for three hours.

crouch around [for people or other creatures] to stoop or squat within an area. □ Everyone crouched around, hoping the bomb would fall somewhere else. □ The baboons crouched around, grooming one another.

crouch down to stoop or huddle down. □ Crouch down here, next to me. □ Suddenly, Tex crouched down and reached for his pistol.

crow about something and crow over something 1. Lit. [for a rooster] to cry out or squawk about something. □ The rooster was crowing about something—you never know what. 2. Fig. [for someone] to brag about something. □ Stop crowing about your successes! □ She is crowing over her new car.

crow bait Rur. someone or an animal that is likely to die; a useless animal or person. □ That old dog used to hunt good, but now he's just crow bait.

crow over something Go to crow about something.

crowd around someone or something to flock or swarm around someone or something. □ The children crowded around the display case. It is an antique.

crowd around some place and crowd in to press or squeeze something into a place or a container. □ They tried to crowd a dozen people into that tiny room. □ Then they crowded in one more. □ They all tried to crowd themselves into the same room.

crowd in(to) some place and crowd in to push or squeeze someone or something into a place. □ Please don't try to crowd into this place. □ Too many people are trying to crowd in.

crowd someone or something in(to) something and crowd someone or something in 1 to push or squeeze someone or something into a place or a container. □ They tried to crowd a dozen people into that tiny room. □ Then they crowded in one more. □ They all tried to crowd themselves into the same room.

crowd someone or something out of something and crowd someone or something out 1 to push or force someone, something, or an animal out of something. □ Don't crowd your brother out of line! □ Don't crowd out my favorite plants with all your rosebushes!

crowd someone or something together to push or squeeze people or things together. □ See if you can crowd them together and get more in the row. □ I am afraid that I crowded the plants together too much.

crowd something with someone or something to pack too many people or things into something. □ The ushers crowded the room with visitors. □ Aunt Victoria had crowded the room with the busy trappings of a bygone era.

crowd through (something) [for a number of people] to push through something. □ The little group of revelers crowded through the door. □ They all tried to crowd through.
crunch together to pack tightly together. □ The tenants crowded together in the lobby. □ All the kittens crowded together to keep warm.

crown someone with something 1. Lit. to place a crown on someone's head. □ They crowned the prince with the heavily jeweled royal crown. 2. Fig. to strike someone on the head with something. □ She crowned him with a skillet. □ The carpenter crowned himself with a board he knocked loose.

crown something with something Fig. to place something on the very top of something. (As if crowning royalty.) □ The chef crowned the cake with golden icing.

cruise around in something to drive or ride around in something. □ Would you like to cruise around in a car like that? □ They really liked cruising around in the motorboat.

cruising for a bruising and cruisin' for a bruisin' Sl. asking for trouble. □ You are cruising for a bruising, you know that? □ Who's cruisin' for a bruisin'?

crum something up† and crumb something up† Sl. to mess something up. □ Who crummed the bird feeder up? □ Now don't crum up this deal. □ Who crumbed up my room?

crumble away to break away in little pieces. □ The marble pillar was crumbling away because of the acidic rain. □ One of my teeth is just crumbling away.

crumble into something to break apart and fall down into bits and pieces. □ The base of the pillar suddenly crumbled into dust. □ The bones crumbled into dust as the body was lifted from the box.

crumble something up† (into something) to crunch up or break up something into pieces. □ Now, crumble the dried bread up into crumbs. □ Crumble up the bread into crumbs.

crumble up to break up into little pieces. □ The cake, which was very dry, crumbled up when I tried to cut it. □ The paper of the old book crumbled up when I turned the pages.

crumped out Sl. intoxicated. □ She was too crumped out to drive herself home. □ Are you crumped out again?

crumple something up† to fold up or crush someone or something. □ Walter crumpled the paper up. □ He crumpled up the paper.

crumple up to fold up; to collapse. □ She was so frightened that she just crumpled up. □ Fran crumpled up in a dead faint.

crunch someone or something up† to break someone or something up into pieces. □ That machine will crunch you up. Stay away from it! □ A number of blows with the hammer crunched up the rocks into pebbles. □ Try to crunch the larger chunks up.

crunch something down† to press or crush something down, breaking it with a crunching noise. □ Sally crunched the flower pot down, breaking it. □ She crunched down the fragile glass in the box accidentally.

crusade against someone or something to campaign or demonstrate against someone or something. □ You are always crusading against one cause or another. □ Ed started crusading against Eric and the latter threatened suit.

crusade for someone or something to campaign or demonstrate for someone or something. □ I can hardly crusade for the defeat of a friend. □ Ed went on a crusade for Eric, hoping to get him elected.

*crush on someone infatuation with someone. (*Typically: get ~; have ~.) □ Mary thinks she's getting a crush on Bill. □ Sally says she'll never have a crush on anyone again.

crush someone or something down† 1. Lit. to press or force someone or something down. □ Crush the leaves down so you can put more into the basket. □ Crush down the leaves and fill the basket higher. 2. Fig. to suppress someone or something. □ The dictator crushed the opposition down ruthlessly. □ He crushed down all political opposition. □ The army crushed the peasants down ruthlessly.

crush something in† to force something inward; to break something in. □ The beam nearly crushed Jason's head in. □ He tried to crush in the door.

crush something (in)to something to grind or break something into bits and pieces. □ He crushed the fennel seeds into a powder. □ The roller crushes the rocks to bits.

crush something out† 1. to put out a cigarette or small flame by crushing. □ She crushed her cigarette out and put the butt into the sink. □ Please crush out your cigarette. 2. Go to next.

crush something out† of someone or something and crush something out† to press or squeeze something from someone or something. □ He crushed the juice out of the grapes. □ He thought that the weight of the lumber would crush the life out of him. □ Robert crushed out the juice.

crush something up† to reduce the mass of something by crushing. □ Crush this up and put it in the sauce. □ Crush up a clove of garlic and put it in the sauce.

crush something up† (into something) to press or grind something with great force until it is reduced to something smaller. □ The chef crushed the almonds up into a powder and sprinkled them on the dessert. □ The machine crushed up all the glass into tiny bits.

crush (up) against someone or something to press hard against someone or something. □ The crowd crushed up against the people standing in line. □ The eager theatergoers crushed against the lobby doors.

crushed by something Fig. demoralized; having hurt feelings. □ The whole family was completely crushed by the news. □ I was just crushed by your attitude. I thought we were friends.

*the crux of the matter and *the root of the matter; *the heart of the matter the central issue of the matter. (Crux is an old word meaning “cross.” *Typically: be at ~; get at ~; go to ~; look at ~.) □ All right, this is the crux of the matter. □ It's about time that we got to the heart of the matter.

cry all the way to the bank Fig. to make a lot of money on something that one ought to be ashamed of. □ Jane: Have you read the new book by that romance novelist? They say it sold a million copies, but it's so badly written that the author ought to be ashamed of herself. Alan: I'm sure she's
cry all the way to the bank. □ That dreadful movie had no artistic merit. I suppose the people who produced it are crying all the way to the bank.

cry before one is hurt Fig. to cry or complain needlessly, before one is injured. □ Bill always cries before he’s hurt. □ There is no point in crying before one is hurt.

cry bloody murder Fig. to scream as if something very serious has happened, especially unnecessarily. □ Now that Bill is really hurt, he’s crying bloody murder. □ There is no point in crying bloody murder about the bill if you knew the restaurant was expensive.

cry crocodile tears Go to shed crocodile tears.

cry for someone or something 1. to weep for the absence or loss of someone or something. □ No need to cry for me. Take care of yourself. □ She cried for her lost cat. 2. to shout a demand for someone or something. □ She cried for help, but no one heard her. □ Tony cried for Walter, but he did not hear. 3. to cry or bawl, signaling the need or want for someone or something. (As done by a baby.) □ The baby cried for a bottle. □ Little Jimmy was crying for his mother.

cry in one’s beer Fig. to feel sorry for oneself. □ She calls up, crying in her beer, and talks on and on about her problems. □ Don’t cry in your beer. Get yourself straightened out.

cry one’s eyes out Fig. to cry very hard. □ When we heard the news, we cried our eyes out with joy. □ She cried her eyes out after his death.

cry one’s heart out and sing one’s heart out; play one’s heart out; sob one’s heart out Fig. to do something with vigor or intensity. □ She suffered such grief—a lone sobbing her heart out. □ The bird sang its little heart out each morning.

cry oneself to sleep to weep until sleep overtakes one. □ The baby finally cried herself to sleep.

cry out (against someone or something) to shout in anger against someone or something. □ The crowd cried out against the police. □ She cried out against Eric, who had insulted her grossly.

cry out for someone or something 1. to shout praise or encouragement for someone or something. □ Everyone in the street cried out for the mayor to make an appearance. 2. to shout out demands for someone or something. □ The children cried out for ice cream. □ The mob was crying out for justice when they heard the unpopular sentences of the judge.

cry out (in something) and cry out (with something) to scream or shout in pain, joy, anger, etc. □ The child cried out in pain. □ On seeing his father, the overjoyed little boy cried out.

cry over someone or something to weep because of someone or something. □ There’s no need to cry over it. Things will work out. □ She is still crying over her lost love.

cry over spilled milk Fig. to be unhappy about what cannot be undone. (See also It’s no use crying over spilled milk.) □ He is always crying over spilled milk. He cannot accept reality. □ It can’t be helped. Don’t cry over spilled milk.

cry (something) out 1 (to someone or an animal) to yell something to someone or an animal. □ She cried a warning out to the others. □ Sally cried out a warning to the people behind her. □ The trainer cried a command out to the runaway horse.

cry uncle Go to holler uncle.

cry wolf Fig. to cry or complain about something when nothing is really wrong. (From the story wherein a child sounds the alarm frequently about a wolf when there is no wolf, only to be ignored when there actually is a wolf.) □ Pay no attention. She’s just crying wolf again. □ Don’t cry wolf too often. No one will come.

a crying need (for someone or something) Fig. a definite or desperate need for someone or something. □ There is a crying need for someone to come in and straighten things out. □ All the people in that area have a crying need for a local hospital.

crying shame Fig. a very unfortunate situation; a real shame. □ It’s a crying shame that people cannot afford adequate housing. □ That your father could not attend graduation was a crying shame.

cuddle up (to someone or something) and cuddle up (with someone) to nestle or snuggle close to someone or something to get warm or to be intimate. □ Let’s cuddle up to the warmth, near the fireplace. □ She cuddled up with him and went to sleep.

cuddle up with a (good) book and curl up (with a (good) book) to snuggle into a chair or bed comfortably to read a book. □ I want to go home and cuddle up with a good book. □ She went home and curled up with a good book.

cuddle up (with someone) Go to cuddle up (to someone or something).

cue someone in 1. Lit. to give someone a cue; to indicate to someone that the time has come. □ Now, cue the orchestra director in. □ All right, cue in the announcer. 2. Fig. to tell someone what is going on. (Almost the same as clue someone in [on something]). □ I want to know what’s going on. Cue me in. □ Cue in the general about the troop movement.

cull someone or something out of something and cull someone or something out 1 to eliminate someone or something from a group. □ We will cull the older pigeons out from the flock. □ They culled out the slower runners from the team.

culminate in something to climax in something; to end with something. □ The contest culminated in a victory for the best band. □ The play-offs culminated in a big win for the Chicago team.

culturally advantaged Euph. rich; upper-class. □ I can’t deny I had a culturally advantaged upbringing. □ The charity appealed to culturally advantaged people to donate time and money to those less fortunate.

culturally deprived and culturally disadvantaged Euph. poor; lower-class. □ Joe is working at a summer camp for culturally deprived children. □ Jane grew up in a culturally disadvantaged neighborhood.

culturally disadvantaged Go to previous.

culture vulture someone whom one considers to be excessively interested in the (classical) arts. □ She won’t go to a funny film. She’s a real culture vulture. □ They watch only highbrow television. They’re culture vultures.
cunning as a fox Go to sly as a fox.

cup one’s hands together to put one’s hands together to form a sort of cup. □ He cupped his hands together and scooped up the water. □ You have to cup your hands together if you want a drink.

curl someone’s blood Fig. to frighten or disgust someone severely. □ The story was scary enough to curl your blood. □ The terrible scream was enough to curl my blood.

cure someone of something to rid someone of a disease, ailment, bad habit, or obsession. □ I hope that the doctor prescribes something to cure him of that chronic cough. □ Will you please try to cure yourself of your constant interrupting?

cure something of something to eliminate the cause of a malfunction in a machine or a device. (See also cure someone of something.) □ I think I have cured the stapler of jamming all the time. □ I can’t seem to cure the committee of procrastination.

Curiosity killed the cat. Prov. Being curious can get you into trouble. (Often used to warn someone against pry- ing into other’s affairs.) □ Jill: Where did you get all that money? Jane: Curiosity killed the cat.

curl someone’s hair and make someone’s hair curl Fig. to frighten or alarm someone; to shock someone with sight, sound, or taste. □ Don’t ever sneak up on me like that again. You really curled my hair. □ The horror film made my hair curl.

curl something up† to roll something up into a coil. □ She curled the edges of the paper up while she spoke. □ Why did she curl up the paper?

curl up and die Fig. to die. (Often jocular.) □ When I heard you say that, I could have curled up and died. □ No, it wasn’t an illness. She just curled up and died.

curl up (in/to) something 1. to roll into a coil. □ The snake curled up into a neat coil. □ It curled up so we couldn’t get at it. 2. [for one] to bend one’s body into a resting place, such as a chair or a bed. □ Colleen curled up in the chair and took a nap. □ She curled up and took a nap.

curl up (with a (good) book) Go to cuddle up with a (good) book.

curl up with someone or an animal to snuggle up to someone or something. □ She curled up with her husband and fell asleep. □ Elaine curled up with the family dog to keep warm.

curly dirt and house moss; slut’s wool puffs of dirt and dust. □ How long has it been since you swept under this bed? There’s a mountain of curly dirt under here! □ No one’s been in this room for an age. Look at all the cobwebs and curly dirt. □ She was a terrible housekeeper. House moss collected in all the corners of her rooms.

curry favor with someone to try to win favor from someone. □ The lawyer tried to curry favor with the judge. □ It’s silly to curry favor with the boss. Just act yourself.

curse at someone or something to swear at someone or something; to use foul language at someone or something. □ He cursed at the jammed toaster and pounded his fist on the counter in anger. □ Please don’t curse at me.

curse someone for something to damn someone for doing something; to invoke evil upon someone for doing something. □ She cursed her mother for ever having borne her. □ Over and over, she cursed herself for ever having come there.

curse someone or something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

curse someone or something with something 1. to damn someone or something with something, especially a verbal curse. □ She cursed him with the fervent wish that he rot in hell. □ She cursed the day he was born with an unprintable oath. 2. to afflict or oppress someone or something with something. □ His upbringing cursed him with a strong sense of guilt. □ The political scandal cursed the town with a dismal reputation for years.

curse under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

curtain something off† to separate something or some place with a drape, screen, or curtain. □ We curtained this part of the room off, so please sleep over there. □ We will curtain off part of the room.

curtains for someone or something the death, end, or ruin of someone or something. (From the lowering or closing of the curtains at the end of a stage performance.) □ If the car hadn’t swerved, it would have been curtains for the pedestrians. □ If they can’t get into the export market, it’s curtains for the whole company.

curtsy to someone [for a woman] to dip or bow in deference to someone. □ Of course, I curtissed to the queen! Do you think I’m an anarchist? □ The little girls curtsied after they did their dance number.

curve to something to bend or bow toward something, some direction, or some place. □ The road curved to the left. □ One of her toes curves to the right.

cuss a blue streak Rur. to curse a great deal. □ When she dropped the brick on her toe, she cussed a blue streak. □ Bill could cuss a blue streak by the time he was eight years old.

cuss someone out† to curse at someone. □ Dad cussed me out for losing the money he gave me. □ The little kid cussed out his brother, shocking his grandmother.

The customer is always right. Prov. In order to keep customers happy, the people who serve them should always obey their wishes. (Often cited as a principle of good business dealings; customers sometimes say it to the people serving them in order to try to get good service.) □ When I began working at the gift shop, my boss told me, “Remember, the customer is always right, no matter how stupid or rude you may think he is being.”

cut a big swath Go to cut a wide swath.

cut a deal to arrange a deal; to negotiate an agreement. □ Maybe we can cut a deal. Let’s talk. □ The two lawyers cut a deal that left me with my car, although she got the house.

cut a fine figure to look good; to look elegant. (Usually said of a male.) □ Tom really cuts a fine figure on the dance floor. □ Bill cuts a fine figure since he bought some new clothes.

cut a long story short Go to make a long story short.
cut a wide swath and cut a big swath to seem important; to attract a lot of attention. □ In social matters, Mrs. Smith cuts a wide swath. □ Bob cuts a big swath whenever he appears in his military uniform.

a cut above average better than average. (See also a cut above something. The cut is a degree or notch.) □ John isn’t the best mechanic in town, but he’s a cut above average.

a cut above something a measure or degree better than something else. (See also a cut above average. The cut is a degree or notch.) □ Your shirt is beautiful, but mine is a cut above yours.

cut across something 1. and cut across Lit. to travel across a particular area; to take a shortcut across a particular area. □ Please don’t cut across the neighbor’s yard anymore. 2. Fig. to reach beyond something; to embrace a wide variety; to slice across a figurative boundary or barrier. □ His teaching cut across all human cultures and races. □ This rule cuts across all social barriers.

cut against the grain Go to against the grain.

cut along something to make a cut following a line or guide. □ Please cut along the dotted line. □ My hand is too shaky to cut along the line neatly.

cut and dried fixed; determined beforehand; usual and uninteresting. (Can be hyphenated before nominals.) □ I find your writing quite boring. It’s too cut and dried.

cut and paste 1. Lit. to cut something out of paper with scissors and paste it onto something else. □ The teacher told the little children that it was time to cut and paste, and they all ran to the worktables. □ Mary made a tiny house by cutting and pasting little strips of paper. 2. Fig. something trivial, simple, or childish. □ I hate this job. It’s too cut and dried. □ The lecture was, as usual, cut and dried.

cut and run Sl. to run away quickly. (Alludes to cutting loose a ship’s or boat’s anchor and sailing away in a hurry.) □ Wilbur decided to cut and run when he heard the police sirens. □ As soon as I finish what I am doing here, I’m going to cut and run. I’ve got to get home by six o’clock.

cut around something to move rapidly around something, such as a corner, pole, beam, etc. □ The cat cut around a corner and escaped from the dog. □ The speeding car cut around the light pole and almost hit it.

cut at someone or an animal to thrust a knife or something similar at someone or an animal. □ The hoodlum cut at me, but I dodged the blade. □ He cut at the dog, but it had no effect on the vicious animal.

cut at something and cut away at to cut on something to slice something. □ He cut at the chair leg carefully, trying not to remove too much. □ Dad cut away at the turkey and asked us what part we wanted.

cut back to turn back; to reverse direction. □ Suddenly, the bull cut back in our direction and began chasing us. □ The road cuts back about a mile ahead, and it goes west again.

cut back on something to reduce the use, amount, or cost of something. □ You are all going to have to cut back on water usage. □ You simply must cut back on office expenses.

cut back to someone or something [for a film or television camera] to return to a picture of someone or something. □ Suddenly, the camera cut back to the reporter, who—unprepared—just stood there. □ The scene cut back to the veranda overlooking the bay.

cut both ways to affect both sides of an issue equally. □ Remember that your suggestion that costs should be shared cuts both ways. Your division will have to reduce its budget as well. □ If our side cannot take along supporters to the game, then yours cannot either. The rule has to cut both ways.

cut class and cut school to skip a school class or a day of school without an excuse. □ As a joke, one day all the students cut their math class and went to lunch. □ Jane was grounded after she cut school last Friday.

cut corners Fig. to take shortcuts; to save money or effort by finding cheaper or easier ways to do something. □ They’re always finding ways to cut corners. □ I won’t cut corners just to save money. I put quality first.

cut down (on something) to reduce the amount of something or of doing something; to use or buy less of something. □ You will have to cut down on the time it takes you to get ready in the morning. □ The doctor told him to cut down on his drinking.

cut from the same cloth and made from the same mold Fig. sharing a lot of similarities; seeming to have been created, reared, or fashioned in the same way. □ She and her brother are cut from the same cloth. They both tell lies all the time. □ Father and son are made from the same mold and even sound alike on the telephone.

cut in (ahead of someone or something) to move quickly and carelessly into line ahead of someone, as in a line of people or in traffic. □ A red car cut in ahead of me and nearly caused me to run off the road. □ Careful! Don’t cut in ahead of that car!

cut in (on someone) 1. Lit. [for someone] to ask to replace one member of a dancing couple. □ Excuse me, may I cut in? □ Please don’t cut in. 2. Fig. [for someone] to interrupt someone who is talking. □ While Gloria was telling us her story, Tom kept cutting in on her. □ I’m talking. Please don’t cut in!

cut in (on something) 1. Lit. to interrupt something, especially some sort of electronic transmission. □ I didn’t mean to cut in on your announcement. □ Who cut in on my telephone call? 2. Fig. to join in something even when not invited. □ Can I cut in on this little party?

cut in (with something) to interrupt [someone] with a comment; to speak abruptly, interrupting what someone else is saying. □ Jimmy cut in with a particularly witty remark. □ Must you always cut in while others are talking?

cut in (to something) to slice something; to gouge something. □ We cut into the watermelon and found it to be spoiled. □ It was a beautiful apple, but when she cut in, she found out that she had been cheated.

Cut it out! Inf. Stop doing that! Stop saying that! (Fixed order.) □ Sue: Why, I think you have a crush on Mary! Tom: Cut it out! □ “Cut it out!” yelled Tommy as Billy hit him again.

cut loose (with something) Go to let go (with something).
cut no ice (with someone) Sl. to have no influence on someone; to fail to convince someone. □ I don’t care who you are. It cuts no ice with me. □ So you’re the mayor’s daughter. It still cuts no ice.

cut off 1. to stop by itself or oneself. □ The machine got hot and cut off. □ Bob cut off in mid-sentence. 2. to turn off a road, path, highway, etc. □ This is the place where you are supposed to cut off. □ When you come to a cutoff on the left, continue on for about mile.

cut one’s coat according to one’s cloth and cut one’s coat to suit one’s cloth Prov. to plan one’s aims and activities in line with one’s resources and circumstances. □ We would like a bigger house, but we must cut our coat according to our cloth. □ They can’t afford a vacation abroad—they have to cut their coat according to their cloth.

cut one’s coat to suit one’s cloth Go to previous.

cut one’s eyes at someone or something Rur. to glance at someone or something. □ He cut his eyes at me to see if I was looking. □ She cut her eyes at the TV for a second.

cut one’s eyeteeth on something Fig. to grow up experiencing something; to have had the experience of dealing with something [successfully] at a very early age. □ My grandfather taught me how to fish, so I cut my eyeteeth on fishing. □ Fred cut his eyeteeth on writing; both his parents were authors.

cut one’s losses to do something to stop a loss of something. □ I knew I had to do something to cut my losses, but it was almost too late. □ Sell some of the high-priced stuff to cut your losses.

cut one’s nose off to spite one’s face Prov. to hurt yourself in an attempt to hurt someone else. (Often in the form, “Don’t cut off your nose to spite your face.”) □ Isaac dropped out of school because he wanted to make his father angry; years later, he realized that he had cut off his nose to spite his face.

cut one’s (own) throat Fig. [for someone] to bring about one’s (own) failure. □ If I were to run for office, I’d just be cutting my throat. □ Judges who take bribes are cutting their own throats.

cut one’s wolf loose Sl. to go on a drinking bout; to get drunk. □ I’m gonna go out and cut my wolf loose tonight. □ You’re going to cut your wolf loose too often and really get into trouble.

cut (oneself) loose (from someone or something) to get out from under the domination of someone or something. □ At last, she cut herself loose from her mother. □ She had to cut loose from home. □ Everyone wished that Todd would cut himself loose from his mother.

cut oneself on something to slice one’s flesh with something accidentally. □ Careful, you will cut yourself on that knife. □ Careful! Don’t cut yourself on that broken glass.

cut out to depart; to leave in a hurry. □ Good-bye. I have to cut out now. □ It’s time I was cutting out. I’m late already.

cut out (for some place) and light out (for some place) to leave quickly for some place. □ The kids all cut out for home. □ When they heard their mother call, the Wilson kids cut out for home.

cut out for someone or something to run hurriedly toward someone or something. □ At the last minute, he cut out for the gate, which was closing very fast. □ The child cut out for his mother, who had come to get him at school.

cut out for something suited for something. □ She was bright and she loved to read. Her folks thought she was cut out for being a schoolteacher. □ He did his best, but he just wasn’t cut out for farming.

cut out to be something destined to be something or a particular type of person. (See also cut out for something.) □ I don’t think I was cut out to do this. □ We weren’t cut out to be laborers.

cut school Go to cut class.

cut some Zs Go to catch some Zs.

cut someone a break and cut someone some slack Sl. to give someone a break; to allow someone a reprieve from the consequences of an action. □ Come on, cut me a break! I’m a good guy! □ I was only a few minutes late! Cut me a break! Don’t dock my pay! □ Cut me some slack and I’ll be sure to pay you all I owe in a month.

cut (someone) a check to write a check; to have a computer print a check. (Used in business especially of machine-made checks.) □ We will cut a check for the balance due you later this afternoon. □ We will cut you a check as soon as possible.

cut someone dead to ignore someone totally. □ Joan was just about to speak to James when he walked away and cut her dead. □ Joan cut her former husband dead.

cut someone down! to kill someone with a weapon, such as a sword, or with gunfire, etc. □ The bandits cut the bystanders down and fled. □ The gunman cut down an innocent pedestrian.

cut someone down (to size) and take someone down (to size) Fig. to make a person humble; to put one in one’s place. □ John’s critical remarks really cut me down to size. □ Jane is too conceited. I think her new boss will take her down to size.

cut someone in³ (on something) Sl. to permit someone to share something, such as profits or loot. □ Max refused to cut in his partner Lefty. □ We can’t cut you in. There’s not enough.

cut someone off³ at the pass Fig. to block someone’s effort to get away; to thwart someone’s efforts. □ They are ahead now, but we’ll cut them off at the pass. □ Try to cut off the bandits at the pass!

cut someone off³ without a penny Fig. to end someone’s allowance; to fail to leave someone money in one’s will. □ Mr. and Mrs. Franklin cut their son off without a penny after he quit school. □ They cut off both of their sons without a penny. □ We learned, when Uncle Sam’s will was read, that he cut off his own flesh and blood without a penny.

cut someone or something loose from something to sever the connection between people or things, in any combination. □ Wally cut the child loose from the tree where his playmates had tied him up. □ I cut the cord loose from the anchor by mistake.

cut someone or something off³ (from something) to block or isolate someone or something from some place or something. □ They cut the cattle off from the wheat field. □ The enemy tanks cut off the troops from their camp.
**cut** someone or something off1 (short) Fig. to interrupt someone or something; to prevent someone from continuing to speak. (See also chop someone off.) □ In the middle of her sentence, the teacher cut her off short. □ Bob cut off Mary when she was trying to explain.

cut someone or something out1 to eliminate someone or something. □ They cut out the free coffee with lunch at the cafeteria. □ We have to cut Chuck out. There are too many better men on the team.

cut someone or something to something 1. Lit. to chop or slice up someone or something, especially to bits or pieces. □ The chef cut the carrots to bite-size pieces. □ The lawn mower will cut you to bits if you get under it. 2. Fig. to destroy an argument; to destroy someone’s argument. □ The lawyer heard her argument and cut her to bits. □ She cut the argument to pieces.

cut someone or something up1 Fig. to criticize someone or something severely. □ Jane is such a gossip. She was really cutting Mrs. Jones up. □ The professor really cut my essay.

cut someone or something with something and cut someone or something on something to slice someone or something with or on something. □ Don’t cut yourself on that sharp blade. □ He cut the bread with a dull knife and crushed it.

cut someone’s water off1 Fig. to squelch someone; to thwart someone. (Fixed order.) □ Well, I guess that cuts your water off! □ That sure cuts off my water!

cut someone some slack Go to cut someone a break.

cut someone to ribbons 1. Lit. to cut or slice someone severely. □ He broke a mirror and the glass cut his hand to the quick. □ He cut his finger to the quick with the sharp blade. 2. Fig. to injure someone emotionally. (See also cut something to the bone.) □ Your heartless comments cut me to the quick. □ Her remarks cut him to the bone.

cut someone up1 1. Lit. to gash or carve on someone by cutting. □ The thugs cut him up badly, just for talking back. 2. Fig. to cause someone severe emotional distress. □ That rebuilt really cut me up. □ The critic really cut up the performer.

cut someone’s up Fig. to make someone laugh. □ That comedian’s routine really cut me up. □ Tommy’s ride noises cut the whole class up, but not the teacher.

cut something away1 (from something) to separate something from something by cutting. □ The doctor cut the wart away from the patient’s foot. □ She cut away the loose thread.

cut something back1 to prune plants; to reduce the size of plants, bushes, etc. □ Let’s cut these bushes back. They’re getting in the way. □ Don’t cut back my roses!

cut something down1 1. Lit. to chop something down; to saw or cut at something until it is felled. □ Stop cutting the banners down! □ Don’t cut down that tree! 2. Fig. to destroy someone’s argument; to destroy someone’s position or standing. □ The lawyer cut the testimony down quickly. □ The lawyer cut down the witness’s story. 3. to reduce the price of something. □ They cut the prices down to sell the goods off quickly. □ I wish they would cut down the prices in this store.

cut something down1 to something to reduce something to a manageable size. □ We cut the program down to size and it was very enjoyable. □ We cut down the program to a half hour.

cut something from something to remove something from something by cutting. □ She carefully cut the blossoms from the bush. □ A few blossoms were cut from the bush.

cut something into something and cut something in1 to mix something, usually a soft baking ingredient, into something else. (See also fold something into something.) □ Carefully cut the butter into the flour mixture. □ Now, cut in more butter. 2. to slice or chop something into very small pieces, bits, etc. □ We cut the meat into one-inch cubes for the stew.

cut something off1 1. to shorten something. □ Cut this board off a bit, would you? □ Cut off this board a little, please. 2. to turn something off, such as power, electricity, water, the engine, etc. □ Would you please cut that engine off? □ Cut off the engine, Chuck.

cut something on something 1. to slice something on or against something, accidentally. □ I cut my finger on the knife. □ Maria cut her foot on the broken glass. 2. to slice something that is lying on something else. □ I cut the tomatoes on the cutting board you mother gave us.

cut something out1 1. to stop doing something. (Usually a command. See also Cut it out!) □ Cut that noise out! □ Cut that noise out! □ Now, cut that out! 2. Go to next.

cut something out of something and cut something out1 to cut a pattern or shape from cloth, paper, sheet metal, etc.; to remove something from something by cutting; to excise something from something. (When both out and of are used, no direct object can intervene.) □ Sam cut a pig out from the paper. □ I cut the picture out of a magazine. □ I cut out the shape of the moon from the paper.

cut something to the bone 1. Lit. to slice deep to a bone. □ The knife cut John to the bone. He had to be sewed up. □ Cut each slice of ham to the bone. Then each slice will be as big as possible. 2. Fig. to cut down severely (on something). (To the bone emphasizes the severity of the cutting.) □ We cut our expenses to the bone and are still losing money. □ Congress had to cut expenditures to the bone in order to balance the budget.

cut something with something to dilute something with something else. □ They cut the liquor with cold water. □ Please cut this with some soda. It’s too sweet, otherwise.

cut teeth [for a baby or young person] to have new teeth emerging through the gums. □ Billy is cranky because he’s cutting teeth. □ Ann cut her first tooth this week.

cut the cheese and cut the mustard Sl. to release intestinal gas. (Crude. Use caution with the topic.) □ Who cut the cheese? □ People who cut the mustard in the car have to get out and walk.

Cut the comedy! and Cut the funny stuff! Cut the shit! Stop acting silly and telling jokes! Be serious! (Use
cut the deadwood out

John: All right, you guys! Cut the comedy and get to work! Bill: Can't we ever have any fun? John: No. Bill: Come on, Mary, let's throw Tom in the pool! Mary: Yeah, let's drag him over and give him a good dunking! Tom: Okay, you clowns, cut the funny stuff! I'll throw both of you in!

cut the deadwood out 1. Lit. to prune away and remove the dead branches from a tree or bush. □ They cut a lot of the deadwood out to save the tree. □ You have to cut out the deadwood to make room for new growth. 2. Fig. to remove unproductive persons from employment. □ This company would be more profitable if management would cut out the deadwood. □ When we cut the deadwood out, all our departments will run more smoothly.

cut the dust Fig. to take a drink of liquor. □ I think I'll stop in here and cut the dust. □ I want to cut the dust. Can I have a snort?

cut the funny stuff! Go to Cut the comedy!

cut the ground out† from under someone Fig. to destroy the foundation of someone's plans or someone's argument. □ The politician cut the ground out from under his opponent. □ Congress cut out the ground from under the president.

cut the mustard Go to cut the cheese.

cut the pie up† Fig. to divide something up. (Can refer to an actual pie or anything that can be divided into varying portions.) □ It all depends on how you cut the pie up. □ How should I cut up the pie?

cut the shit! Go to Cut the comedy!

cut through red tape Fig. to eliminate or neutralize something complicated, such as bureaucratic rules and procedures. □ I will try to cut through all the red tape for you so you get your visa on time. □ I am sure someone can help us cut through all this red tape.

cut through something to penetrate something by cutting; to slice through something. □ The worker cut through the steel door with a torch. □ Walter cut through the rind of the watermelon.

cut to someone or something to shift the radio, movie, or television audience's attention abruptly to someone or something new. □ Suddenly, the engineer cut to the announcer. □ The technical director cut to a remote unit that was covering an accident. □ The camera cut to scenes of Atlanta burning.

cut to the chase Sl. to focus on what is important; to abandon the preliminaries and deal with the major points. □ All right, let's stop the idle chatter and cut to the chase. □ After a few introductory comments, we cut to the chase and began negotiating.

cut up 1. to act wildly; to show off and be troublesome; to act like a clown. □ Tom, Billy! Stop cutting up, or I'll send you to the principal's office. □ If you spent more time studying than cutting up, you'd get better grades. 2. Go to next.

cut up (about someone or something) Sl. emotionally upset about someone or something. □ She was all cut up about her divorce. □ You could see how cut up she was.

cut your peaches Rur. go on with what you were doing. □ Stop gawking and cut your peaches. □ There's no need for you to follow me around. Go cut your peaches.

*cute as a bug's ear very cute. (*Also: as ~.) □ That little baby is cute as a bug's ear.

the cutting edge Fig. the most forward part of a trend; the leading part of a trend. (Alludes to the edge of a sword. See also on the cutting edge. See also on the bleeding edge.) □ Fred's invention put him on the cutting edge of the computer chip business.
**dab** at something to touch or pat something. [square] The painter dabbed at the canvas, making little changes here and there. [square] Don’t just dab at the wall, spread the paint on!

**dab** something off,[1]! Go to next.

**dab** something off (of) something and **dab** something on[2] to pat or wipe something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) [square] Please dab the butter off your chin. [square] Please dab off the butter. [square] Dab the moisture off of the apples.

**dab** something on(to) something and **dab** something on[3] to pat or spread carefully something onto something else. [square] Dab some medicine onto the scratch. [square] Dab on some medicine.

**dabble** at something to play at doing something; to do something halfheartedly. [square] Don’t just dabble at your history paper. Settle down and do it right. [square] Dabbled in painting.

**dabble in** something to be involved in something in a casual manner. [square] She dabbled in local politics for a while. [square] I want to dabble in something new for a while.

**Dad fetch my buttons!** Rur. What a surprise!; Goodness me! [square] Dad fetch my buttons! It’s a letter from Aunt Rita! [square] Dad fetch my buttons, I never was so happy in all my life!

**the** daddy of them all and the granddaddy of them all Fig. the biggest or oldest of all; the patriarch. [square] This old fish is the granddaddy of them all. [square] This tree is the daddy of them all. It’s been here since the place was built.

**daily dozen** Physical exercises done every day. [square] My brother always feels better after his daily dozen. [square] She would rather do a daily dozen than go on a diet. [square] Fig. someone’s everyday work routine. [square] I’m getting very tired of the daily grind. [square] When my vacation was over, I had to go back to the daily grind.

**daily over** something to waste time or take too long doing something. [square] Don’t daily over your food. Eat your dinner. [square] I wish you wouldn’t dally over your homework.

**daily with** someone to flirt with someone; to waste time with someone of the opposite sex. (Old.) [square] Sam is dallying with that Johnson girl again. [square] Stop dallying with her and get back to your studies!

**dam** something up[4] to erect a barrier in a river, stream, brook, etc. [square] We are going to have to dam this stream up to make a pond for the cattle. [square] Let’s dam up this stream. [square] Why is this river damned up?

**Damn it to blue blazes!** Rur. Damn it. (An oath.) [square] Damn it to blue blazes, I told you I can’t lend you any more money! [square] “Damn it to blue blazes! I give up!” Joe shouted, flinging his tools aside.

**a (damn) sight** better Rur. much better. [square] Mary can sing a damn sight better than Tom can. [square] You look a sight better with your hair cut short.

**damn** someone or something with faint praise Fig. to criticize someone or something indirectly by not praising enthusiastically. [square] The critic did not say that he disliked the play, but he damned it with faint praise. [square] Mrs. Brown is very proud of her son’s achievements, but damns her daughter’s with faint praise.

**damn** someone with something 1. Lit. to curse someone with words. [square] She damned him with curse after curse. [square] Maria damned Joe with the worst curses she could think of. 2. Fig. to denounce or defeat someone in a particular way. [square] She damned him with her insincere words of praise. [square] She damned herself with the evidence she had hoped would save her.

**Damn** if you do, damned if you don’t. Prov. No matter what you do, it will cause trouble. [square] If I use this money to pay the rent, I won’t have enough left over for food. [square] But if I don’t use the money to pay the rent, my landlord will evict me. Damned if I do, damned if I don’t. [square] Helen: If I invite Shirley to the party, I’m sure she’ll get drunk and make an unpleasant scene. But if I don’t invite her, she’ll never forgive me. Jane: Damned if you do, damned if you don’t, huh?

**damp** off [for seedlings], to die from too much water. [square] All the new plants damped off, and we had to buy some from the nursery. [square] The little seedlings damped off and withered away.

**damp** something down[5], 1. Lit. to make something damp. [square] Damp the clothes down before you iron them. [square] Please damp down the clothes first. 2. Fig. to reduce the intensity of a flame, usually by cutting down on the air supply, as with a damper. [square] Please damp the woodstove down. [square] Damp down the air supply or you are going to end up with a raging inferno.

**dampen** someone’s spirits Go to someone’s spirits.

**dance** at someone’s wedding to celebrate in honor of someone at someone’s wedding. [square] I will dance at your wedding—if you invite me, of course. [square] If you think I will dance at your wedding, you had better be nicer to me! [square] Fig. to shift quickly to different behavior; to change one’s behavior or attitude. [square] After being yelled at, Ann danced to another tune. [square] A stern talking-to will make her dance to a different tune.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>dance to something</strong></th>
<th>to respond to music or rhythm with dancing. ☑️ I can’t dance to that fast beat! ☑️ That music is horrible. No one can dance to that.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>dance with death</strong></td>
<td>Fig. to attempt to do something that is very risky. ☑️ The crossing of the border into enemy territory was like dancing with death. ☑️ You are dancing with death in your effort to cross that narrow ledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dance with someone</strong></td>
<td>to perform social dancing with another person. ☑️ Do you think you would like to dance with Wally? ☑️ Would you please dance with me?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dangle from</strong></td>
<td>something to hang from something. ☑️ A number of colorful glass balls dangled from the branches of the tree. ☑️ Some loose threads dangled from the bottom of his jacket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dangle</strong></td>
<td>something before someone and <strong>dangle something in front of someone</strong>. ☑️ Lit. to tempt someone by dangling a tempting object in front of them. ☑️ Don’t dangle that string of pearls in front of me unless you intend to give them to me! 2. Fig. to lure someone with something. ☑️ He dangled the keys before Wally, hoping to get him to drive. ☑️ He dangled the money in front of Eric, hoping to make him change his mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dangle something from</strong></td>
<td>something to hang something loosely from something else. ☑️ She dangled a few small bells from the bottom of her skirt during the holidays. ☑️ I dangled a bit of fish from the window so I could see how high the cat would jump.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dangle something in front of someone</strong></td>
<td>Go to <strong>dangle something before someone</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dare someone (to do something)</strong></td>
<td>to challenge someone to do something. ☑️ Sally dared Jane to race her to the corner. ☑️ You wouldn’t do that, would you? I dare you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dark horse</strong></td>
<td>Fig. someone or something whose abilities, plans, or feelings are little known to others. (From a race horse about which little or nothing is known.) ☑️ It’s difficult to predict who will win the prize—there are two or three dark horses in the tournament. ☑️ Everyone was surprised at the results of the election. The dark horse won.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the dark side of someone or something</strong></td>
<td>Fig. the negative and often hidden aspect of someone or something. ☑️ I had never seen the dark side of Mary before, and I have to tell you that I was horrified when she lost her temper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>darken someone’s door</strong></td>
<td>Fig. [for an unwelcome person] to come to someone’s door seeking entry. (As if the visitor were casting a shadow on the door. Formal, or even jocular.) ☑️ Who is this who has come to darken my door? ☑️ She pointed to the street and said, “Go and never darken my door again!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The darkest hour is just before the dawn</strong></td>
<td>and <strong>It’s always darkest just before the dawn</strong>. Prov. When things are extremely bad, it may signal that they are about to get much better. ☑️ Jili: I feel like giving up. I don’t have a job, my boyfriend left me, and they’re raising the rent for my apartment. Jane: It’s always darkest just before the dawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>darn</strong></td>
<td>tootin’ absolutely. ☑️ You’re darn tooting I’ll be there. I wouldn’t miss it for the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>datt a glance at</strong></td>
<td>someone or something to shoot a quick look at someone or something. ☑️ She darter a glance at him and looked quickly away. ☑️ He darted a glance at the door and looked even more uncomfortable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dart about</strong></td>
<td>to move about quickly. ☑️ The little fish were darting about everywhere. ☑️ People were darting about, to and fro, during the noon rush hour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dart across</strong></td>
<td>something to run quickly over something. ☑️ A small animal darted across the road in front of the car. ☑️ I tried to dart across the street, but the traffic was too heavy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dart in and out</strong></td>
<td>[for something moving] to move quickly between two things, or into a number of things, and move away again. ☑️ On the highway, a small car was darting in and out of the two right lanes of traffic. ☑️ A small bird darted in and out of the bush, probably going into a nest inside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dart out</strong></td>
<td>(of something) (at someone or something) to move quickly out of something toward someone or something. ☑️ The ferret darted out of its burrow at the children. ☑️ The snake darted out at the frog. ☑️ The mouse darted out of its hole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash a letter off</strong></td>
<td>Go to next.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash a note off</strong></td>
<td>and <strong>dash a letter off</strong> to write a note or letter quickly and send it off. ☑️ I have to dash this letter off, then I will be with you. ☑️ I’ll dash off a note to her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash across</strong></td>
<td>something to run quickly across some area. ☑️ John dashed across the busy street and ran in the door. ☑️ The dog dashed across the yard and confronted the meter reader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash cold water on something</strong></td>
<td>Go to pour cold water on something.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash off</strong></td>
<td>Go to dash away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash out</strong></td>
<td>(for something) [for someone] to leave a place in a hurry to get something. ☑️ Harry dashed out for some cigarettes. ☑️ Excuse me. I just have to dash out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash over</strong></td>
<td>(for something) [for someone] to come by quickly for something such as a brief visit. ☑️ I just dashed over for a cup of sugar. Can you spare it? ☑️ I needed some sugar, so I just dashed over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash someone or something against</strong></td>
<td>someone or something to throw or fling something at or against someone or something. ☑️ Sam dashed the bottle against the floor, shattering it. ☑️ Alice dashed the box against Ed, throwing him off balance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash someone’s hopes</strong></td>
<td>Fig. to ruin someone’s hopes; to put an end to someone’s dreams or aspirations. ☑️ Mary dashed my hopes when she said she wouldn’t marry me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash something off</strong></td>
<td>to make or do something quickly. ☑️ I will dash this off now and try to take more time with the rest of them. ☑️ I will see if I can dash off a cherry pie before dinner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dash something to pieces</strong></td>
<td>to break something into small pieces. ☑️ She dashed the glass to pieces on the floor—she was so mad. ☑️ The potter dashed the imperfect pot to pieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>date back</strong></td>
<td>(to someone or some time) to have origins that extend back to the time of someone or something. ☑️ This part of the palace dates back to Catherine the Great. ☑️ This is old! It really must date back.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
date from something to have an existence that extends from a particular time. □ This building dates from the beginning of the last century. □ These books date from the 1920s.

daub something on(to) something and daub something on1 to smear or paint something onto something else. □ The painter daubed a bit of yellow onto the canvas. □ Daub on a bit of yellow here. □ She daubed the medicine on.

daub something with something to smear or paint something with something sticky, such as paint, grease, makeup, etc. □ The mechanic daubed the part with grease and put it back where it came from. □ The end of the chair leg was daubed with glue and set into place.

Davy Jones's locker the bottom of the sea, especially when it is a grave. □ They were going to sail around the world, but ended up in Davy Jones's locker. □ Most of the gold from that trading ship is in Davy Jones's locker.

dawdle about to move along slowly and casually. □ The boys dawdled along on their way to school. □ We were just dawdling along, talking about life. We didn't know we were late.

dawdle along to move along slowly and casually. □ The boys dawdled along on their way to school. □ We were just dawdling along, talking about life. We didn't know we were late.

dawdle over something to waste time when one should be doing a particular task; to loaf while doing something. □ Don't dawdle over your hamburger. The lunch period ends in two minutes. □ Don't dawdle over it. Get it done.

dawdle something away1 to waste a particular amount of time; to let a period of time slip away, wasted. □ You didn't finish your work because you dawdled most of your time away. □ You dawdle away too much time daydreaming.

dawn (up)on someone Fig. [for a fact] to become apparent to someone; [for something] to be suddenly realized by someone. (Upon) is formal and less commonly used than on. □ Then it dawned upon me that I was actually going to have the job. □ On the way home, it dawned on me that I had never returned your call, so when I got home I called immediately.

day after day every day; daily; all the time. □ He wears the same clothes day after day. □ She visits her husband in the hospital day after day.

day and night and night and day all the time; around the clock. □ The nurse was at her bedside day and night. □ The house is guarded night and day.

day in and day out and day in, day out on every day; for each day. □ She watches soap operas day in and day out. □ They eat nothing but vegetables, day in, day out.

a day late and a dollar short late and ill-prepared. □ Tommy, you seem to show up a day late and a dollar short all the time. You need to get organized.

*the day off a day free from working. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~; take ~.) □ The next time I get a day off, we'll go to the zoo. □ I have the day off. Let's go hiking.

*a day one the very beginning; the very first day. (Typically: from ~; since ~.) □ You haven't done anything right since day one! You're fired! □ She was unhappy with her new car from day one.

a day person a person who prefers to be active during the daytime. (Compare this with a night person.) □ I am strictly a day person. Have to be in bed early.

daydream about someone or something to have daytime fantasies about someone or something. □ Poor Alice is always daydreaming about Albert. □ John is daydreaming about running away to Tahiti.

daylight robbery Fig. the practice of blatantly or grossly overcharging. □ It's daylight robbery to charge that amount of money for a hotel room! □ The cost of renting a car at that place is daylight robbery.

days running and weeks running; months running; years running days in a series; months in a series; etc. (Follows a number.) □ I had a bad cold for five days running. □ For two years running, I brought work home from the office every night.

day-tripper a tourist who makes excursions lasting just one day. □ At about 4:00 p.m. the day-trippers start thinning out. □ Being a day-tripper is hard on your feet sometimes.

dead ahead straight ahead; directly ahead. □ Look out! There is a cow in the road dead ahead. □ The farmer said that the town we were looking for was dead ahead.

dead and buried 1. Lit. dead and interred, and soon to be forgotten. □ Now that Uncle Bill is dead and buried, we can read his will. 2. Fig. gone forever. □ That kind of old-fashioned thinking is dead and buried.

dead and gone 1. Lit. [of a person] long dead. □ Old Gert's been dead and gone for quite a spell. □ When I'm dead and gone, I hope folks remember me at my best. 2. Fig. [of a thing] gone long ago. □ That kind of thinking is dead and gone. □ The horse-and-buggy days are dead and gone.

*dead as a dodo and *dead as a doornail; deader than a doornail dead; no longer in existence. (*Also: as ~.) □ That silly old idea is dead as a dodo. □ When I tried to start my car this morning, I discovered that the battery was deader than a doornail.

dead as a doornail Go to previous.

dead broke completely broke; without any money. □ I'm dead broke—not a nickel to my name. □ I've been dead broke for a month now.

a dead cat on the line Rur. [for something to be] wrong. □ I'm afraid there's a dead cat on the line over at Martha's place. I haven't heard from them for days. □ Bill has a kind of sixth sense. He can tell a dead cat on the line before anybody knows there's something wrong.

dead center at the exact center of something. (See also on dead center.) □ The arrow hit the target dead center. □ When you put the flowers on the table, put them dead center.

dead certain very sure. (Dead means absolutely.) □ I'm dead certain that horse will win. I bet two hundred on it myself. □ I didn't believe the rumor at first, but Bill's dead certain that it's true.

dead drunk very intoxicated; totally inebriated. □ They were both dead drunk. They could only lie there and snore. □ Marty stumbled off the bar dead drunk.

a dead duck Fig. someone or something that is certain to die or fail. □ If I fail that test, I'm a dead duck. □ When
the outlaw drew his pistol, the sheriff knew he was a dead duck.

dead easy very easy. □ This whole job is dead easy. □ It was so dead easy, Frank did it with one hand.

dead from the neck up 1. Fig. stupid. (With a “dead” head.) □ She acts like she is dead from the neck up. 2. Fig. no longer open to new ideas. □ Everyone on the board of directors is dead from the neck up.

a dead giveaway something that reveals a fact or an intention completely. □ The car in the driveway was a dead giveaway that someone was at home.

dead in someone’s or an animal’s tracks Fig. exactly where someone or something is at the moment; at this instant. (This does not usually have anything to do with death. The phrase is often used with stop.) □ Her unkind words stopped me dead in my tracks. □ When I heard the rattlesnake, I stopped dead in my tracks.

dead in the water stalled; immobile. (Originally nautical.) □ This whole company is dead in the water. □ The project is out of funds and dead in the water for the time being.

dead letter 1. a piece of mail that is returned to the post office as both undeliverable and unreturnable. □ At the end of the year, the post office usually has bushels of dead letters. □ Some of the dead letters are opened to see if there is an address inside. 2. an issue, law, or matter that is no longer important or that no longer has force or power. □ His point about the need for education reform is a dead letter. It is being done now. □ This point of law is a dead letter since the last Supreme Court ruling on this matter.

a dead loss a total loss. □ My investment was a dead loss.

dead meat Fig. dead; as good as dead. (Usually an exaggeration.) □ If you don’t do exactly as I say, you are dead meat!

Dead men tell no tales. Prov. Dead people will not betray any secrets. □ The club members liked to hold their secret meetings in a graveyard, since dead men tell no tales.

dead on exactly right; on target. □ That’s a good observation, Tiffany. You are dead on. □ Your criticism is dead on!

deal on one’s feet and on its feet Fig. exhausted; worn out; no longer useful. □ Ann is so tired. She’s really dead on her feet. □ He can’t teach well anymore. He’s dead on his feet. □ This inefficient company is dead on its feet.

* a (dead) ringer (for someone) Fig. very closely similar in appearance to someone else. (Typically: be ~; look like ~.) □ You are sure a dead ringer for my brother. □ Isn’t he a ringer for Chuck?

dead serious absolutely serious; not joking. □ Tom: You’re frowning me. Bill: No, I’m dead serious. □ Mary has threatened divorce a hundred times, but this time she says she’s dead serious.

dead set against someone or something totally opposed to someone or something. □ I’m dead set against the new tax proposal. □ Everyone is dead set against the mayor.

dead to the world 1. sound asleep. □ After all that exercise, he’s dead to the world. □ He’s dead to the world, and I can’t rouse him. 2. intoxicated. □ Six beers and he was dead to the world. □ By midnight almost everybody at the party was dead to the world.

dead wrong completely wrong. □ I’m sorry. I was dead wrong. I didn’t have the facts straight.

deaden something with something to dull or anesthetize pain with something. □ The doctor deadened the area with an injection before she began to stitch. □ I will deaden the pain with a local anesthetic.

deader than a doornail Go to dead as a doo.

deadly dull very dull. □ The lecture was deadly dull, and I went to sleep. □ Her story was really deadly dull. I am sorry I was awake for part of it.

def and dumb unable to hear or speak. (Used without any intended malice, but no longer considered polite. Sometimes euphemized as “hearing and speech impaired.”) □ Fred objected to being called deaf and dumb. □ Aunt Clara—she was deaf and dumb, you know—lived to be over 100.

*dead as a post dead. (*Also: as ~.) □ When my cousin was a teenager, she played her drum set without ear protection, and she was as deaf as a post by the age of twenty-five. □ Mark can’t hear you even if you shout; he’s deaf as a post.

deal in something to buy and sell something. □ My uncle is a stockbroker. He deals in stocks and bonds. □ My aunt deals in antiques.

deal someone in 1. Go to deal someone into something.

deal someone into something and deal someone in 1. Lit. to pass out cards to someone, making that person a player in a card game. □ Can you deal me into this hand? □ Deal in anyone who wants to play. □ Deal me in! 2. Fig. to permit someone to take part in something. □ Let’s deal him into this project. □ Yes, deal in this guy. □ Should we deal her in?

deal someone out of something and deal someone out 1. Lit. to skip someone when dealing a hand of cards. □ Please deal me out of the next hand. I have to go make a telephone call. □ They dealt out the old lady because she would not pay attention to the game. 2. Fig. to remove someone from participation in something. □ They dealt me out at the last minute. □ They dealt out Fred, too.

deal something out 1 to pass something out piece by piece, giving everyone equal shares. □ The manager dealt the proposals out, giving each person an equal number to read. □ I’ll deal out some more proposals.

deal the race card Go to the the race card.

deal with someone Sl. to kill someone. □ “Spike, you deal with that cop,” said the crime boss. □ The agent planned how best to deal with the rebel leader without getting caught.

deal with someone or something to manage someone or something. □ This is not a big problem. I think I can deal with it. □ I am sure I can deal with Jill.

dear departed Euph. a dead person, as referred to at a funeral. □ Let’s take a moment to meditate on the life of the dear departed.
Dear John letter a letter a woman writes to her boy-
friend telling him that she does not love him anymore.  □ Bert got a Dear John letter today from Sally. He was devas-
tated.

Dear me! an expression of mild dismay or regret. □ Sue: 
Dear me, is this all there is? Mary: There's more in the
kitchen. □ “Oh, dear me!” fretted John, “I'm late again.”

Death is the great leveler. Prov. Death makes everyone
equal, because it does not spare anyone, not even the
wealthy, famous, or talented. (Also the cliché: the great
leveler, death.) □ The wealthy tycoon lived as though he
were exempt from every law, but death is the great leveler
and came to him the same as to everyone else. □ We hoped
that the brilliant pianist would entertain us with her music
for many decades, but death, the great leveler, did not spare
her.

dead 1. Fig. very harmful; very effective in
to destroy or kill. □ This road is ter-
ribly bumpy. It's death on tires. □ The sergeant is death on lazy soldiers. 2. Fig. accurate or deadly at doing something
requiring skill or great effort. □ John is death on curve
balls. He's our best pitcher.

decide against some-
thing to rule against some-
thing or with deceptive words.

decide among someone and someone else and decide
among something and something else to choose from
three or more people; to choose from three or more
things. □ I couldn't decide among all the choices on the
menu. □ I will decide among Fred, Tom, and Alice.

decide between someone and someone else and decide
between something and something else to choose one
from two people; to choose one from two things. □ I could
not decide between Tom and Wally. □ We could not decide
between those two.

decide for someone or something to rule in favor of some-
one or something; to make a judgment for someone or
something. □ The jury decided for the plaintiff. □ The
judge decided for me.

decide in favor of someone or something to determine that
someone or something is the winner. □ The judge decided
in favor of the defendant. □ I decided in favor of the red
one.

decide (up)on someone or something to choose someone
or something; to make a judgment about some aspect
of someone or something. (Upon is formal and less com-
monly used than on.) □ Will you please hurry up and
decide upon someone to vote for? □ I decided on chocolate.

decide for something out (in something) and deck
someone or something out (with something) to decorate
someone or something with something.

declare (oneself) against someone or something to state
one's opposition to someone or something publicly. □ I
must declare myself against the amendment. □ The politi-
cian declared himself against whatever the voters were
already against.

declare (oneself) for someone or something to state one's
support of someone or something. □ Susan declared her-
self for Mary’s candidacy. □ I have not yet declared for any
particular policy. □ Todd declared himself for the can-
didacy of Mary Brown for mayor.

declare war against someone or something and declare
war on someone or something 1. Lit. to formally announce
that one will fight a war with someone or some country.
□ A group of countries declared war against the aggressor.
2. Fig. to announce a serious campaign against a type of
person or a serious problem. □ The president declared war
against crime and criminals. □ The pressure group declared
war on waste.

decorate someone for something to award someone a
medal or ribbon for doing something important or brave.
□ The town decorated her for her heroic act. □ She was dec-
orated for her heroism.

decorate something with something to adorn or ornament
something with something. □ I will decorate the cake with
roses made of sugar. □ Can I decorate your car with stream-
ers for the parade?

dedicate someone or something to someone or something
1. to reserve someone or something for the use of some-
one or something. □ The manager dedicated new assistants
to the exclusive use of the legal department. □ The com-
mittee dedicated a corner in the library to books on agri-

debit something against someone or something to record a
charge for something against someone's account or against
a particular category of an account. □ I will have to debit
this against your account. □ The clerk debited the charge
against you.

debit something to someone or something to make a charge
for something to someone or something. □ To whose
account can we debit this charge?

I will let it be known.

debit something with something to charge something for
something. □ The bank debited Fred's account with the
whole expense. □ The bank debited my checking account with
the cost of the new checks.

deceive someone into something to trick someone into
doing something. □ She deceived me into giving her my car
keys. □ You can't deceive me into doing what I don't want
to do.

deceive someone with something to cheat someone with
something or with deceptive words. □ You cannot deceive
me with your promises. □ You are just deceiving yourself
with fancy talk.

decide against someone or something to rule against some-
one or something; to make a judgment against someone
or something. □ We decided against Tom and chose Larry
instead. □ Jane decided against the supplier.
deduce something from something to infer or conclude something from a set of facts. □ Can I deduce a bit of anger from your remarks? □ I deduce nothing from everything I have heard today.

deduct something from something else to subtract an amount from another amount. □ Are you going to deduct this from your income taxes? □ Mr. Wilson deducted the discount from the bill.

deed something (over) to someone to grant something, such as land, to someone; to transfer legal title to something to someone. □ Grudgingly, he deeded the land over to Walter. □ He deeded the property to his niece.

doom it (to be) necessary and deem it that it is necessary to decide that something is necessary. □ Mary deemed that it was necessary to leave town that night. □ Lisa deemed it necessary to go home.

defend something from something to stand against an attack; to provide a defense against something; to protect someone or something from something. □ Don’t worry, I will defend you against any muggers. □ We defended ourselves against the attack. □ The army defended the town against the enemy soldiers. □ The lawyer defended her against the plaintiff. □ She defended the company against the suit.

defend someone with something to repel danger from someone with something. □ Here, defend yourself with this club. □ Mary defended herself with karate.

defend some-thing against someone or something 1. to stand against an attack; to provide a defense against attack. □ Don’t worry, I will defend you against any muggers. □ We defended ourselves against the attack. □ The army defended the town against the enemy soldiers. 2. to advocate the cause of someone or something against someone or something else. □ The lawyer defended her against the plaintiff. □ She defended the company against the suit.

defend someone with something to repel danger from someone with something. □ Here, defend yourself with this club. □ Mary defended herself with karate.

defender to someone or something (on something) to yield to someone or something on some question or point. □ I will refer to Mary on that question. □ She would not defer to the committee on anything.

define something as something to label something as being something. □ I define that kind of behavior as just plain rude! □ We have to define that comment as careless and unthinking.

Definitely not! and Certainly not! No, without any doubt at all. (Compare this with Absolutely not!) □ Bill: Will you lend me some money? Bob: No way! Definitely not! □ Bob: Have you ever stolen anything? Fred: Certainly not!

deflect something away from someone or something to divert someone or something away from someone or something; to cause someone or something to veer away from someone or something. □ The press secretary deflected the reporter’s questions from the candidate. □ The emergency deflected the boss’s attention away from my mistake.

defraud someone out of something to cheat someone out of something. □ The crooked contractor defrauded the town out of a fortune. □ The clerk defrauded the employer out of a great deal of money.

degenerate into something to decay into something; to break down into something. □ The peace rally degenerated into a riot. □ I was afraid that the party would degenerate into a drinking contest.

deign to do something to lower oneself to do something. □ She will never deign to join in with us. □ I expect that he will not deign to have dinner with us.

deliver someone to something to appoint someone to something; to appoint someone to be something. □ I will deliver Jane to be our representative. □ Donna was delegated to attend the conference.

delive-ration to something to assign a task to someone or something. □ someone or something to discuss and argue something. □ The job was delegated to Sally.

deliver something from something to remove something from something; to cross something out from something. □ Will you please delete this paragraph from the contract? □ The line was deleted from the sales agreement.

deliberate about someone or something and deliberate on someone or something to think about someone or something; to consider what to do about someone or something. □ How long do you intend to deliberate about Carol? □ We will deliberate about this matter as long as it takes to do it right. □ Let’s deliberate on this for a while.

deliberate on something or some-thing Go to previous.

deliberate over someone or something to discuss and argue about someone or something. □ We will deliberate over this question tomorrow. □ We have been deliberating over Karen long enough.

delight in something or someone to take great pleasure in someone or something. □ I delight in your interest in my work. □ We all delight in James. What a fine boy!

delight someone by something to please someone with something; to please someone by doing something. (See also delight someone with something.) □ You delighted me by agreeing to join us. □ I was delighted by your proposal.

delight someone with something to please someone with something, such as a gift. □ We delighted Alice with a gift of money. □ She was delighted with the gift.

deliver someone from someone or something to save or rescue someone from someone or something. □ The hero
delivered the children from a fiery death. □ Thank you for delivering me from a very boring meeting by calling me to the telephone.

deliver someone of something to free someone from some burden or problem; to liberate someone from some confinement. □ He was looking for someone to deliver him of his burdensome responsibility. □ He was delivered of his burden.

deliver someone or something to someone or something to transfer someone or something to someone or something; to yield over someone or something to someone or something. □ When will you deliver the deed to me? □ I will deliver the deed to you when I have your check.

deliver something under pressure Go to under pressure.

deliver something up† to someone to render or yield something to someone. □ Will you please deliver the documents up to Jane? □ Will you please deliver up the documents to Jane?

delude someone into something to fool someone into thinking something. □ You can't delude me into believing you. □ Todd deluded himself into believing he was back at home.

delude someone with something to fool or trick someone with something. □ She deluded us with her clever talk. □ Don't delude yourself with false hopes.

deluge someone or something with something 1. Lit. to flood someone or something with water or something similar. □ The swollen river broke the dam and deluged the town with billions of gallons of water. 2. Fig. to overwhelm someone or something with something; to "flood" someone or something with something. □ The reporters deluged us with questions.

delve into something to examine or study something carefully; to enter into the examination or study of something. □ He delved into the solution of the problem facing him. □ I am just now delving into a study of the Trojan War.

demand something from someone or something and demand something of someone or something to command that something be received from someone or a group or something; to demand that someone or a group or something do something. □ The muggers demanded money from everyone. □ The petitioners demanded a response from the board of directors. □ She demanded too much of her automobile.

demand something of someone or something Go to previous.

demonstrate against someone or something to make a public show against someone or something. □ The citizens demonstrated against the new policies. □ A number of protestors demonstrated against the mayor.

demonstrate for someone or something to make a public show in favor of someone or something. □ We will all demonstrate for Walter's candidacy. □ A number of supporters demonstrated for the mayor.

demonstrate something to someone to show someone how something works. □ Would you please demonstrate this DVD player to me? I may want to buy it. □ The new products were demonstrated to the board of directors in advance.

demonstrate something to someone to show someone how something works. □ Would you please demonstrate this DVD player to me? I may want to buy it. □ The new products were demonstrated to the board of directors in advance.

demote someone from something (to something) and demote someone from something to something to lower someone's rank from one rank to another. □ The manager demoted Bill from cashier to clerk. □ The army demoted her from lieutenant to sergeant.

demur at something to dispute something; to challenge something. □ I fear I must demur at your suggestion that I am aloof and condescending. □ Alice demurred at the suggestion that she was late.

a den of iniquity a place filled with criminal activity or wickedness. □ The town was a den of iniquity and vice was everywhere. □ Police raided the gambling house, calling it a den of iniquity.

denounce someone as something to criticize someone as something; to publicly call someone something bad. □ The mayor denounced his opponent as a crook. □ Anne was denounced as a cheater.

denounce someone for something to criticize someone publicly for doing something. □ The candidate denounced the governor for raising taxes. □ Donna denounced the mayor for incompetence.

dent something up† to mar or make depressions in something. □ I don't want to dent my car up. It's still new. □ He dented up my new bike!

denude someone or something of something to strip something from someone or something. □ The prison guards denuded the new prisoner of his garments. □ The wind denuded the trees of their leaves.

deny someone or something to someone to prevent someone from having someone or something. □ Would you deny her children to her after all these long months? □ I would not deny food to a starving man.

depart for some place to leave for some place. □ When shall we depart for the airport? □ When do we depart for St. Petersburg?

depart from some place to leave from some place or something; to set out from some place or something. □ When will you depart from here? □ We departed from Moscow on time.

depart this life Euph. to die. □ He departed this life on April 20th, 1973. □ She departed peacefully, in her sleep.

depend (upon) someone or something to rely upon someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Can I depend on you to do this right? □ You can depend upon me for help.

depict someone as something to show someone as something; to make someone appear to be something. □ He did report the fire, but it is going too far to depict him as a hero. □ The artist depicted himself as a much younger man than he really was.

deplete something of something to use up all of a certain thing that something has. □ They will deplete the soil of its nutrients by planting the same crop over and over.

derport someone (from some place) (to some other place) to expel or exile someone from one place to another, usually back to their prior country of residence. □ The government deported Jane from this country to her homeland. □ They deported Tom to Brazil from this country.
deposit something in(to) something to put something into something.

deprive someone of something to take something away from someone.  

deputize someone as something to assign someone the temporary power to act in some official capacity.

derive from something to come from something; to evolve from something.  

derive something from someone or something to draw or abstract something from someone or something.

descend (up)on someone or something 1. Lit. [for something] to come down or fall upon someone or something.

descend to something 1. Lit. to go down to something.

descend from someone or some group [for a living creature] to come from a particular set of ancestors.

desist from something to stop doing something.

desert a sinking ship and leave a sinking ship Fig. to leave a place, a person, or a situation when things become difficult or unpleasant. (Rats are said to be the first to leave a ship that is sinking.)

describe someone or something as something to describe or portray a person or a thing as something or as being in some particular state.

describe someone or something to someone or something to someone or something.

desensitize someone to something to make someone less sensitive to something.

Desist from something to stop doing something.
order to solve it. □ Fred: All my employees have been surly and morose for months. How can I improve their morale? Alan: Why not give everyone a raise? Fred: That's a pretty extreme suggestion. Alan: Yes, but desperate diseases must have desperate remedies.

despise someone for something to hate someone for something or for doing something. □ I just despise him for running away! □ She despised herself for her dishonest actions.

despoil something of something to make something, such as a town, tomb, or building, lose value by stealing from it; to rob something of something. □ The vandals despoiled the castle of much of its furnishings. □ The land was despoiled of its fertility by overplanting.

destine someone for something to determine that someone should receive or achieve something in the future. □ Her many talents destined her for a distinguished career. □ Larry's intelligence destined him for big things.

destined for something predetermined to achieve or become something. □ I know I am destined for a job that is better than this. □ We are destined for death in the long run.

detach someone or something from someone or something to separate or disconnect someone or something from someone or something. □ The high command detached Wallace from his platoon. □ The technician detached the sensors from Harry's chest.

detail someone for something to choose someone to do a particular task. (Originally military.) □ Sam detailed Private Bailey for guard duty. □ Donna was detailed for some extra work.

detail someone to someone or something to assign someone to someone or a group. (Military.) □ I will detail Private Bailey to that job. □ The general detailed a lieutenant to the platoon that was going to the front.

detect something in something to recognize or identify something in something. □ Can you detect the anger in her voice? □ I detect a bit of sarcasm in your comments.

deter someone or something from something to prevent or discourage someone or a group from doing something. □ We can't seem to deter them from leaving. □ They were not deterred from their foolish ways.

determine the root of the problem Go to the root of the problem.

detract from someone or something to lessen or diminish someone or something. □ The large pieces of furniture detracted from the lovely design in the carpet. □ Alice's quiet demeanor did not detract from her grace and beauty.

develop from someone or something (into) someone or something and develop (from) someone or something into someone or something to grow or evolve out of someone or something into someone or something else. □ Her interest in music developed from a childlike curiosity to a full-fledged professional career. □ The flower developed from a little knot of a bulb.

deviate from something to wander away from something, such as a path, road, etc.; to vary from the normal procedure. □ Please do not deviate from the path. You will crush the wildflowers. □ I will not deviate one inch from the route you have prescribed. □ They did not deviate from her instructions.

*the devil Fig. a severe scolding. (*Typically: get ~; catch ~; give someone ~.) □ Bill is always getting the devil about something. □ I'm late. If I don't get home soon, I'll catch the devil!

The devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose. Go to next.

The devil can quote Scripture for his own purpose, and The devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose. Prov. Evil people sometimes try to win the confidence of good people by quoting persuasive passages of Scripture.; Just because someone can quote Scripture to support his or her argument does not mean that the argument is virtuous. (Scripture usually refers to the Bible, but it can refer to other religious writings.) □ Sadie: Dad, you really ought to give me permission to go out with Nathan. He's such a polite boy, and he can even quote the Bible. Father: The devil can quote Scripture for his own purpose.

The devil finds work for idle hands to do. Prov. If you do not have useful work to do, you will be tempted to do frivolous or harmful things to get rid of your boredom. □ Knowing that the devil finds work for idle hands to do, Elizabeth always made sure that her children had plenty of chores to keep them occupied.

The devil is not so black as he is painted. Prov. No one is as bad as people say he is. (Implies that people are saying too many bad things about someone.) □ I can't believe that actress is as coldhearted as the gossip columns say she is. The devil is not so black as he is painted.

The devil looks after his own. Prov. Evil people are often prosperous or well taken care of. (Implies that they must be getting their prosperity from the devil, since they are not earning it by being good and deserving.) □ Jane: I don't understand why the corner store is still in business. They cheat everybody! Alan: Well, the devil looks after his own.

a devil of a job and the devil's own job the most difficult task. □ We had a devil of a job fixing the car. □ It was the devil's own job finding a hotel with vacancies.

a devil of a time and the devil's own time a very difficult time. □ I had a devil of a time with my taxes. □ This cold has been giving me a devil of a time. □ Fixing the car seemed easy, but I had the devil's own time doing it.

The devil's children have the devil's luck. Prov. Evil people often seem to have good luck. □ The police thought they had trapped the murderer, but he escaped. The devil's children have the devil's luck.

the devil's own job Go to a devil of a job.

the devil's own time Go to a devil of a time.

devil someone or an animal for something Fig. to bother or harass someone or an animal for something. □ The child kept deviling her mother for an ice-cream cone. □ The kittens continued to devile the mother cat for their dinner.

Devil take the hindmost. Go to Every man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost).

devil-may-care attitude and devil-may-care manner a very casual attitude; a worry-free or carefree attitude. □ You must get rid of your devil-may-care attitude if you want to succeed. □ She acts so thoughtless—with her devil-may-care manner.
devil-may-care manner Go to previous.

devolve (up)on someone or something [for something, such as a task] to be passed on to someone or a group. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ This job, I am afraid, devolves upon you and you alone. □ The task of repairing the damage devolved on Diane.

devote oneself to someone or something to dedicate or give oneself over to someone or something. □ Do you agree to devote yourself to this task? □ She devoted herself to raising her children.

devote someone or something to someone or something to dedicate someone or something to the use or benefit of someone or something. □ I will devote a few of my people to your project. □ Sarah devoted all of her time to Roger.

dial the wrong number Go to the wrong number.

dialogue with someone to talk with someone. □ I look forward to dialogue with you tomorrow. □ The supervisor sets aside time to dialogue with each and every person in the department once a week.

a diamond in the rough Fig. a person who has good qualities despite a rough exterior; a person with great potential. □ Sam looks a little scruffy, but he’s a diamond in the rough. □ He’s a diamond in the rough—a little hard to take at times, but very smart and helpful.

diarrhea of the jawbone Go to next.

diarrhea of the mouth and diarrhea of the jawbone Fig. constant talking; a “disorder” involving constant talking. □ Wow, does he ever have diarrhea of the mouth! □ You’re getting diarrhea of the jawbone again.

dibs on someone a claim on something. (See also have dibs on something; put one’s dibs on something.) □ I’ve got dibs on the yellow one! □ Dibs on the front seat!

dicker with someone (for something) and dicker with someone (over something) to bargain with someone for something; to haggle with someone for something. □ I don’t want to stand here dickering with you for a cheap trinket. □ I don’t want to waste time dickering with them over a few dollars.

dictate (something) to someone 1. to speak out words to someone who writes them down; to speak words into a recording device to be written down later by someone. □ Walter dictated a letter to his secretary. □ Please come in so I can dictate to you. 2. to lay out or spell out the exact terms of something to someone; to act as a dictator. □ You can’t dictate the rules to us. □ Please don’t dictate to me.

did everything he could ‘cept eat us Rur. acted very hostilley. □ When it came time to pass sentence on the criminal, the judge did everything he could ‘cept eat him.

did you hear? Go to have you heard?

diddle someone out of something to cheat someone into giving up something. □ The boys diddled the old man out of a few bucks. □ He was diddled out of his last dime.

diddle something out of someone Sl. to get something from someone by deception. □ We diddled about forty bucks out of the old lady who runs the candy shop. □ They diddled Larry’s last dime out of him.

diddle with something to play with something; to toy with something. □ Here, don’t diddle with that watch. □ Stop diddling with your nose, Jimmy!

didn’t care a whit and don’t care a whit didn’t care at all. □ Sally thought Joe liked her, but he didn’t care a whit about her. □ I don’t care a whit what you do with my old clothes.

didn’t care too hard Rur. didn’t mind. □ Dad said he didn’t care too hard if I took the dog out with me. □ If you don’t care too hard, I’ll shut this window.

didn’t exchange more than three words with someone to say hardly anything to someone. (The number may vary.) □ I know Tom was there, but I am sure that I didn’t exchange more than three words with him before he left. □ We hardly exchanged more than two words the whole evening. □ Sally and Liz didn’t have enough time to exchange more than five words.

didn’t invent gunpowder Rur. did not do anything terribly important. □ He may be the class president, but he didn’t invent gunpowder. □ What’s all this fuss about a movie star? She didn’t invent gunpowder!

die a natural death 1. Lit. [for someone] to die by disease or old age rather than by violence or foul play. □ I hope to live to 100 and die a natural death. □ The police say she didn’t die a natural death, and they are investigating. 2. Fig. [for something] to fade away or die down. □ I expect that all this excitement about the scandal will die a natural death. □ Most fads die a natural death.

die away Fig. to fade away. □ The sound of the waterfall finally died away. □ When the applause died away, the tenor sang an encore.

die back [for vegetation] to die back to the stems or roots. □ The hedge died back in the winter but regenerated leaves in the spring. □ This kind of grass dies back every year.

die behind the wheel to die in an automobile accident in a car that one is driving. □ Poor Fred died behind the wheel in a horrible collision.

die by one’s own hand Euph. to commit suicide. □ Jane: I just heard that Bill died. I didn’t know he was sick. Dan: He wasn’t sick. He died by his own hand. □ She died at the age of fifty, by her own hand.

die by something to perish by a particular cause or device. (Often refers to execution as a death sentence.) □ He died by electrocution. □ She was condemned to die by hanging.

die down to fade to almost nothing; to decrease gradually. □ The fire died down and went out. □ As the applause died down, a child came on stage with an armload of roses for the singer.

die for someone or something 1. Lit. to perish for the benefit or glory of someone or something. □ He said he was willing to die for his country. □ She would die for her child if necessary. 2. Fig. to experience great physical or emotional desire for someone or something. □ He was just dying for Jane, but she would have nothing to do with him. □ Freddie was dying for a glass of water—he was so thirsty.

die from curiosity Go to die of curiosity.

die from something Go to die of something.

die in one’s boots and die with one’s boots on Fig. to go down fighting; to die in some fashion other than in bed; to die fighting. (Popularized by western movies. Heroes and villains of these movies said they preferred death in
a gunshot to showing cowardice or giving up.) □ I won't let him get me. I'll die in my boots.

die in something to perish in a particular calamity or accident. □ They both died in an automobile accident. □ Wally did not want to die in the war.

The die is cast. Prov. A process is past the point of no return. (The die is one of a pair of dice. The cast means thrown. This phrase [in Latin] was said by Julius Caesar when he crossed the Rubicon with his legions, starting a civil war.) □ After that speech favoring reform of the educational system, the die is cast. This is now a campaign issue. □ The die is cast. There is no turning back on this point.

die laughing 1. Lit. to meet one's death laughing—in good spirits, revenge, or irony. □ Sally is such an optimist that she'll probably die laughing. □ Bob tried to poison his rich aunt, who then died laughing because she had taken Bob out of her will. 2. Fig. to laugh very long and hard. □ The joke was so funny that I almost died laughing. □ The play was meant to be funny, but the audience didn't exactly die laughing.

die of a broken heart Fig. to die of emotional distress. □ I was not surprised to hear of her death. They say she died of a broken heart. □ In the movie, the heroine appeared to die of a broken heart, but the audience knew she was poisoned.

die of boredom Fig. to be very bored. □ No one has ever really died of boredom. □ We sat there and listened politely, even though we almost died of boredom.

die of curiosity and die from curiosity Fig. to experience a strongly felt need to know about something. □ I was just dying of curiosity! □ I almost died from curiosity to finish the book and see how the mystery was solved.

die of something and die from something to perish from an injury or a particular disease. □ The doctors did all they could, but he finally died of cancer. □ What did it die from?

die of throat trouble Sl. to be hanged. (Old.) □ He died of throat trouble after the posse caught up with him. □ The cattle rustler died of throat trouble.

die off [for a living thing] to perish one by one until there are no more. □ Most of the larger lizards died off eons ago. □ It would be really bad if all the owls died off. □ The cucumber blossoms all died off.

die on someone 1. Lit. [for a patient] to die under the care of someone. □ Get that medicine over here fast, or this guy's gonna die on me. □ Come on, mister, don't die on me! 2. Fig. [for something] to quit running for someone. □ My car died on me, and I couldn't get it started. □ My CD player died on me, and I had to listen to the radio.

die on the vine Go to wither on the vine.

die out 1. Lit. [for a species or family] to perish totally because of the failure to produce offspring. □ I am the last one in the family, so I guess our line will die out with me. □ The owls might die out if you ruin their nesting area. 2. Fig. [for an idea, practice, style, etc.] to fade away through time. □ That way of doing things died out a long time ago. □ It died out like the horse and buggy.

die with one's boots on Go to die in one's boots.

differ from something [for something] to be different from something else. □ No, this one differs from the one you saw because it has a bigger handle. □ How does this one differ from that one?

differ in something [for people or things] to be different in a specific way or in specific ways. □ They differ only in the color of their eyes and the size of their shoes. □ They differ in size and shape.

differ (with someone) about something and differ (with someone) on something 1. [for someone] to disagree with someone about something. □ I must differ with you about that. □ We differ about that. □ I don't differ with you on that point. 2. [for someone] to argue with someone about something. □ Tom was differing with Terry rather loudly about which one of them was going to carry the flag. □ Let's stop differing with each other on these simple things!

*different as night and day Cliché completely different. ("Also: as ~ .) □ Although Bobby and Billy are twins, they are as different as night and day. □ Birds and bats appear to be similar, but they are different as night and day.

Different strokes for different folks. Prov. Different people like different things; different people live in different ways. □ My neighbor spends all his free time working in his garden. I would never want to do that, but different strokes for different folks.

differentiate between someone or something and some- one or something else 1. to recognize the difference between people or things in any combination. (Usually refers to two entities.) □ In your painting, I cannot differentiate between the costume of the figure in front and the flowers in the background. □ Can't you differentiate between Billy and his brother? □ I can't differentiate between a donkey and a burro. 2. to establish or create the difference between people or things. □ Why don't you paint in some highlights to differentiate between the figure in the foreground and the flowers in the background?

differentiate someone or something from someone or some- thing else 1. to recognize the difference between people and things; to tell the difference between people and things. □ How do you differentiate this one from that one? □ Can you differentiate Bill from Bob? 2. to make people and things different. □ I will differentiate this one from that one by painting this one red. □ The twins' mother uses different-colored clothing to differentiate Bill from Bob.

The difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer. Prov. Tasks that are only difficult are done immediately, harder tasks take longer. (Describes a very competent group or person.) □ The secretary in our office is extremely capable. She has a little sign on her desk that says, "The difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer." In her case, it's not a joke.

difficult times Go to bad times.

diffuse something through something else to distribute or scatter something through something else. □ The chemical process diffused the purple color through the liquid. □ Let us try to diffuse the medication through the bloodstream as rapidly as possible.

diffuse through something to spread or scatter through something. □ The smell diffused through the office through the ventilating system. □ The dye diffused through the water rapidly.
dig at someone or something 1. Lit. to poke or jab at some- one or something. □ Don’t dig at me all the time. My side is getting sore where you jabbed me. □ Stop digging at the wall! Look at the hole you’ve made! 2. Fig. to make a cut- ting remark about someone or something. □ She is always digging at her husband’s laziness. □ Fred was digging at the company he works for.

dig deep Go to next.

dig down and dig deep 1. Lit. to excavate deeply. □ They are really having to dig deep to reach bedrock. □ We are not to the buried cable yet. We will have to dig down some more. 2. Fig. to be generous; to dig deep into one’s pocket- es and come up with as much money as possible to donate to something. (As if digging into one’s pocket.) □ Please dig down. We need every penny you can spare. □ Dig down deep. Give all you can.

dig for something 1. Lit. to excavate to find something that is buried. □ They are digging along the river bank for a spe- cial kind of clay. □ I want to dig for gold in Alaska. 2. Fig. to go to great pains to uncover information of some kind. □ The police were digging for some important information while they questioned Mike “Fingers” Moran. □ There is no point in digging further for the name of the inventor. I have it right here.

dig in(to something) 1. Lit. to use a shovel to penetrate a mass of something. □ He dug into the soft soil and made a hole for the roots of the bush. □ He grabbed a shovel and dug in where he thought the tree ought to go. 2. Fig. to begin to process something; to go to work on something. □ I have to dig into all these applications today and process at least half of them. □ Jed got out the stack of unanswered mail and dug in. 3. Fig. to begin to eat food. □ We dug into the huge pile of fried chicken. □ I stuck the corner of my napkin in my collar and dug in.

dig one’s heels in† Fig. to refuse to alter one’s course of action or opinions; to be obstinate or determined. □ The student dug her heels in and refused to obey the instructions. □ I’m digging in my heels. I’m not going back.

dig one’s own grave Fig. to be responsible for one’s own downfall or ruin. □ If you try to cheat the bank, you will be digging your own grave. □ Those politicians have dug their own grave with their new tax bill. They won’t be reelected.

dig out (of something) to channel or excavate one’s way out of something. □ The miner had to dig out of the cave-in. □ They were too exhausted to dig out.

dig some dirt up† (on someone) Fig. to find out some- thing bad about someone. □ If you don’t stop trying to dig some dirt up on me, I’ll get a lawyer and sue you. □ The citizens’ group dug up some dirt on the mayor and used it against her at election time.

dig someone or something in something to poke someone or something in something, such as the ribs, the side, the cheek, etc. □ He dug Wally in the ribs as he finished telling the joke. □ Jed dug the cow in its side with a stick, trying to make it move into the barn.

dig someone or something out of something and dig someone or something out† to excavate in order to get someone or something out of something; to dig about in order to get someone or something out of something. □ She dug out the roots of the tree. □ The dog dug itself out of the rubble of the fallen building.

dig someone or something up† Fig. to go to great effort to find someone or something. (There is an implication that the thing or person dug up is not the most desirable, but is all that could be found.) □ Mary dug a date up for the dance next Friday. □ I dug up a recipe for roast pork with pineapple. □ I dug up a carpenter who doesn’t charge very much.

dig something into something and dig something in† to stab or jab something into something. □ Dig your fork into that heavenly cake! □ He dug in his fork.

dig something out† Fig. to work hard to locate something and bring it forth. □ They dug the contract out of the file cabinet. □ I dug out an old dress and wore it to the Fifties party.

Dig up! Sl. Listen carefully! □ John: All right, you guys! Dig up! You’re going to hear this one time and one time only! □ Bill: Dig up! I’m only going to say this once. Bob: What was that? Bill: I said listen!

dig up one’s tomahawk Rur. to get angry. (A jocular reversal of bury the tomahawk. Fixed order.) □ When Joe saw the mess we made, he dug up his tomahawk and went looking for us.

digress from something [for a speaker or writer] to stray from the subject. □ I am going to digress from my prepared text. □ You will pardon me if I digress from my point a lit- tle.

dilate on something Fig. to speak or write in detail on some subject. □ I am sure you do not wish me to dilate fur- ther on this matter. □ If you do not see my point, I would be pleased to dilate on this matter further.

Diligence is the mother of good luck. Prov. If you work carefully and constantly, you will be far more likely to be successful, as if luck had come your way. □ Mimi: I’ll never get work as an actress; I always have such bad luck to be successful, as if luck had come your way. □ Re- verse is a brighter. (Theatrical. A dimmer is a rheostat, variable transformer, or something similar. The expression, a seeming contradiction, is the opposite of dim something down.) □ As the curtain rose, the electrician dimmed the lights up on a beautiful scene. □ You dimmed up the lights too fast.

dilly-dally (around) with someone or something to waste time frivolously with someone or something. □ Stop dilly- dallying around with your friends. □ He is always dilly-dallying around with his work.
a **dime a dozen** Fig. abundant; cheap and common. ① People who can write good books are not a dime a dozen. ② Romantic movies are a dime a dozen.

din something **into** someone and **dine** something **in** to repeat something over and over to someone. (As if one could “hammer” words into someone.) ① The teacher dinned it into her constantly, but it did no good. ② He dinned in the same message over and over.

dine **at** some place to eat at a place. ① We really like to dine at the small cafe on the corner. ② I hope we can dine at a fine restaurant for our anniversary.

dine **in** to eat at home rather than at a restaurant. ① I think we will dine in tonight. ② I am tired of dining in. Let’s go out.

dine **off** something to make a meal of something; to make many meals of something. ① Do you think we can dine off the leg of lamb for more than one meal? ② I hope we dined off the turkey only one more time.

dine **on** something to eat something. ① We are dining on roast beef tonight. ② What will we be dining on tonight?

dine **out** Go to eat (a meal) out.

dinged out Sl. intoxicated. ① Gary is dinged out and can’t drive.

dink someone **off** Sl. to make someone angry. ① Whatever you do, don’t dink her off! ② Why did you have to start out your speech by dinking off the entire audience?

**Dinner is served.** It is time to eat dinner. Please come to dinner. It is time to eat dinner. Please come to dinner.

direct something **against** someone or something to aim a critical remark or a weapon at someone or something. (Very close to direct something at someone or something.) ① We directed the guns against the occupied village. ② Ted said he had directed his remark against Judy.

direct something **at** someone or something to aim something at someone or something. (Very close to direct something against someone or something.) ① Are you directing your remarks at me? ② Please direct the hose at the bushes.

direct something **to** someone to address, designate, or send something to someone. ① Shall I direct the inquiries to you? ② Please direct all the mail to the secretary when it is delivered.

direct something **to(ward)** someone or something to send, throw, push, or aim something at someone or something. ① Tom directed the ball toward Harry. ② Should I direct this inquiry to Alice?

dirt cheap extremely cheap. ① Buy some more of those plums. They’re dirt cheap. ② In Italy, the peaches are dirt cheap.

dirty crack a rude remark. ① Who made that dirty crack? ② Another dirty crack like that and I’ll leave.

dirty deal an unfair deal. ① That was a dirty deal. I feel cheated. ② I got a dirty deal at that shop, and I won’t go back.

dirty dog a low and sneaky person. ① That dirty dog tried to cheat in the card game!

dirty old man a lecherous old man. (Usually jocular.) ① Jimmy, what you call flirting will make some girls call you a dirty old man! ② What a terrible joke. You are a dirty old man!

dirty one’s hands Go to get one’s hands dirty.

dirty something **up!** Rur. to get something dirty. ① Those pants are brand-new! Don’t dirty them up! ② Don’t dirty up your brand-new pants!

**a dirty word** 1. a swearword; an obscene or blasphemous word; a four-letter word. ① You are not allowed to use dirty words in your school essays. ② My aunt is offended by the use of dirty words. ③ something that is disliked or disapproved of. ④ Since Tom broke off his engagement, his name is a dirty word in the village. ⑤ Socialism is a dirty word in that house.

**dirty work** 1. Fig. unpleasant or uninteresting work. ① My boss does all the traveling. I get all the dirty work to do. ② She’s tired of doing all the dirty work at the office. ③ Fig. dishonest or underhanded actions; treachery. ④ She knew there was some dirty work going on when she saw her opponents whispering together. ⑤ The company seems respectable enough, but there’s a lot of dirty work that goes on.

**disabuse** someone of something to rid someone of an incorrect idea. ① Please allow me to disabuse you of that assumption. ② Please disabuse yourself of the notion that you are perfect.
disagree with someone [for food or drink] to upset someone's stomach. □ Milk always disagrees with me. □ Onions disagree with my husband, so he never eats them.

disagree (with someone) (about something) and disagree (with someone) (on something) to hold views about someone or something that are opposed to someone else's views. □ I take it you disagree with me about Tom. □ Don't disagree about Tom with me. □ I disagree about this with almost everyone. □ I disagree with you.

disappear from something to vanish from something or some place, especially from sight, view, or the face of the earth; to have been taken away from something. □ Jack disappeared all of a sudden last week, as if from the face of the earth. □ The car pulled away and disappeared from sight down the road.

disappoint someone with something or someone to displease someone with someone or something. □ I hope I haven't disappointed you with the modest size of the donation. □ I disappointed myself with my performance.

disappointed at someone or something and disappointed in someone or something becoming sad because of someone or something. □ I am really disappointed at what you did. □ I am very disappointed in you. That was a terrible thing to do. □ They were disappointed in the outcome.

disappointed in someone or something Go to previous.

disapprove of someone or something to object to someone or something. □ I disapprove of her choice for maid of honor. □ Do you disapprove of me?

a disaster of epic proportions Cliché a very large disaster. (Often jocular.) □ The earthquake was responsible for a disaster of epic proportions. □ Your late arrival caused a disaster of epic proportions.

disbar someone from something to take the right to practice law away from a lawyer. □ The state board disbarred Todd from practicing law in his own state. □ Sally was also disbarred from practicing law.

discern between someone or something and someone or something to detect the difference between people and things. □ I cannot discern between the dark trees and the dark sky behind them. □ I cannot discern between the person and the background.

discern someone or something from something else to detect the difference between something and something else. □ I can hardly discern Tom from the busy background in this picture. □ I can't discern anything from that cluttered scene.

discern something from someone or something to learn or determine something from someone or something. □ We discerned a lot from the eyewitnesses. □ We discerned a lot from our discussions with the past president.

discharge someone from something 1. to fire someone from a job. □ The manager discharged Walter from his position with the bank. □ Walter was discharged from his job. 2. to permit a person to leave a place, such as a hospital or the armed service. □ They discharged her from the hospital today. □ She was well enough to be discharged from the hospital.

discharge something from something to fire a round from a gun. □ I discharged two bullets from the gun accidentally. □ Randy discharged about twenty rounds from his automatic rifle.

discharge something into something to let something out of something into something else. □ She discharged some nitrogen from the tank into the laboratory by accident. □ The technician discharged oxygen into the atmosphere.

discipline someone for something to punish or chastise someone for doing something. □ I will have to discipline you for fighting. □ Mary was disciplined for taking part in the fiasco.

disclose something to someone to tell or reveal something to someone. □ Tony refused to disclose the location of the papers to me. □ Please disclose the names to me at once.

disconnect someone or something from someone or something to break the connection between things or people. □ The telephone operator disconnected Larry from his caller. □ He disconnected himself from the cords of his parachute.

discourage someone from something to dissuade someone from doing something. □ I hope I can discourage Tom from leaving. □ I do not want to discourage you from further experimentation.

discourse (upon) someone or something to lecture about someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I would like to discourse upon this matter awhile. □ The committee chose to discourse on Tom and his latest fiasco rather than deal with the budgetary problems it faces.

Discretion is the better part of valor. Prov. It is good to be brave, but it is also good to be careful; If you are careful, you will not get into situations that require you to be brave. □ Son: Can I go hang gliding with my friends? Father: No. Son: But they'll say I'm chicken if I don't go! Father: Discretion is the better part of valor, and I'd rather have them call you chicken than risk your life.

discriminate against someone or something to single out a type of person or thing for special negative treatment or denial of equal treatment; to act in a prejudicial manner against someone or something. □ This law discriminates against short people. □ You discriminate against people in wheelchairs.

discriminate between someone and something else to distinguish between people or between things. □ I find it hard these days to discriminate between my friends and my enemies. □ Can you discriminate between this shade of pink and that one?

discuss someone or something with someone to talk about someone or something with someone. □ I need to discuss Mickey with you. □ We need to discuss compensation with the boss.

the disease to please an obsessive need to please people. □ I, like so many, am afflicted with the disease to please. I am just too nice for my own good.

disembark from something to get off a ship, plane, or train. □ We disembark from the ship in Manaus. □ At what time do we expect to disembark from the plane?

disengage (oneself) from someone or something to detach oneself from someone or something; to untangle oneself from someone or something. □ I wanted to disengage
**dis(s) (on) someone**

**disengage something from something** to detach something from something. □ Sally disengaged the locking mechanism from the cupboard door and peeked in. □ The coupling was disengaged from the boxcar, and the car separated and rolled away.

**disentangle someone or something from someone or something** to untangle someone or something from someone or something. □ I helped disentangle Tony from the coils of ropes he had stumbled into. □ They worked feverishly to disentangle the dolphin from the net. □ He disentangled himself from the net.

**disguise someone in something** to conceal someone’s identity in a costume or makeup. □ We disguised her in men’s clothing and got her across the border. □ She disguised herself in a clown suit.

**disguise someone or something as someone or something** to dress or make someone up to appear to be someone or something. □ We disguised the child as a witch. □ We disguised Gerald as a pumpkin.

*disgusted at someone or something* severely disappointed at someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; grow ~.*) □ We were disgusted at her incessant lying. □ Sam was disgusted at her.

*disgusted with someone or something* severely disappointed over someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; grow ~.*) □ I am totally disgusted with Ellen. □ We are all disgusted with the fall in the company’s profits.

**dish on someone** Sl. to gossip about or slander someone. □ Stop dishing on her. She never hurt you! □ They spent an hour dishing on Wally.

**dish something out** 1. Lit. to serve up food to people. □ I’ll dish it out, and you take it to the table. □ Careful how you dish out the mashed potatoes. There may not be enough. 2. Fig. to distribute information, news, etc. □ The press secretaries were dishing reports out as fast as they could write them. □ The company dished out propaganda on a regular basis. 3. Fig. to give out trouble, scoldings, criticism, etc. □ The boss was dishing criticism out this morning, and I really got it. □ The teacher dished out a scolding to each one who was involved in the prank.

**dish the dirt** Sl. to spread gossip; to gossip. □ Let’s sit down, have a drink, and dish the dirt. □ David goes down to the tavern to dish the dirt.

**disinclined to do something** unwilling to do something. □ I am disinclined to allow you to leave class early. □ They were disinclined to allow us to enter the country.

**dislodge someone or something from someone or something** to loosen and remove someone or something from someone or something. □ We were unable to dislodge her from office. □ Gene was able to dislodge the bone from his throat.

**dismiss someone (from something) (for something)** to discharge someone from employment for some reason; to fire someone from a job for some cause. □ We will have to dismiss him from employment for absenteeism. □ She was dismissed from the bank for making many errors in one month.

**dismiss something as something** to put something out of one’s mind or ignore something as something. (The second something can be a noun or an adjective.) □ I dismissed the whole idea as foolishness. □ It was not possible to dismiss the whole matter as a one-time happening. □ Molly dismissed the whole event as accidental.

**dismount from something** to get down from something, such as a horse, bicycle, etc. □ She dismounted from her horse and fled into the house. □ Please dismount from the bicycle and wheel it into the shed.

**dispatch someone from some place** to send someone from some place. □ I dispatched a messenger from here over an hour ago. □ A telegram will be dispatched from my office first thing in the morning.

**dispatch someone or something to someone or something** to send someone or something to someone, something, or some place. □ I will dispatch a new copy of the damaged book to you immediately. □ Gene will dispatch a messenger to you.

**dispense something (to someone) (from something)** to distribute something to someone from something or some place. □ The nurse dispensed aspirin to everyone from a large bottle. □ The nurse dispensed aspirin from a large bottle to anyone who asked for it.

**dispossess someone of something** to separate someone from a possession. □ Do you intend to dispossess us of our home? □ They were dispossessed of the only possessions they had.

**dispute something with someone** to argue with someone about something, such as an amount of money. □ The customer disputed the amount of the check with the waiter. □ Please don’t feel like you have to dispute every bill with the supplier.

**disqualify someone or something for something and disqualify someone or something from something** to invalidate someone’s or something’s claim to something. □ Does being late for practice disqualify me for the team? □ This loss disqualifies our team, doesn’t it? □ Does it disqualify us from competition?

**dis(s) on someone** Sl. to belittle someone; to show disrespect for someone. (From either a nonstandard transitive verb disrespect or from dismiss [as insignificant]. Dis is also a slang transitive verb.) □ Gary is such a complainer. All he does is diss on people. □ Please stop dissing my little sister. She didn’t do any of those things.
dissatisfied with someone or something

*dis[satisfied with] someone or something unhappy with someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; grow ~.) □ We are quite dissatisfied with the service provided by the dealer. □ I am not dissatisfied with you.

dissent from something to disagree with something. □ We have chosen to dissent from the decision the rest of you made. □ Fred dissented from almost everything that everyone else agreed on.

dissociate oneself from someone or something to break one’s association or relationship with someone or something. □ They decided to dissociate themselves from our organization. □ I was forced to dissociate myself from her. □ We advised her to dissociate herself from the gang.

dissolve [in something] for a substance to change from a solid state into another state; [for a substance] to melt or liquefy something. (Compare this with dissolve in something.) □ In a hot pan, the sugar dissolved into syrup. □ The Clon’s appearance made the audience dissolve into laughter, tears, giggles, gales of laughter, etc. (See also dissolve in something.) □ The children dissolved into tears. □ The clown’s appearance made the audience dissolve into laughter. □ The scene dissolved into a shot of the interior of the castle. □ At this point in the script, dissolve to a face-off shot of Walter.

dissolve something in something to cause a substance to break down in a liquid and disperse in the liquid. (See also dissolve in something.) □ Salt will dissolve in warm water. □ This material will not dissolve in oil.

dissolve something into something 1. Lit. [for a substance to change from a solid state into another state; [for a substance] to melt or liquefy something. (Compare this with dissolve in something.) □ In a hot pan, the sugar dissolved into syrup. □ The director dissolved the picture into the next scene. □ At this point, the opening scene should be dissolved into a side shot of the exterior.

dissuade someone from something to discourage someone from (doing) something. □ I hope to dissuade her from getting married until she graduates. □ I could not dissuade him from his plan.

distance lends enchantment (to the view). Prov. Things that are far away from you appear better than they really are. □ fill: High school was the happiest time of my life. Jane: But that was fifteen years ago. I think distance lends enchantment to the view.

distance oneself from someone or something 1. Lit. to separate oneself physically from someone or something. □ She wanted to distance herself from the fighting in the corridor. □ I distanced myself from her from then on. 2. Fig. to “separate” oneself ideologically from someone or something. □ She felt that he would want to distance himself from her radical politics. □ He had to distance himself from those policies if he wanted to be reelected. □ I will feel better when I can distance myself from that part of my life.

distill something from something to derive product from something by heating and condensation. □ They distilled the lighter components from the raw oil. □ The alcohol was distilled from fermented grain.

distinguish between someone or something and someone or something else 1. to perceive the difference between different people and things, in any combination. □ Can’t you distinguish between Tom and your real enemies? □ He can’t distinguish between a good used car and a wreck over there? 2. to create or emphasize the difference between people and things, in any combination. □ Try to distinguish between the figure in the foreground and the flowers in the background in your painting. □ I used red to distinguish between the new part and the old.

distinguish oneself among someone to make oneself stand out from other people because of one’s achievements. □ I hope someday to distinguish myself among my peers. □ He distinguished himself among his classmates by his many talents.

distinguish someone or something from someone or something else 1. to tell the difference between different people and things, in any combination. □ I cannot distinguish Billy from Bobby. □ She could not distinguish basil from oregano. 2. to delineate or emphasize the boundary between people and things, in any combination. □ I cannot distinguish the blue scarf from the sky in the background. □ We could not distinguish the leaves of the bushes from the leaves of the trees as we moved farther away.

distract someone from something to turn or divert someone’s attention from something. □ I hate to distract you from your work, but I have some important news. □ You haven’t distracted me from anything.

distribute something (all) around to give shares of something to people. □ I distributed many gifts all around to everyone. □ We distributed the drinks around.

distribute something among someone or something to give out shares of something to three or more people. □ We must distribute the money among the various charities. □ The food was distributed among the people who showed up.

distribute something between someone to give out shares of something to two people. □ He distributed the remaining cake between Dave and Don. □ Please distribute the magazines between the two boys.

distribute something over something to spread something over something or over an area. □ Distribute the icing over the entire cake. □ Walter distributed the sand over the icy spots.

distribute something to someone to give out something to someone. □ Can you distribute this clothing to the needy people who live around here? □ I will distribute the ice cream to the party guests.

dive in with both feet and jump in with both feet Fig. to become completely involved with something quickly, especially something new. □ I had never done anything like this before, but I just jumped in with both feet and learned it in no time.

dive in(to something) 1. Lit. to plunge into something; to jump into something headfirst. □ Don’t dive into that water! It’s too shallow. □ David walked to the edge of the pool and dived in. 2. Fig. to start immediately on some business or activity with energy. □ I can’t wait to dive into the next project. □ Clara dives into her work eagerly every morning.
**dive off** ([of] something) to jump off something headfirst. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Rachel dived off of the rock into the river. □ She dived off the high diving board.

**diverge from** something to move in a different direction from something. □ Her line of thinking diverged from generally accepted thought on this point. □ The driveway diverges from the main road beyond the fence, straight ahead.

**diverge to** something to turn to a particular direction. □ A narrow road diverged to the left. □ A narrower channel diverged to the left of the island.

**divert** someone or something from someone or something to turn someone or something aside or away from someone or something. □ We could not divert his attention from his mother. □ I could not divert the woman from her interest in the book.

**divert** someone or something to someone or something to channel or redirect someone or something to someone or something. □ The farmers diverted the stream to a different channel. □ The guards diverted the museum visitors to the great hall.

**divert something into** something 1. to channel something into something. □ We will have to divert the runoff water into the culvert. □ Let’s divert this stream into the ditch. 2. Euph. to steal something and keep it some place. □ He diverted the funds into a secret bank account. □ She diverted her clients’ stock dividends into her own investment portfolio.

**divert something onto** something to channel something onto the surface of something. □ Temporarily, they diverted the southbound traffic onto the side streets.

**divest** someone or something of something to take something away from someone or something. □ The judge divested the company of its foreign holding. □ The court divested her of her stocks.

**divide and conquer** to cause the enemy to divide and separate into two or more factions, and then move in to conquer all of them. □ Mary thought she could divide and conquer the board of directors, but they had survived such tactics many times, and her efforts failed. □ Sam led his men to divide and conquer the enemy platoon, and his strategy succeeded.

**divide by** something to perform mathematical division by a particular number. □ Can you divide by sixteens? □ Add this figure to the next column and divide by twenty.

**divide someone against** someone or something to cause people to separate into two groups, one of which opposes someone or something. □ The issue divided the children against their parents. □ The argument divided the president against the board of directors.

**divide something between** people or things to give shares of something to specific people or groups. (In a strict sense, only between two entities. Informally, between two or more.) □ I will have to divide the toys between the two children. □ He divided the tasks between the day crew and the night crew.

**divide something by** something to perform mathematical division on something, using a particular number. □ Now, divide this sum by the figure in column seven. □ Can you divide 1,400 by 59?

**divide something fifty-fifty** and **split something fifty-fifty** to divide something into two equal parts. (The fifty means 50 percent.) □ Tommy and Billy divided the candy fifty-fifty. □ The robbers split the money fifty-fifty.

**divide something into** something 1. and **divide something in** something to separate something to separate into parts. □ I will divide it into two parts. □ I will divide the cake in half. □ If you divide the pie in fourths, the pieces will be too big. 2. to do mathematical division so that the divisor goes into the number that is to be divided. □ Divide seven into forty-nine and what do you get? □ If seven is divided into forty-nine, what do you get?

**divide something (off*) (from something or animals) 1. to separate something from something else. □ Let’s divide the chickens off from the ducks and put the chickens in the shed. □ We divided off the chickens from the ducks. 2. to separate something from something else, using a partition. □ We divided the sleeping area off from the rest of the room. □ A curtain was used to divide off a sleeping area.

**divide something (up*) (between someone or something) and **divide something (up*) (among someone or something) to give something out in shares to people or groups. (More informal with up. Between with two; among with more.) □ Please divide this up between the visitors. □ Cut the birthday cake and divide it up among all the party guests. □ Please divide up this pie between the children.

**divide something with** someone to share something with someone. □ I will divide a piece of cake with you. □ They refused to divide the ice cream with us.

**divided between** something separated into different categories. □ The applicants for the job seemed to be divided between the overqualified and the underqualified. □ The dogs were divided evenly between terriers and poodles.

**divided on** someone or something having differing opinions about someone or something. □ Our opinions are divided on what is going to happen. □ We were divided on Ann. Some of us wanted to choose her; some did not.

**divorce oneself from** something to separate oneself from something, such as an idea, policy, philosophy, etc. □ She was not able to divorce herself from long-held prejudice. □ You should divorce yourself from those limiting ideas.

**divulge** something to someone to reveal something to someone. □ Promise that you will not divulge any of this to anyone. □ She refused to divulge their names to us.

**divvy something up (between someone) and **divvy something up (among someone): divvy something up 1. to divide something up between two people or among three or more people. (Between is for two and among is for more than two.) □ Would you like to divvy this money up? □ Please divvy up this money between you. □ Let’s divvy up the leftovers among all the dinner guests.

**do a double take** to react with surprise; to have to look twice to make sure that one really saw correctly. □ When the boy led a goat into the park, everyone did a double take. □ When the nurse saw that the man had six toes, she did a double take.

**do a dump on** someone or something Go to dump on someone or something.
do a fade Sl. to leave; to sneak away. ☐ Richard did a fade when he saw heard the police siren. ☐ It’s time for me to do a fade.

do a flip-flop (on something) and do an about-face Fig. to make a total reversal of opinion. ☐ Without warning, the government did a flip-flop on taxation. ☐ The candidate had done an about-face on the question of deductions last year.

do a job on someone or something 1. Euph. to defecate on someone or something. (Note the variation in the second example.) ☐ The puppy did a job on the living-room carpet. ☐ It’s supposed to do its job on the newspapers in the basement. 2. Sl. to damage someone or something; to mess up someone or something. ☐ The robbers really did a job on the bank guard. They beat him when they robbed the bank. ☐ The puppy did a job on my shoes. They are all chewed to pieces.

do a land-office business Fig. to do a large amount of buying or selling in a short period of time. ☐ The ice-cream shop always does a land-office business on a hot day. ☐ The tax collector’s office did a land-office business on the day that taxes were due.

do a number on someone or something Sl. to damage or harm someone or something. ☐ The teacher did a number on the whole class by giving them a pop quiz. ☐ Tom did a number on Mary when he went out with Ann.

do a one-eighty and turn one hundred and eighty degrees 1. Lit. to turn around and go in the opposite direction. ☐ When I hollered, the dog did a one-eighty and headed back to its own yard. 2. Fig. to radically reverse a decision or opinion. ☐ His political philosophy turned one hundred and eighty degrees when he grew a little older.

do a slow burn Fig. to be quietly angry. (See also burn with a low blue flame.) ☐ I did a slow burn while I was waiting in line for a refund.

do a snow job on someone Sl. to deceive or confuse someone. (As if to blind someone with snow.) ☐ Don’t try to do a snow job on me. I know all the tricks. ☐ She thought she did a snow job on the teacher, but it backfired.

do a takeoff on someone or something ☐ The comedian did a takeoff on the president, and everyone thought it was terribly funny.

do a three-sixty and turn three-hundred and sixty degrees 1. Lit. to turn completely around. ☐ I was really lost. I did a three-sixty in the middle of the street because I couldn’t make up my mind which way to go. 2. Fig. to reverse a decision or an opinion and then return to one’s original stance. ☐ Over time, he did a three-sixty in his thinking about integration.

do an about-face (on someone or something) Go to do a flip-flop (on something).

do an errand Go to run an errand.

Do as I say, not as I do. Prov. Take my advice, even though I am acting contrary to it. (Sometimes used as an apology for behaving hypocritically.) ☐ Jill: Why are you walking on the grass when I told you not to? Jane: But you’re walking on the grass. Jill: Do as I say, not as I do.

do as something [for something] to serve as something; to be usable as something. ☐ This spoon will do as a small shovel. ☐ This jacket will not do as formal wear.

Do as you would be done by. Go to Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

do away with oneself Euph. to commit suicide. (See also do away with someone or an animal; do away with something.) ☐ The doctor was afraid that Betty would do away with herself. ☐ I wouldn’t think of doing away with myself.

do away with someone or an animal Euph. to kill someone or an animal. (See also do away with oneself; do away with something.) ☐ The crooks did away with the witness. ☐ I was there, too. I hope they don’t try to do away with me.

do away with something to get rid of something. ☐ This chemical will do away with the stain in your sink. ☐ The time has come to do away with that old building.

do business with someone to trade or bargain with someone; to conduct commerce with someone. ☐ You sound reasonable. I think I can do business with you. ☐ I am sure we can do business with one another.

do credit to someone and do someone credit to add positively to the reputation of someone. ☐ Your new job really does credit to you. ☐ Yes, it really does you credit.

do dope Go to next.

do drugs and do dope to take illegal drugs; to use illegal drugs habitually. ☐ Sam doesn’t do drugs, and he doesn’t drink. ☐ Richard started doing dope when he was very young.

do for someone 1. to provide for someone; to take care of or serve someone. ☐ Do you expect me to stay home and do for you for the rest of my life? ☐ I can’t do for all of them! 2. to suffice for someone; to be sufficient for someone. ☐ Will this amount of sweet potatoes do for you? ☐ Yes, this will do for me fine. 3. See also done for.

do for something to serve as something; to substitute as something. ☐ I think that this stone will do nicely for a doorstop. ☐ This stick will just not do for a stirring spoon.

(Do) have some more. a polite invitation to take more of something, usually food or drink. ☐ Bill: Wow, Mrs. Franklin, this scampi is great! Sally: Thank you, Bill. Do have some more. ☐ Jane: What a lovely, light cake. Mary: Oh, have some more. Otherwise the boys will just wolf it down.

Do I have to paint (you) a picture? Go to next.

Do I have to spell it out for you? and Do I have to paint (you) a picture? Do I need to paint you a picture? Fig. What do I have to do to make this clear enough for you to understand? (Shows impatience.) ☐ Mary: I don’t think I understand what you’re trying to tell me, Fred. Fred: Do I have to spell it out for you? Mary: I guess so. Fred: We’re through, Mary. ☐ Sally: Would you please go over the part about the square root again? Mary: Do I have to paint you a picture? Pay attention!

Do I make myself (perfectly) clear? Do you understand exactly what I mean? (Very stern.) ☐ Mother: You’re going to sit right here and finish that homework. Do I make myself perfectly clear? Child: Yes, ma’am. ☐ Sue: No, the answer is no! Do I make myself clear?
Do I need to paint you a picture? Go to Do I have to spell it out (for you)?

Do it Euph. to have sex.  □ I hear that Bill and Jane did it in the back of his car.  □ He did it for the first time when he was seventeen.

do justice to something 1. Fig. to do something well; to represent or portray something accurately. □ Sally did justice to our side in the contract negotiations. □ This photograph doesn’t do justice to the beauty of the mountains. 2. Fig. to eat or drink a great deal. □ Bill always does justice to the turkey on Thanksgiving. □ The party didn’t do justice to the roast pig. There were nearly ten pounds left over.

Do not let the sun go down on your anger. Go to next.

Do not let the sun go down on your wrath. and Do not let the sun go down on your anger. Prov. Do not stay angry with anybody; calm your anger by the end of the day. □ Son: Billy broke my bicycle, and I’m never going to speak to him again. Mother: Now, now, don’t let the sun go down on your wrath. □ I was very upset by what you did, but I don’t want to let the sun go down on my anger. Let’s make up.


do one’s bit Go to do one’s part.

do one’s business Euph. to defecate or urinate. □ Do you need to do your business before we get in the car? □ The cat did her business on the sofa again.

do one’s duty 1. to do one’s job; to do what is expected of one. □ Please don’t thank me, I’m just doing my duty. □ Soldiers who fight in wars are doing their duty. 2. Euph. to defecate or urinate. □ We’re not leaving this restroom until you do your duty. □ She did her duty in the potty, just like a big girl!

do one’s (level) best to do something as well as one can. □ Just do your level best. That’s all we can ask of you. □ Tom isn’t doing his best. We may have to replace him.

do one’s (own) thing to do what one wants; to do what pleases oneself no matter what others think. □ She’s going to start doing her own thing for a change. □ I’ve always done my thing, and I don’t see any reason to change to your view now.

do one’s part and do one’s bit to do one’s share of the work; to do whatever one can do to help. □ All people everywhere must do their part to conserve energy. □ I always try to do my bit. How can I help this time?

do one’s utmost (to do something) to make one’s best effort at doing something. □ We will do our utmost to make the guests to feel welcome.

do oneself proud to have done a very fine job. □ That’s super! You’ve done yourself proud! □ I feel like I’ve done myself proud by earning high honors.

do or die Fig. trying as hard as one can. □ I was determined to get there—do or die. □ (Used as an attributive) He has the obsessive do-or-die attitude.

do’s and don’ts the rules; the things that should be done and those that should not be done. □ I must admit that a lot of do’s and don’ts at this company are hard for me to understand. □ Better learn the do’s and don’ts immediately.

Do sit down. Don’t stand on ceremony; Please sit down. (A polite phrase encouraging people to resume their seats after rising for an introduction or out of deference.) □ Tom rose when Mary approached the table, but she said graciously, “Do sit down. I just wanted to thank you again for the lovely gift.” □ Tom: Hello, Bill. Bill (rising): Hi, Tom. Tom (standing): Do sit down. I just wanted to say hello.

do so Go to do too.

do some fine coin Sl. to make a large sum of money. □ When I get my big break, I’m going to do some fine coin. □ Richard did some fine coin on that last housepainting job.

do somehow by someone to treat someone in a particular manner. (Do not confuse this with a passive construction. The someone is not the actor but the object.) □ Tom did all right by Ann when he brought her red roses. □ I did badly by Tom. I fired him without good reason.

do somehow for someone to benefit or harm someone in some degree. □ This jacket does fine for me. I don’t need a different one. □ This meal does okay for me. I’m satisfied.

do someone a favor and do someone a good turn to perform a helpful service to someone. □ Would you please do me a favor and take this letter to the post office? □ My neighbor did me a good turn by lending me his car.

do someone a good turn Go to do previous.

do someone a heap of good Go to do someone a power of good.

do someone a kindness to do a kind deed for a person. □ My neighbor did me a kindness when he cut my grass. □ I am always happy to have the opportunity of doing someone a kindness.

do someone a power of good and do someone a heap of good Rur. to be very good for someone. □ You should take a vacation. I’d do you a power of good. □ Just hearing your voice does me a heap of good.

do someone credit Go to do credit to someone.

do someone damage Fig. to harm someone, physically or otherwise. □ I hope she doesn’t plan to do me damage. □ They did us damage by telling the whole story to the newspapers.

do someone dirt(y) Rur. to do something bad or dishonest to someone. □ He sure did his wife dirty, leaving her like that. □ She did me dirt when we divided up the things mother left us.

do someone (down) Rur. to treat someone badly. □ I ain’t speaking to Mary. Not after the way she did me down.

do someone good to benefit someone. □ A nice hot bath really does me good. □ A few years in the army would do you good.

do someone in 1. to make someone tired. □ That tennis game really did me in. □ Yes, hard activity will do you in. 2. to cheat someone; to take someone in. □ The scam artists did the widow in by telling her into giving them all the money in her bank account. 3. Sl. to kill someone. □ The crooks did the bank guard in. □ They’ll probably do the witnesses in soon.
do someone one better Go to go (someone) one better.
do someone or something up! to make someone or something attractive; to decorate or ornament someone or something. □ Sally did Jane up for the party. □ Would you do us this present for Jane? It's her birthday.
do something out of someone to swindle something away from someone; to defraud someone of a right or of property. □ Are you trying to do me out of what's mine? □ Max tried to do her out of everything she had. □ I did myself out of a week's vacation by quitting when I did.
do someone over and make someone over to buy a new wardrobe for someone; to redo someone's hairstyle, makeup, etc. □ Sally's mother did Sally over for the play tryouts. □ The designer made over Sally completely.
do someone proud to make someone proud. □ Bill's kids sure did him proud at the boat race. □ Mary resolved she would do her friends proud.
do someone's bidding to do what is requested. □ The servant grumbled but did his employer's bidding. □ Am I expected to do your bidding whenever you ask?
do someone's heart good Fig. to make someone feel good emotionally. □ It does my heart good to hear you two are back together. □ When she sent me a get-well card, it really did my heart good.
do something about someone or something to manage or deal with someone or something. □ Can you do something about Bob? He is too noisy. □ We were not able to do anything about the excessive rent increase.
do something by hand to do something with one's hands rather than with a machine. □ The calculator was broken so I had to do the calculations by hand. □ All this tiny stitching was done by hand. Machines cannot do this kind of work.
do something by the book Go to by the book.
do something from scratch Go to from scratch.
do something hand in hand Go to hand in hand.
do something in! to destroy something. □ The huge waves totally did in the seaside community. □ The fire did the wooden building in.
do something over and make something over to rebuild, redesign, or redecorate something. □ We did our living room over for the holidays. □ We made over the family room because it was looking shabby. 2. and do something over! (again) to repeat something; to do something again. □ I am afraid that you are going to have to do over the complete series again. □ Would you do this one over, please?
do something the hard way to accomplish something in the most difficult manner, rather than by an easier way. □ I made it to this job the hard way. I came up through the ranks. □ She did it the hard way. She had no help from her parents.
do something to excess to do too much of something; to consume too much of something. □ Anne often drinks to excess at parties. □ John smokes to excess when he works.
do something up! 1. to fasten, zip, hook, or button some item of clothing. □ Would you do my buttons up in back? □ Please do up my buttons. 2. to wrap up something, such as a package, gift, etc. □ I have to do this present up before the party guests get here. □ Do up the presents quickly. They are coming up the walk. 3. to arrange, fix, repair, cook, clean, etc., something. □ I have to do the kitchen up before the guests get here. □ Do up the kitchen now, please.
do something up brown to do something just right or with great effect. (Fixed order.) □ Whenever they put on a party, they do it up brown. □ He was determined to cause a scandal, and he really did it up brown.
do something with a vengeance Fig. to do something with vigor; to do something energetically as if one were angry. □ Bob is building that fence with a vengeance. □ Mary is really weeding her garden with a vengeance.
do something with someone or something 1. Lit. to use someone or something in some way. □ Can you do something with this bracelet, or shall I throw it away? □ We can't do anything with the new secretary. Find us another. 2. Fig. to improve or refresh someone or something. □ I would like to do something with this room. It is so drab. □ I can't do anything with this child! Keep him at home. 3. Fig. to manage as well as possible with someone or something; to make do with someone or something. □ We will just have to do whatever we can with what we have. □ We will do the best we can with this employee until you find a better one.
Do tell. a response to one of a series of statements by another person. (The expression can indicate disinterest. Each word has equal stress. See also You don't say.) □ Bill: The Amazon basin is about ten times the size of France. Mary: Do tell.
do the dishes to wash the dishes; to wash and dry the dishes, knives, forks, glasses, etc., after a meal. □ Bill, you cannot go out and play until you've done the dishes. □ Why am I always the one who has to do the dishes?
do the honors to act as host or hostess and serve one's guests by pouring drinks, slicing meat, making (drinking) toasts, etc. □ All the guests were seated, and a huge juicy turkey sat on the table. Jane turned to her husband and said, "Bob, will you do the honors?" Bob smiled and began slicing thick slices of meat from the turkey. □ The mayor stood up and addressed the people who were still eating their salads. "I'm delighted to do the honors this evening and propose a toast to your friend and mine, Bill Jones. Bill, good luck and best wishes in your new job in Washington."
do the trick to do exactly what is needed. □ This new paint scraper really does the trick. □ Is this envelope large enough to do the trick?
do time Sl. to serve a sentence in prison; to serve a specific amount of time in prison. □ Lefty had done time on a number of occasions. □ You'd better talk and talk fast if you don't want to do time.
do too and do so to do something (despite anything to the contrary). (An emphatic way of saying do.) □ Bob: You don't have your money with you. Bill: I do too! □ He does so! I saw him put it in his pocket. □ She did too take a cookie. I saw her do it.
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. and Do as you would be done by. Prov. You should treat other people the way you want them to treat you. (From Luke 6:31; it is also known as "The Golden Rule.") □ Mother: Don't call your playmates names. Child:
Why not? Mother: Because you should follow the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. □ It’s hard to be kind to people sometimes, but I try to remember to do as I’d be done by.

Do we have to go through all that again? Do we have to discuss that matter again? (Compare this with Let’s not go through all that again.) □ Bill: Now, I still have more to say about what happened last night. Sally: Do we have to go through all that again? □ Sally: I can’t get over the way you treated me at our dinner table. Fred: I was irritated at something else. I said I was sorry. Do we have to go through all that again?


do with someone or something to do as well as possible with someone or something; to make do with someone or something. □ I will just have to do with the car I now have. □ Can she do with just one chair for a while?

do without Go to go without.

do without (someone or something) to manage or get along without someone or something that is needed or expected. □ I guess I will have to do without dinner. □ Yes, you’ll do without.

(Do you) care if I join you? Go to Could I join you?

(Do) you eat with that mouth? and (Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth? Sì. Do you actually eat with the mouth you use to talk that filth?; Do you actually use that filthy mouth to kiss your mother? (A phrase said to someone who talks dirty all the time.) □ That’s a lot of foul talk. Do you eat with that mouth? □ After the suspect finished swearing at him, the police officer said, “Do you kiss your momma with that mouth?”

Do you expect me to believe that? That is so unbelievable that you do not expect me to believe it, do you? (Said with impatience or strong doubt. Compare this with You can’t expect me to believe that.) □ Bill: I’m going to quit my job and open a restaurant. Mary: That’s silly. Do you expect me to believe that? □ Mary: Wow! I just got selected to be an astronaut! Sally: Do you expect me to believe that? Mary: Here’s the letter! Now do you believe me?

Do you follow? Fig. Do you understand what I am saying?; Do you understand my explanation? □ Mary: Keep to the right past the fork in the road, then turn right at the crossroads. Do you follow? Jane: No. Run it by me again.

(Do you) get my drift? Do you understand what I mean?; Do you understand what I am getting at? □ Father: I want you to settle down and start studying. Get my drift? Bob: Sure, Pop. Whatever you say. □ Mary: Get out of my way and stop following me around. Do you get my drift? John: I guess so.

(Do you) get the picture? Do you understand the situation?; Do you know what this means you have to do? □ Bill: I want to get this project wrapped up before midnight. Do you get the picture? Tom: I’m afraid I do. Bill: Well, then, get to work. □ Fred: I want you to straighten up and get moving. Get the picture? Bill: I got it.

(Do) you hear? Rur. Do you hear and understand what I said? □ John: I want you to clean up this room this instant!

Do you hear? Sue: Okay. I’ll get right on it. □ Bob: Come over here, Sue. I want to show you something, you hear? Sue: Sure. What is it?

(Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth? Go to (Do) you eat with that mouth?


(Do you) know what I mean? Go to next.

(Do you) know what I’m saying? and You know what I’m saying? (Do you) know what I mean?; You know what I mean? Do you understand me?; Do you agree? □ Sue: This is, like, really great! You know what I’m saying? Mary: Yeah, I’ve been there. It’s great.

(Do) you mean to say something? and (Do) you mean to tell me something? Do you really mean to say what you said? (A way of giving someone an opportunity to alter a comment. The thinging represents a quote or a paraphrase.) □ Mary: I’m leaving tomorrow. Sally: Do you mean to say you’re leaving school for good? Mary: Yes. □ Bob: Do you mean to tell me that this is all you’ve accomplished in two weeks? Bill: I guess so. Bob: I expected more.

(Do) you mean to tell me something? Go to previous.

Do you mind? 1. You are intruding on my space! You are offending me! (Impatient or incensed. Essentially, “Do you mind stopping what you are doing?”) □ The lady behind her in line kept pushing against her every time the line moved. Finally, Sue turned and said sternly, “Do you mind?” □ All through the first part of the movie, two people in the row behind John kept up a running conversation. Finally, John rose and turned, leaned over into their faces, and shouted, “Do you mind?” 2. You object to what I am about to do? □ Mary had her hand on the lovely silver cake knife that would carry the very last piece of cake to her plate. She looked at Tom, who stood next to her, eying the cake. “Do you mind?” she asked coyly. □ “Do you mind?” asked John as he bumped Sally and ran through the door.

(Do you) mind if...? a polite way of seeking someone’s permission or agreement. □ Mary: Do you mind if I sit here? Jane: No, help yourself. □ Tom: Mind if I smoke? Bill: I certainly do. Tom: Then I’ll go outside.

(Do you) mind if I join you? Go to Could I join you?

Do you read me? 1. Fig. an expression used by someone communicating by radio, asking if the hearer understands the transmission clearly. □ Controller: This is Aurora Center, do you read me? Pilot: Yes, I read you loud and clear. □ Controller: Left two degrees. Do you read me? Pilot: Roger, Sir, G’day. 2. Fig. Do you understand what I am telling you? (Said sternly, as when giving an instruction, and used in general conversation, not in radio communication.) □ Mary: I want you to pull yourself together and go out and get a job. Do you read me? Bill: Sure. Anything you say. □ Mother: Get this place picked up immediately. Do you read me? Child: Yes, ma’am.

(Do you) want to know something? and (You want to) know something? an expression used to open a conversation or switch to a new topic. □ John: Do you want to know something? Sue: What? John: Your hem is
(Do you) want to make something of it?

doesn’t have enough sense to come in out of the rain Go to previous.
doesn’t have the sense God gave geese and
doesn’t have the sense God gave him (or her) Prov. Doesn’t have basic common sense. (Also with don’t. Don’t used with all persons is folksy.) □ Bill doesn’t know beans about car engines. □ Don’t ask your daddy for advice about child rearing. He doesn’t know beans.
doesn’t know his ass from a hole in the ground and
doesn’t know his ass from his elbow doesn’t know anything; acts ignorant. (Use ass with caution. Also with don’t. Don’t used with all persons is folksy.) □ That teacher doesn’t know his ass from a hole in the ground. □ She’s supposed to be an expert, but she doesn’t know her ass from her elbow.
doesn’t know his ass from his elbow Go to previous.
dog and pony show Fig. a display, demonstration, or exhibition of something—such as something one is selling. (As in a circus act where trained dogs leap onto and off of trained ponies.) □ Gary went into his standard dog and pony show, trying to sell us on an upgrade to our software. □ Don’t you get tired of running through the same old dog and pony show at every trade show?

The dog ate my homework. a poor excuse for something that someone has failed to do on time. (From an excuse a student might give for failing to turn in homework on time. Occurs in many variations.) □ The dog ate my homework, so I have nothing to turn in. (Used as an attributive.) Bob was late with his report and had nothing but his typical dog-eat-my-homework excuses.
dog days the hottest days of summer, usually during July and August. (Named for Sirius, the ‘dog star.’) □ Bill spent the dog days lying out in his hammock. □ I hate doing yard work in the dog days.

dog does not eat dog. Prov. One disreputable person will not harm other disreputable people. □ Ellen: My lawyer did such a bad job that I want to hire another lawyer to sue him. Jane: You’ll never find a lawyer to take on that job. Dog does not eat dog.
dog in the manger one who unreasonably prevents other people from doing or having what one does not wish them to do or have. (From one of Aesop’s fables in which a
dog—which cannot eat hay—lay in the hayrack [manger] and prevented the other animals from eating the hay.) □ Jane is a real dog in the manger. She cannot drive, but she will not lend anyone her car. □ If Martin were not such a dog in the manger, he would let his brother have that dinner jacket he never wears.

**Dog my cats!** Rur. My goodness! What do you know! (An exclamation of surprise.) □ Dog my cats! Somebody painted my house green! □ Well, dog my cats—it hasn’t rained once all month!

**dog-eat-dog** Fig. a situation in which one has to act ruthlessly in order to survive or succeed; ruthless competition. □ It is dog-eat-dog in the world of business these days. □ Universities are not quiet peaceful places. It’s dog-eat-dog to get a promotion.

**dog-faced liar** Rur. a terrible liar. □ Suzy said Jimmy was a dog-faced liar. □ If Joe says that, he’s a dog-faced liar.

a **doggy bag** a bag or other container used to carry uneaten food home from a restaurant. (As if it is for the dog.) □ I can’t eat all of this. Can I have a doggy bag, please?

**dole something out** (to someone) to distribute something to someone. □ The cook doled the oatmeal out to each camper who held out a bowl. □ Please dole out the candy bars, one to a customer. □ She doled it out fairly.

**doll someone up** to dress someone up in fancy clothes. □ She dolled her children up for church each Sunday. □ She dolls up all her kids once a week.

**dollar for dollar** considering the amount of money involved; considering the cost or value. (Often seen in advertising.) □ Dollar for dollar, you cannot buy a better car. □ Dollar for dollar, this laundry detergent washes cleaner and brighter than any other product on the market.

**done and gone** Rur. gone. □ She’s not here. She’s done and gone. □ Jed was done and gone before dawn.

**done by mirrors** and **done with mirrors** Fig. illusory; purposefully deceptive. (See also smoke and mirrors.) □ The whole legislative budgetary process is done with mirrors. □ The company’s self-review was done by mirrors and didn’t come off too bad, despite our falling stock price.

a **done deal** a completed deal; something that is settled. □ It’s too late. It’s a done deal. □ The sale of the property is a done deal. There is nothing that can be done now.

**done for** finished; dead. □ I’m afraid that animal hit by the car is done for. □ The goldfish looked as if it was already done for or sunning its tummy.

*done in* exhausted. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ I’m really done in! I think I’ll go to bed. □ After all that lifting, Gerald was done in and breathing hard.

**done ’n’ did** Rur. already did. □ Tom: Guess I better take the garbage out. Bill: No need. I done ’n’ did it. □ Mary done ’n’ did the chores for you.

**done over** Sl. beat; outscored. □ The other team was done over, and they showed it in their lackluster play.

**done to a T** cooked just right. □ Yummy! This meat is done to a T. □ I like it done to a T, not too done and not too raw.

**done to a turn** 1. well-cooked; nicely cooked. □ The entire meal was done to a turn. □ The turkey was done to a turn. 2. Inf. beaten. □ When Wilbur’s opponent was done to a turn, Wilbur was declared the winner.

**done told you** Rur. have already told you something. □ I done told you not to touch that pan, and you went and did it anyhow. □ Sally done told you to leave that dog alone.

**done with mirrors** Go to done by mirrors.

**done with someone or something** finished with someone or something. □ Mary is done with Bill. She has found another boyfriend. □ I can’t wait until I’m done with school forever. □ I agree. I’ll be glad when we are done with all these exams.

**don’t amount to a bucket of spit** Rur. is not worth anything. □ Joe’s a shiftless cuss. He don’t amount to a bucket of spit. □ All your pretty promises don’t amount to a bucket of spit.

**Don’t ask.** It is so bad, I do not wish to be reminded or talk about it, so do not ask about it. □ John: How was your class reunion? Alice: Oh, heavens! Don’t ask. □ Tom: What was your calculus final exam like? Mary: Don’t ask.

**Don’t ask me.** Go to How should I know?

**Don’t be gone (too) long.** Good-bye. Hurry back here. □ Tom: I’ve got to go to the drugstore to get some medicine. Sue: Don’t be gone too long. Tom: I’ll be right back. □ “Don’t be gone long,” said Bill’s uncle. “It’s about time to eat.”

**Don’t be too sure.** I think you are wrong, so do not sound so certain; You may be wrong. (Compare this with Don’t speak too soon.) □ Bill: I think I’ve finally saved up enough money to retire. John: Don’t be too sure. Inflation can ruin your savings.

**Don’t bite off more than you can chew.** Prov. Do not commit yourself to doing more than you can actually do. □ I don’t think you ought to take dance lessons three times a week; you’re already working two jobs. Don’t bite off more than you can chew.

**Don’t bother.** Please don’t do it. It is not necessary, and it is too much trouble. □ Mary: Should I make some dinner for you? Bill: No, don’t bother; it’s late. □ Sue: Do you want me to save this spoonful of mashed potatoes? Jane: No, don’t bother. It isn’t worth it. Sue: I hate to waste it.

**Don’t bother me!** Go away! □ Leave me alone! □ Tom: Hey, Bill: Don’t bother me! I’m busy. Can’t you see? □ “Don’t bother me! Leave me alone!” the child shouted at the dog.

**Don’t breathe a word of this to anyone.** This is a secret or secret gossip. Do not tell it to anyone. (Breathing a word is fig. for whispering.) □ Bill: Have you heard about Mary and her friends? Sally: No. Tell me! Tell me! Bill: Well, they all went secretly to Mexico for the weekend. Now, don’t breathe a word of this to anyone.

**Don’t call us, we’ll call you.** Cliché a formulaic expression said to applicants who have just interviewed or auditioned for a job or part. □ Thank you, Eddie Evans. Don’t call us, we’ll call you. □ Stupendous, Gloria, just stupendous. What glamour and radiance! Don’t call us, we’ll call you.

**don’t care a whit** Go to didn’t care a whit.

**Don’t change horses in midstream.** Go to change horses in midstream.

**Don’t count your chickens before they are hatched.** Prov. Cliché Do not act as though something has turned out favorably for you until it has really turned
out that way. Jill: When I get my raise, I’ll use the extra money to go on vacation. Jane: But you don’t know for sure that you’re going to get a raise. Don’t count your chickens before they are hatched.

Don’t cry before you are hurt. Prov. Do not be upset about a bad thing that might happen; only be upset when something bad really does happen. ○ Fred: What am I going to do? There’s a possibility that my job will be eliminated! Jane: Don’t cry before you are hurt. They haven’t eliminated you yet.

Don’t cry over spilled milk. Go to It’s no use crying over spilled milk.

Don’t do anything I wouldn’t do. an expression said when two friends are parting. ○ Bill: See you next month, Tom. Tom: Yeah, man. Don’t do anything I wouldn’t do.

Don’t even look like something! Do not even appear to be doing something! (The something can be thinking about something or actually doing something.) ○ Mary: Are you thinking about taking that last piece of cake? Bob: Of course not. Mary: Well, don’t even look like you’re doing it! ○ John: You weren’t going to try to sneak into the theater, were you? Bob: No. John: Well, don’t even look like it, if you know what’s good for you.

Don’t even think about (doing) it. Do not do it, and do not even think about doing it. ○ John reached into his jacket for his wallet. The cop, thinking John was about to do something! (The doing something can be thinking about something or actually doing something.)

Don’t even think about it (happening). Do not think about something like that happening, as the mere thought of it is so bad. (Compare this with Don’t even think about (doing) it.) ○ Mary: Oh, those cars almost crashed! How horrible! Fred: Don’t even think about it. ○ Sally: If the stock market crashes, we’ll lose everything we have. Sue: Don’t even think about it!

Don’t forget to write. Go to Remember to write.

Don’t get your bowels in an uproar! Do not get so excited! ○ Bill: What have you done to my car? Where’s the bumper? The side window is cracked! Bob: Calm down! Don’t get your bowels in an uproar!

don’t give a continental Rur. does not care at all. (Also with doesn’t. Don’t used with all persons is folksy.) ○ I don’t give a continental if I never see him again. ○ Mary’s kids can do whatever they want. She doesn’t give a continental.

don’t give a hoot (in hell’s hollow) Rur. to not care one bit. (Also with doesn’t. Don’t used with all persons is folksy.) ○ Mary: Joe left town. Are you sorry to see him go? Tom: No! I don’t give a hoot in hell’s hollow. ○ She’s a devil-may-care young woman, doesn’t give a hoot about anything.

Don’t give it a (second) thought. Go to Think nothing of it.

Don’t give it another thought. Go to Think nothing of it.

Don’t give me any of your lip! Fig. Don’t talk back! ○ Do as I tell you and don’t give me any of your lip!

Don’t give me that line! and Don’t hand me that (line)! Don’t tell me those lies! ○ Don’t give me that line! I know the truth! You’re lying to me!

Don’t give up! Do not stop trying! Keep trying! ○ John: Get in there and give it another try. Don’t give up! Bill: Okay. Okay: But it’s hopeless. ○ Jane: I asked the boss for a raise, but he said no. Tom: Don’t give up. Try again later.

Don’t give up the ship! Fig. Do not give up yet! Do not yield the entire enterprise! (Fixed order. Alludes to the words on a flag made by Captain Oliver Hazard Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.) ○ Bill: I’m having a devil of a time with calculus. I think I want to drop the course. Sally: Keep trying. Don’t give up the ship!

Don’t give up without a fight! Fig. Do not yield easily; Keep struggling and you may win.; Do not give up too soon. (Also with don’t. Don’t used with all persons is folksy.) ○ Sue: She says no every time I ask her for a raise. Mary: Well, don’t give up without a fight. Keep after her.

Don’t give up your day job. Go to Don’t quit your day job.

Don’t hand me that (line)! Go to Don’t give me that line!

Don’t have a cow! Calm down!; Don’t get so excited! (Made famous in the television show, The Simpsons.) ○ Chill out, man! Don’t have a cow! ○ Aw, don’t have a cow, Dad!

don’t have a pot to piss in (or a window to throw it out of) Fig. doesn’t have anything of value; very poor. (Use with caution.) ○ When Ed was a young man, he didn’t have a pot to piss in. ○ Jane’s folks don’t have a pot to piss in or a window to throw it out of.

Don’t hold your breath. Fig. Do not stop breathing waiting for something to happen that won’t happen. (Meaning that it will take longer for it to happen than you can possibly hold your breath.) ○ Tom: The front yard is such a mess. Bob: Bill’s supposed to rake the leaves. Tom: Don’t hold your breath. He never does his share of the work.

Don’t I know it! I know that very well! ○ Mary: Goodness gracious! It’s hot today. Bob: Don’t I know it! ○ Sue: You seem to be putting on a little weight. John: Don’t I know it!

Don’t I know you from somewhere? a way of striking up a conversation with a stranger, as at a party or other gathering. ○ Bill: Don’t I know you from somewhere? Mary: I don’t think so. Where did you go to school? ○ Henry: Don’t I know you from somewhere? Alice: No, and let’s keep it that way.

Don’t judge a book by its cover. and You can’t tell a book by its cover. Prov. Do not draw a conclusion about someone or something just from outward appearances. ○ Just because Sam dresses sloppy doesn’t mean he’s a bad person. Don’t judge a book by its cover. ○ Jill: How can you be so sure this will be a boring movie? Jane: The poster for it is so boring. Jill: Don’t judge a book by its cover!

Don’t knock it. Don’t criticize it. ○ You don’t want any okra? Don’t knock it.
Don't know whether to eat it or rub it on. Rur. do not know what to do with something. (Used to describe a kind of food one does not recognize or that looks unusual.) Also with doesn't. Don't use with all persons is folksy. □ That sure was a fancy dessert Mary served. I didn't know whether to eat it or rub it on. □ What kind of sauce is this? I don't know whether to eat it or rub it on!

Don't let it go any further. and Don't let it out of this room. Don't tell this secret to anyone else. (Also literal.) □ This is a strict secret. Don't let it go any further. □ I'll tell you what you what to know, but don't let it go out of this room.

Don't let it out of this room. Go to previous.

Don't let someone or something get you down. Do not allow yourself to be overcome or disappointed by someone or something. □ Don't let their constant teasing get you down. □ Don't let Tom get you down. He's not always unpleasant.

Don't let the bastards wear you down. Don't let those people get the best of you. (Exercise caution with bastard.) □ Bill: The place I work at is really rough. Everybody is rude and jealous of each other. Tom: Don't let the bastards wear you down. □ Jane: I have to go down to the county clerk's office and figure out what this silly bureaucratic letter means. Sue: You might call them on the phone. In any case, don't let the bastards wear you down.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. Prov. Do not look for defects in a gift. □ Jill: I wonder why Grandma gave me this table. Maybe it has one leg shorter than the others. Jane: Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. □ Mike: This letter says I just won a trip to Hawaii. I bet there's some kind of catch. Keith: Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

Don't make me laugh! That is a stupid suggestion! □ You a judge? Don't make me laugh! □ Don't make me laugh. Tom could never do that.

Don't make me say it again! and Don't make me tell you again! I have told you once, and now I'm mad, and I'll be madder if I have to tell you again. (Typically said to a child who will not obey.) □ Mother: I told you thirty minutes ago to clean up this room! Don't make me tell you again!

Don't make me tell you again! Go to previous.

Don't make two bites of a cherry. Prov. Do not leave a simple job half-done. □ Tom: I washed the dishes and left them in the rack. I'll put them away tomorrow. Mary: Oh, come on. Don't make two bites of a cherry.

Don't mention it. You are welcome and your thanks are not necessary. □ A: Thank you so much! B: Don't mention it.

Don't mind me. Don't pay any attention to me.; Just ignore me. (Sometimes sarcastic.) □ Bill and Jane were watching television when Jane's mother walked through the room, grabbing the newspaper on the way. "Don't mind me," she said.

Don't push (me)! 1. Lit. I can move on my own, so don't shove me! □ I can't move any faster than this. Don't push me! 2. Fig. Don't put pressure on me to do something! □ Sue: You really must go to the dentist, you know. John: Don't push me. I'll go when I'm good and ready.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Prov. Do not risk everything on one undertaking. □ Keep your day job while you pursue your acting career at night, just in case the acting doesn't go so well. You know—don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today. Prov. Do not procrastinate. □ Father: Take out the garbage. Child: I'll do it in the morning. Father: It only takes a minute. Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today.

Don't put the cart before the horse. Prov. Do not do things in the wrong order. (This can imply that the person you are addressing is impatient.) □ Tune the guitar first, then play it. Don't put the cart before the horse.

Don't quit trying. Go to Keep (on) trying.

Don't quit your day job. and Don’t give up your day job. Don't quit your regular job in hopes that you can support yourself doing this task that you do not do very well. □ I saw your comedy act at the nightclub. Don't quit your day job! □ So, you laid the bricks in this wall. Well, don't quit your day job.

Don't rush me! Don't try to hurry me! □ Bill: Hurry up! Make up your mind! Bob: Don't rush me! Bill: I want to get out of here before midnight. □ Bill: The waiter wants to take your order. What do you want? Jane: Don't rush me! I can't make up my mind. Waiter: I'll come back in a minute.

Don't say it! I don't want to hear it!; I know, so you don't have to say it. □ John (joking): What is that huge pile of stuff on your head? Bill: Don't say it! I know I need a haircut.

Don't speak too soon. I think you may be wrong. Don't speak before you know the facts. (Compare this with Don't be too sure.) □ Bill: It looks like it'll be a nice day. Mary: Don't speak too soon. I just felt a raindrop. □ Tom: It looks like we made it home without any problems. Bill: Don't speak too soon, there's a cop behind us in the driveway.

Don't spend it all in one place. Prov. a phrase said after giving someone some money, especially a small amount of money. □ Fred: Dad, can I have a dollar? Father: Sure. Here. Don't spend it all in one place. □ "Here's a quarter, kid," said Tom, flipping Fred a quarter. "Don't spend it all in one place."

Don't speak to anyone. Prov. a phrase said after giving someone some money, especially a small amount of money. □ Fred: Dad, can I have a dollar? Father: Sure. Here. Don't spend it all in one place. □ "Here's a quarter, kid," said Tom, flipping Fred a quarter. "Don't spend it all in one place."

Don't stand on ceremony. Do not wait for a formal invitation.; Please be at ease and make yourself at home. (Some people read this as “Don't remain standing because of ceremony,” and others read it “Don't be totally obedient to the requirements of ceremony.”) □ Come in, Tom. Don't stand on ceremony. Get yourself a drink and something to eat and introduce yourself to everyone.

Don't start (on me)! Do not complain! □ Yes, I know it's a mess. Don't start! □ Don't start on me, I'm sorting it out.

Don't stay away so long. Rur. Please visit more often. (Said upon the arrival or departure of a guest.) □ John: Hi, Bill! Long time no see. Don't stay away so long! Bill: Thanks, John. Good to see you. □ Mary: I had a nice time. Thanks for inviting me. Sally: Good to see you, Mary. Next time, don't stay away so long.

Don't sweat it! Inf. Don't worry about it! □ No problem. Don't sweat it! □ Don't sweat it! We'll take care of it.
Don’t take any wooden nickels. Prov. Be careful and do not let anyone cheat you. (Often used as a jocular way of saying good-by.) □ Tom: So long. Bill: Don’t take any wooden nickels. □ Good luck in college. Don’t take any wooden nickels.

Don’t teach your grandmother to suck eggs. Prov. Do not try to instruct someone who is more experienced than you. (Extremely casual; potentially rude.) □ Bob told the seasoned guitar player that she was holding the guitar incorrectly. “Don’t teach your grandmother to suck eggs,” she replied.

Don’t tell a soul. Please do not tell anyone this gossip. □ Bill: Is your brother getting married? Sally: Yes, but don’t tell a soul. It’s a secret. □ Mary: Can you keep a secret? John: Sure. Mary: Don’t tell a soul, but Tom is in jail.

Don’t tell me what to do! Do not give me orders. □ Sue: Next, you should get a haircut, then get some new clothes. You really need to fix yourself up. Sally: Don’t tell me what to do! Maybe I like me the way I am!

Don’t that (just) beat all! Go to if that don’t beat all!

Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater. Prov. Do not discard something valuable in your eagerness to get rid of some useless thing associated with it. □ Jill: As long as I’m selling all the books Grandpa had, I might as well sell the bookcases, too. Jane: Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater. You can use the bookcases for something else.

Don’t touch that dial! 1. Lit. Do not change your radio or television dial, but continue to listen to this station. (From broadcasts in the days when tuning was done with a dial.) □ Don’t touch that dial. Stay tuned for The Adventures of Blondie. 2. Fig. Do not change anything or divert your attention. □ Don’t touch that dial. Remember what you hear in today’s lecture. It will be on the test.

Don’t waste my time. Do not take up my valuable time with a poor presentation.; Do not waste my time trying to get me to do something. □ Bob: I’d like to show you our new line of industrial-strength vacuum cleaners. Bill: Beat it! Don’t waste my time. □ “Don’t waste my time!” said the manager when Jane made her fourth appeal for a raise.

Don’t waste your breath. You will not get a positive response to what you have to say, so don’t even say it.; Talking will get you nowhere. □ Alice: I’ll go in there and try to convince her otherwise. Fred: Don’t waste your breath. I already tried it. □ Sally: No, I won’t agree! Don’t waste your breath. Bill: Aw, come on. At least hear me out.

Don’t waste your time. You will not get anywhere with it, so don’t waste time trying. □ Mary: Should I ask Tom if he wants to go to the convention, or is he still in a bad mood? Sally: Don’t waste your time. Mary: Bad mood, huh? □ Jane: I’m having trouble fixing this doorknob. Mary: Don’t waste your time. I’ve ordered a new one.

Don’t work too hard. an expression said at the end of a conversation after or in place of good-bye. □ Mary: Bye. Tom: Bye. Mary: Don’t work too hard.

Don’t worry (about a thing). Do not become anxious about something.; Everything will be all right. □ “Don’t worry, Fred,” comforted Bill, “everything will be all right.” □ Bill: I think I left the car windows open. Sue: Don’t worry, I closed them. □ “Don’t worry about a thing,” the tax col-
lector had said. “We’ll take care of everything.” Or was it “We’ll take everything?”

Don’t worry your (pretty little) head about it. Rur. Do not worry about it. (Said condescendingly, and can cause offense.) □ Mary: How are you going to get another job if you don’t start looking for one? Tom: Now don’t worry your pretty little head about it. Just leave it to me. □ Tom: What are we going to do if we can’t find an apartment? Sally: Don’t worry your head about it. We’ll find one, one way or another.

Don’t you know it! You can be absolutely sure about that!; You’re exactly right, and I agree with you. (This is not a question.) □ Alice: Man, is it hot! Fred: Don’t you know it? □ Bob: This is the best cake I have ever eaten. The cook is the best in the world! Bill: Don’t you know it!

Don’t you wish! Don’t you wish that what you have just said were really true? □ Mary: I’m going to get a job that lets me travel a lot. Sally: Don’t you wish! □ Sally: Sorry you lost the chess game. It was close, but your opponent was top-notch. Bob: Next time, I’ll do it! I’ll win the next round. Sally: Don’t you wish!

doom someone or something to something to destine someone or something to something unpleasant. □ The judgment doomed her to a life in prison. □ Your insistence on including that rigid clause doomed the contract to failure.

doomed to something condemned to something; facing something as a future or as a consequence of something. □ The project was doomed to failure from the start. □ I am doomed to a life of hard work and low pay.

A door must be either shut or open. Prov. If you have only two alternatives, you must choose one or the other; you cannot have both. □ Either you’re going to marry that girl, or you’re not. A door must be either shut or open.

doors open up (to someone) opportunities become available to someone. □ After Ann made a few inquiries, doors began to open up to me. □ An agent helps. After I got one, all sorts of doors opened up.

door-to-door 1. Lit. having to do with movement from one door to another or from one house to another. □ John is a door-to-door salesman. □ We spent two weeks making door-to-door surveys. 2. Fig. by moving from one door to another or one house to another. □ Anne is selling books door-to-door. □ We went door-to-door, collecting money.

dope someone or an animal up to give drugs to someone or an animal. □ Her parents doped her up with medicine so she would sleep through the night. □ It’s dangerous to dope up a child night after night. □ The trainer got caught doping the horse up.

dope something out 1. Sl. to figure something out. □ He spent a lot of time trying to dope the assignment out so he could understand it. □ It’s hard to dope out a physics assignment after midnight. 2. Sl. to explain something carefully. □ He doped it all out to them very carefully so that no one would be confused. □ He doped out the information slowly and patiently.

dork off sl. to waste time; to goof off. □ Stop dorking off and get busy. □ The whole class was dorking off and the teacher got furious.

a dose of one’s own medicine Go to a taste of one’s own medicine.
dose someone or an animal with something to give medicine to someone or an animal. □ You should dose the child with a little nonaspirin painkiller. □ She dosed the horse with a mild tranquilizer.

doss down (for some time) Sl. to lie down to sleep for a period of time. □ Chuck dosed down for a few hours before the evening performance. □ It’s midnight: time to doss down.

dot something with something to put little bits or dots of something on something. □ She dotted her face with red marks to make it look as if she had measles. □ The chef dotted the cake with blobs of buttery icing.

dote (up) on someone or something to adore or spoil someone or something; to like very much. (Alludes to a musician who could play the brass instruments as well as other instruments.) (Lit. denotes a musician who could play the brass instruments as well as other instruments.)

double as someone or something [for someone] to serve in two capacities. □ The chairman will have to double as CEO until we find a new one. □ This table doubles as a desk during busy times.

double back (on someone or something) [for a person or animal] to reverse motion, moving toward (rather than away from) someone or something. (Refers primarily to a person or animal that is being pursued by someone or a group.) □ The deer doubled back on the hunter. □ The robber doubled back on the police, and they lost track of him. □ I doubled back on my own trail.

double Dutch 1. language or speech that is difficult or impossible to understand. □ This book on English grammar is written in double Dutch. I can’t understand a word. □ Try to find a lecturer who speaks slowly, not one who speaks double Dutch. 2. a game of jumping rope using two ropes swung simultaneously in opposite directions. □ The girls were playing double Dutch in the schoolyard.

double in brass (as something) Fig. to serve in two capacities. (Alludes to a musician who could play the brass instruments as well as other instruments.) □ Wally was our bookkeeper and doubled in brass as a clerk.

double over (for home) [for people] to deal with someone or something in pairs. □ We are going to have to double up in this job. □ We will double up and get it done.

double up (on someone or something) [for people] to deal with someone or something in pairs. □ We are going to have to double up in this job. □ We will double up and get it done.

double up (with laughter) Fig. to laugh so hard that one bends over. □ We all just doubled up with laughter. □ I doubled up when I heard the punch line.

double up (with pain) to bend at the waist with severe pain. □ The man doubled up with pain when he was stabbed. □ He hurt so bad that he doubled up.

double up (with someone) to share with someone. □ We don’t have enough books. Tom, will you double up with Jane? □ When we get more books, we won’t have to double up anymore.

double wammy a double dose of something; a strong or powerful helping of something. □ When the Federal Reserve Board raised the interest rates, I got a double whammy. My stocks went down and my bonds did too.

double-cross someone to betray someone. (Originally a more complicated switching of sides in a conspiracy wherein the double-crosser sides with the victim of the conspiracy—against the original conspirator.) □ Don’t even think about double-crossing me! □ Richard double-crossed Mr. Big a few years back.

double-edged sword Go to a two-edged sword.

doubting Thomas someone who will not easily believe something without strong proof or evidence. (Can be said of a man or a woman. From the biblical account of the apostle Thomas, who would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he actually touched the risen Christ.) □ Mary won’t believe that I have a dog until she sees it. She’s such a doubting Thomas.

douse someone or something with something to splash or drench someone with something. □ She doused her brother with a bucket of cold water. □ They had to keep dousing the porpoise with cold water to keep it healthy.

dovetail something into something Fig. to fit neatly into something; to make something interlock nicely with something else. □ She dovetailed her story into mine perfectly and the police let us go.

dovetail with something 1. Lit. to interlock tightly with something using a dovetail joint. □ The side of the drawer dovetails with the front of the drawer. 2. Fig. to fit neatly into something. □ Your story doesn’t dovetail with mine very well.

down and dirty 1. crude and carelessly done. □ (Used as an attributive.) The last time he painted the kitchen, it was a down and dirty job because he thought we were moving. Fig. coarse; mean-spirited. □ The campaign for governor really got down and dirty in the final week.

down by some amount having a score that is lower, by the specified amount, than someone else’s score or the other team’s score. □ At halftime, the home team was down by 14 points. □ Down by one run, the team scored two runs in the ninth inning and won the game.

down for something having one’s name written down for something. □ Am I down for an evening appointment? □ You are down for Friday.

*down for the count 1. and *out for the count [of a boxer] knocked down by an opponent’s punching and remaining down until the last count, or even beyond. (*Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ Wally is down for the count. Chris is the winner. 2. eliminated from something or an activity for a period of time, perhaps permanently. (*Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ I can’t continue with this course. I’m down for the count. □ I’m down for the count. I have the flu.

*down in the dumps Fig. sad or depressed. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I’ve been down in the dumps for the past
down in the mouth Fig. sad-faced; depressed and unsmiling. □ Since her dog died, Barbara has been down in the mouth. □ Bob has been down in the mouth since he was laid off from his job.
down on one’s luck without any money; unlucky. □ Can you lend me twenty dollars? I’ve been down on my luck lately. □ The gambler had to get a job because he had been down on his luck and hadn’t won enough money to live on.
*down on someone or something against someone or something. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ You’ve been down on us all lately. □ I’m down on computers lately. □ Everyone sure got down on fast food.
down one for the road Go to one for the road.
*down pat learned or memorized perfectly. (Typically: get something ~; have something ~.) □ I have practiced my speech until I have it down pat. □ Tom has his part in the play down pat. He won’t make any mistakes.
down South to or at the southeastern United States. □ I used to live down South. □ We are going down South for the winter.
down the chute Fig. gone; wasted. □ A lot of money went down the chute on that deal, and all for nothing. □ I just hate to see all that effort go down the chute.
down the drain Fig. gone; wasted. □ Well, there’s 400 bucks down the drain. □ A lot of money went down the drain in that Wilson deal.
Down the hatch. I am about to drink this.; Let’s all drink Down the hatch! (Said as one is about to take a drink, especially of alcohol.)
down the drain in that Wilson deal.
*down at the last bit of money having only a small amount of money left. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Tom isn’t here. He’s down with a cold. □ Sally is down with the flu.
down (with someone) Sl. friends with someone; okay or on good terms with someone. (Down = okay. *Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ It’s okay. I’m down with Chuck. □ Chuck and I are down.
Down with someone or something! Do away with someone or something!; I am opposed to someone or something! □ Down with higher taxes! Down with corporate tax breaks! □ Down with tyrants!
down-and-out 1. having no money or means of support. □ There are many young people down-and-out in the city. □ John gambled away all his fortune and is now completely down-and-out. 2. someone who is impoverished. □ There were a couple of down-and-outs sleeping under the railway bridge. □ The down-and-out touched Martin for a fiver.
*down at the heels 1. Lit. [of shoes] worn on the bottom of the heels. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ This pair is a little down-at-the-heels, but I only use them for gardening. 2. Fig. worn down; showing signs of use or age. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ He is a little down-at-the-heels, but give him a new suit of clothes and he’ll look just great. □ This jacket is a little down-at-the-heels.
downgrade someone or something to something to decrease the status of someone or something to something. □ In effect, this downgrades your project to unimportant. □ I didn’t mean to downgrade you to the assistant status.
downhill all the way Fig. easy the entire way. □ Don’t worry about your algebra course. It’s downhill all the way after this chapter. □ The mayor said that the job of mayor is easy—in fact, downhill all the way.
downhill from here on Fig. easy from this point on. □ The worst part is over. It’s downhill from here on. □ The painful part of this procedure is over. It’s downhill from here on.
down-home as one would find in rural, especially southern, America. □ She speaks with a kind of down-home accent that sounds more friendly than the typical, urban northerner.
downtime the time when a computer or some other system is not operating. (Computer jargon.) □ I can’t afford to lose any of the data in this system I buy. □ We had too much downtime with the other machine.
down-to-earth 1. Fig. direct, frank, and honest. 2. Fig. practical; not theoretical; not fanciful. * Her ideas for the boutique are always very down-to-earth. * The committee's plans for the village are anything but down-to-earth.

*down-to-the-wire Fig. waiting until the very last moment; right up to the deadline. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) * It came down-to-the-wire before I turned the proposal in. * We went right down-to-the-wire on that one.

doze off (to sleep) to slip away into sleep. * I dozed off to sleep during the second act of the opera. * I was so comfortable that I just dozed off.

draft someone for something to select someone for something or to do something. * We drafted a bunch of the boys for moving tables. * The committee drafted some of the members for kitchen work.

draft someone into something 1. Lit. to conscript someone into the armed services. * The draft board drafted Scott into the army. * Todd was drafted into the army. 2. Fig. to convince someone to participate in something. * She drafted some of the boys into helping her move tables. * They were drafted into helping.

drag behind to follow along close behind someone. * His little brother came along, dragging behind. * Stop dragging along behind!

drag on and drag out to go on slowly for a very long time; to last a very long time. * The lecture dragged on and on. * Why do these things have to drag on so? * How much longer do you think his speech will drag out?

a drag (on someone) a burden (to someone). * I wish you wouldn't be such a drag on your friends. * I don't want to be a drag on the department.

*a drag (on something) Slang. a puff or any kind of cigarette. (*Typically: have ~; take ~.) * She had a drag on her cigarette and crushed it out on the sidewalk.

drag one's feet (on or over something) and drag one's heels (on or over something) to progress slowly or stall in the doing of something. * Why is she taking so long? I think she is just dragging her feet on this matter. * I didn't mean to drag my feet on this decision. * If the planning department had not dragged their heels, the building would have been built by now. * You must not drag your heels over this; we must get finished.

drag out 1. Go to drag on. 2. drag someone in (on something) to force someone to join something or participate in something. * Don't drag me in on this. * Let's try to drag in some of the others on this.

drag someone or something down 1. Lit. to pull someone or something to the ground or to a lower level. * The lions dragged the antelope down and made dinner out of it. * They dragged down the boxes from the closet shelf. 2. Fig. to debase someone or something; to corrupt someone or something. * The bad acting dragged the level of the performance down. * The bad acting dragged down the level of the performance.

drag someone or something into something and drag someone or something in 1. Lit. to haul or pull someone or something into something or some place. * She dragged in the child to make him put on this jacket. * Despite his broken leg, he dragged himself into the shelter. 2. Fig. to involve someone or a group in something. * Please don't drag me into your argument. * Don't drag the committee into this discussion. * It is a serious dispute, and please don't drag me in.

drag someone or something off of someone or something and drag someone or something off to pull or remove someone or something off someone or something. *(The off is informal.) * The police officers dragged the boys off the top of the wall. * The cops dragged off the boys and took them home.

drag someone or something off (to someone or something) to haul someone or something away to someone, something, or some place. * The cops dragged her off to jail. * They dragged off the criminal to the judge.

drag someone or something on(to) something and drag someone or something on to pull or lead someone or something to a particular place, such as a stage, platform, dance floor, etc. * The master of ceremonies dragged her onto the stage for another bow. * Then he dragged on the next performer.

drag someone or something over to someone or something and drag someone or something over to pull or haul someone or something to someone or something. * He dragged the chair over to the window so he could sit and watch the children. * Drag over a chair and sit down.

drag someone or something through something 1. and drag someone or something through Lit. to pull someone or something through an opening. * I dragged my brother through the opening into the room. * We dragged the sofa through the window because we couldn't get it through the door. 2. Fig. to debase someone or something. * I don't want you to drag me through a drawn-out divorce. * She dragged herself through all sorts of trouble in her autobiography.

drag someone through the mud Fig. to insult, defame, and debase someone. * The newspapers dragged the actress through the mud week after week. * The columnist felt it was her duty to drag people through the mud.

drag someone up! to force someone to come up or to come and stand nearby. * He wouldn't come on his own, so I dragged him up. * You will have to drag him up. He is too tired to walk by himself. * The reporter dragged up a homeless man to interview.

drag something away (from something) and drag something away to push or pull something away from something or some place. * He dragged the sofa away from the wall so he could clean behind it. * He had to drag away the sofa in order to plug in the lamp. * We worked together to drag it away.

drag something behind one to pull something that is behind one. * The child dragged the wooden toy behind him. * What is that you are dragging behind you?

drag something out 1. to make something last for a long time. * Why does the chairman have to drag the meeting out so long? * Don't drag out the meetings so long! 2. Go to next.

drag something out of someone and drag something out to force someone to reveal something; to extract an answer or information out of someone laboriously. * Why don't
you just tell me? Do I have to drag it out of you? □ We had to drag out the information, but she finally told us.

**drag something up**

- **drag something up**
  - to pull something close, such as a chair, stool, etc., to sit in.
  - **Please drag a chair up and sit down.**
  - **Drag up a chair and sit for a while.**

**dragged out**

- **dragged out**
  - Sl. exhausted; worn out.
  - I feel so dragged out. I think I need some sleep.
  - After the game, the whole team was dragged out.

**dragoon someone into something**

- **dragoon someone into something**
  - to force someone into doing something.
  - We dragooned the boys into helping us.
  - She was trying to dragoon some of the men into setting up the banquet tables.

**drain away**

- **drain away**
  - [for something] to flow away.
  - All the water drained away and exposed the mud and rocks on the bottom of the pond.
  - When the water drained away, we found three snapping turtles in the bottom of the pond.

**drain from something**

- **drain from something**
  - to flow out of something.
  - All the dirty oil drained from the engine.
  - The milk drained from the leaky container and covered the bottom of the refrigerator.

**drain out**

- **drain out**
  - to flow out or empty.
  - All the milk drained out of the container onto the bottom of the refrigerator.
  - All the oil drained out of the crankcase.

**drain someone or something of something**

- **drain someone or something of something**
  - Fig. to exhaust someone or something of something, such as energy, motivation, etc.
  - This day has drained me of all my motivation.
  - The first performance drained the cast of all its energy.

**drain something away (from something)**

- **drain something away (from something)**
  - to channel some liquid away from something.
  - Drain all of the standing water away from the foundation of the house.
  - Drain away the water from the foundation.

**drain something from someone or something**

- **drain something from someone or something**
  - to cause something to flow out of someone or something.
  - The farmers drained the water from the flooded fields.
  - The doctor drained the fluids from Roger after his operation.

**drain something of something**

- **drain something of something**
  - to empty something out of something.
  - He drained the glass of the remaining beer.

**drain something off something**

- **drain something off something**
  - to cause or permit something to flow from the surface or contents of something.
  - Drain some of the broth off the chicken.
  - Drain off the fat at the bottom of the pan.

**drain something out of something**

- **drain something out of something**
  - to cause something to flow from something; to empty all of some liquid out of something.
  - She drained the last drop out of the bottle.
  - She drained out all the water in the pot.

**drape oneself over something**

- **drape oneself over something**
  - to sprawl on a piece of furniture.
  - He draped himself over the armchair and dropped off to sleep.
  - He came in and casually draped himself over grandmother’s antique chair.

**drape over (something)**

- **drape over (something)**
  - [for cloth] to cover something and hang down.
  - The robe draped over her knees, but she was still cold.
  - The tablecloth draped over and reached down to the floor.

**drape someone or something in something**

- **drape someone or something in something**
  - to wrap or cover someone or something in something.
  - They draped her in golden silks, but she still looked like a country girl.
  - They draped the tables in polka-dot cloth for the party.

**drape someone or something with something**

- **drape someone or something with something**
  - to hang something on or over someone or something.
  - They draped each guest with a makeshift toga.
  - They draped the statue with a brightly colored loincloth.

**drape something around something**

- **drape something around something**
  - to wrap or hang something around someone or something.
  - She draped the shawl around her shoulders and felt a little warmer.
  - Mother draped a towel around Timmy after his bath.

**draw a bead on someone or something and get a bead on someone or something**

- **draw a bead on someone or something and get a bead on someone or something**
  - Lit. to locate someone or something in the sights of a gun.
  - Fred drew a bead on the target and pulled the trigger.
  - The hunter drew a bead on the deer.
  - Fig. to prepare to deal with or obtain someone or something.
  - As soon as I get a bead on how widespread the problem really is, I will set up a meeting about it.

**draw a blank**

- **draw a blank**
  - Fig. to get no response; to find nothing.
  - I asked him about Tom’s financial problems, and I just drew a blank.
  - We looked in the files for an hour, but we drew a blank.
  - Fig. to fail to remember something.
  - I tried to remember her telephone number, but I could only draw a blank.
  - It was a very hard test with just one question to answer, and I drew a blank.

**draw a line between something and something else**

- **draw a line between something and something else**
  - Fig. to separate two things; to distinguish or differentiate between two things.
  - (Also with the.) I draw a line between just bumping into people and actually striking them.
  - It’s very hard to draw a line between slamming a door and just closing it loudly.

**draw a line in the sand**

- **draw a line in the sand**
  - Fig. to create or declare an artificial boundary and imply that crossing it will cause trouble.
  - Todd drew a line in the sand by giving his roommate an ultimatum about his sloppiness—he had to start cleaning up after himself or move out.

**draw against an amount of money**

- **draw against an amount of money**
  - to withdraw money from something in advance.
  - I can draw against my allowance—at least a small amount.
  - You cannot draw against your salary.

**draw ahead of someone or something**

- **draw ahead of someone or something**
  - to pull or move ahead of someone or something in motion.
  - I drew ahead of the car in front of me.
  - The horse I was racing against drew ahead.

**draw apart from someone or something**

- **draw apart from someone or something**
  - and draw away
  - to pull or move away from someone or something.
  - I drew apart from the rest of us.
  - Please don’t draw away from me. I won’t bite.
  - She drew away slowly and left the room.

**draw away from someone or something**

- **draw away from someone or something**
  - Go to previous.

**draw blood**

- **draw blood**
  - Lit. to hit or bite (a person or an animal) and make a wound that bleeds.
  - The dog chased me and bit me hard, but it didn’t draw blood.
  - The boxer landed just one punch and drew blood immediately.
  - Fig. to anger or insult a person.
  - Sally screamed out a terrible insult at Tom. Judging by the look on his face, she really drew blood.
  - Tom started yelling and cursing, trying to insult Sally. He wouldn’t be satisfied until he had drawn blood, too.

**draw fire from someone**

- **draw fire from someone**
  - Go to **draw someone’s fire**.
**draw (someone or something) from** something to sketch (someone or something) from a particular source, such as memory, real life, a photograph, etc. **He is a very good artist. He can draw from a photograph or a painting.** I will try to draw him from memory.

**draw someone or something into** something and **draw someone or something in**¹ 1. Lit. to pull someone or something into something; to attract someone or something in. She drew the child into the shoe store and plunked her down.

2. Lit. to sketch a picture, adding someone or something into the picture. She drew a little dog into the lower corner of the picture.

**draw** (someone or something) **out of** something or some place and **draw something out**¹ to pull something or someone out of a place. We drew him out of the crawl space where he lay hiding. We drew the concealed microphone out of the cabinet.

**draw (someone or something)** **out[ward]** someone or something to pull someone or something to someone or something. She drew him toward her and kissed him. Todd drew the child toward the light.

**draw someone or something out on** someone or something and **draw someone or something out about** someone or something; **draw someone out**¹ to bring out someone's private thoughts about someone or something. I tried to draw him out on this matter, but he would not say any more. I tried to draw out the speaker, but she would not elaborate on what she had said.

**draw someone's attention to** someone or something to attract someone to notice or focus on someone or something. Now, I would like to draw your attention to Fred, the gentleman we have all heard so much about. Could I draw your attention to the statue standing at the entrance?

**draw (someone's) fire (away)** from someone, something, or an animal and **draw (someone's) fire away**¹ to attract the attention of someone firing a gun away from the target, hoping to protect the target; to make oneself a target in order to protect someone or something. (Can be verbal “fire,” such as questions, etc.) The mother bird drew fire away from her chicks. The hen drew away the hunter's fire. The president drew fire away from Congress by proposing a compromise.

**draw someone together** to make people seek one another for emotional support. The tragic accident drew the family all together.

**draw someone or something apart**¹ to pull something, such as curtains or drapes, open or apart. She drew the curtains apart and looked out the window. She drew apart the curtains a little bit.

**draw something down**¹ to pull something down. She drew the shades down to cut off the bright sunlight. She drew down the shades.
draw something forth to pull something forward or where it can be seen. □ Carl drew a booklet forth and began to show it to the people sitting on either side of him. □ She drew forth her pocketknife and threatened the bandit.

draw something off (from something) to remove a portion of a liquid from something; to cause something to flow from something. □ The steward drew some wine off from the cask. □ He drew off some wine.

draw something out 1. to make something have greater length. □ Bill drew the taffy candy out into a long string. □ He drew out a long strand of melted cheese and tried to drop it into his mouth. 2. to extend something in time. □ Do we have to draw this thing out? Let's get it over with. □ Stop drawing out the proceedings. 3. Lit. to draw a picture to make something more clear. □ Here, I'll draw it out so you can see what I mean. □ Please draw out the concept on paper. I can't follow your explanation. 4. Go to next.

draw something out of someone and draw something out of something to get some kind of information from someone. □ He kept his mouth closed, and we couldn't draw anything out of him. □ We were able to draw out the information we wanted.

draw something over someone or something to cover someone or something with something. □ She drew the blanket over the sleeping baby. □ Polly drew some plastic over her work and left for the day.

draw something to close or nearly close something, such as curtains, drapes, etc. □ She drew the drapes to and turned on the lights. □ Please draw the door to as you leave, but don't shut it all the way.

draw something to a close to make something come to an end. □ It is time we drew this evening to a close. □ Ann drew the meeting to a close with a few words of encouragement.

draw something to someone's attention to make someone aware of something. □ Please draw this error to the clerk's attention.

draw something up 1. Lit. to pull something close by, such as a chair, stool, etc. □ Draw a chair up and sit down. □ She drew up a pillow and sat on the floor. 2. Fig. to draft a document; to prepare a document. □ Who will draw a contract up? □ I will draw up a contract for the work.

draw straws for something Fig. to decide who gets something or must do something by choosing straws from an unseen set of straws of different lengths. (The person who gets the shortest straw is chosen. See also draw lots.) □ We drew straws for the privilege of going first. □ Let's draw straws for it.

draw the line (at something) to set a limit at something; to decide when a limit has been reached. □ You can make as much noise as you want, but I draw the line at fighting. □ It's hard to keep young people under control, but you have to draw the line somewhere.

draw the line between something and something else Go to draw a line between something and something else.

draw to a close to end; to come to an end. □ This evening is drawing to a close. □ It's a shame that our vacation is drawing to a close.

draw up to pull up more tightly; to shrink up. □ When they got wet, his trunks drew up and became very tight. □ This cheap underwear has a tendency to draw up.

draw (up) alongside someone or something and draw (up) alongside to move up even with someone or something in motion. □ The police officer drew up alongside us and ordered us to pull over. □ A car drew up alongside us.

draw upon something Go to draw on someone or something.

draw a drawing card Fig. an attraction that helps bring patrons to a place of entertainment. □ The comedian was a real drawing card at the night club.

*drawn and quartered Fig. to be dealt with very severely. (Now fig. except in historical accounts; refers to a former practice of torturing someone guilty of treason, usually a male, by disemboweling and dividing the body into four parts. *Typically: be ~; have someone ~. Fixed order.) □ Todd was practically drawn and quartered for losing the Wilson contract. □ You were much too harsh with Jean. No matter what she did, she didn't need to be drawn and quartered for it!

drawn like a moth to a flame Fig. attracted [to someone or some event] instinctively or very strongly, as a moth is drawn to the light of a flame. □ Customers were drawn to the sale like a moth to a flame. They came from all over and bought up everything in the store.

dream about someone or something and dream of someone or something to have mental pictures about someone or something, especially in one's sleep. □ I dreamed about you all night last night. □ I dreamed of a huge chocolate cake.

a dream come true Fig. a wish or a dream that has become a reality. □ My vacation to Hawaii was like a dream come true. □ Having you for a friend is a dream come true.

Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage. and Dream of a funeral and you hear of a wedding. Prov. If you dream that a person has died, you will learn that person is to be married. □ Alan: I had a dream last night that my sister was killed. Jane: Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage.

Dream of a funeral and you hear of a wedding. Go to previous.

dream of doing something Fig. to have a fantasy of doing something. (See also dream about someone or something.) □ I dream of owning a house like that. □ Clara dreamed of sailing off into the sunset with Roger.

dream of someone or something Go to dream about someone or something.

Dream on. What you are expecting or wanting to happen is nothing but fantasy. □ You want to get promoted to general manager? Dream on. □ You, an opera singer? Dream on.

dream something away Fig. to waste away a period of time having fantasies. □ I just want to sit in the sun and dream the day away. □ Don't dream away your life!

dream something up Fig. to invent something; to fabricate something. (The something can be the word something.) □ I don't know what to do, but I'll dream something up. □ Please dream up a solution for this problem.

dredge someone or something up 1. Lit. to scoop something up from underwater. □ The workers dredged the lifeless body up from the cold black water. □ They dredged up
drift along to float along; to be carried along on no particular course. □ The boat just drifted along lazily with the current. □ The project drifted along until we received the leadership we needed.

drift apart (from each other) 1. Lit. [for floating things] to separate as they drift. □ The boats drifted apart from one another. □ The boats drifted apart in the waves. 2. Fig. [for people] to lead their lives without contact with each other having been together or friendly. □ He drifted apart from his friends. □ As the years went by, they drifted apart.

drift away (from someone) Fig. [for someone] to begin to be less of a friend and more like a stranger. (See also drift away [from someone or something].) □ He began drifting away from me a few months ago, and I haven't seen him at all in the last three weeks.

drift away (from someone or something) [for floating people, animals, or things] to move away from a particular person or thing, on the surface of water. (See also drift away [from someone or something].) □ We watched the boat drift away from us. □ He was drifting away on the ice block and there was nothing we could do.

drift back (to someone) Fig. [for someone] to return to one's friendship or romantic involvement slowly. (See also drift back [to someone or something].) □ Finally he drifted back to her and they made up.

drift back (to someone or something) to move back to someone or something slowly, on the surface of water. □ The canoe drifted back to shore. □ My little boat finally drifted back to me.

drift in(to something) to move slowly and gradually into something. □ The people drifted slowly into the hall. □ The boats drifted into the shore on the tide.

drift off to move slowly away. □ The boat slowly drifted off and was gone. □ The clouds drifted off and the sun came out.

drift off course Go to off course.

drift off to sleep Fig. to fall asleep gradually. □ At last, he drifted off to sleep. □ During that boring lecture, I drifted off to sleep a number of times.

drift out to move out of a place slowly. □ After there was no more food, the people drifted out, one by one. □ The boat drifted out and almost got away.

drift toward someone or something to move slowly and gradually toward someone or something. □ The clouds drifted toward us, and we could see that a storm was coming. □ As the clouds drifted toward us, we could feel the humidity increase.

drift with something 1. Lit. to float along with something; to be carried along at the same rate as something. □ He paddled the canoe into the center of the stream and let it drift with the current. 2. Fig. to “move along” passively with events and ideas. □ He is not very decisive and is as likely as not to drift with the tide of sentiment.

drill down (to something) to bore downward to something or some distance. □ We drilled down to a layer of water-bearing sand, hoping to make a well. □ They had to drill down to bedrock to make a base for the piers that hold the building up.

drill in(to something) to bore into or penetrate something. □ The worker drilled into the wall in three places. □ Please don't drill into the wall here, where it will show.

drill someone in something to give someone practice in something. □ Now, I am going to drill you in irregular
drill something into someone or something

verbs. □ The teacher drilled the students in the use of the passive.

drill something into someone or something and drill something in! Fig. to force knowledge into someone or something. □ Learn this stuff! Drill it into your brain. □ Drill in this information so you know it by heart!

drink like a fish Fig. to drink alcohol excessively; to be in the habit of drinking alcohol excessively. □ Jeff really drank like a fish at the party on Saturday. □ I worry about Nancy; she drinks like a fish.

drink someone under the table Fig. to be able to drink more alcohol than someone else. □ I bet I can drink you under the table.

drink something down! to drink something; to consume all of something by drinking it. □ Here, drink this down, and see if it makes you feel better. □ Drink down this medicine.

drink something in! Fig. to absorb something; to take in information, sights, a story, etc. □ Terry and Amy drove up to the top of the hill to drink the sights in. □ They drank in the beautiful view.

drink something up! to drink all of something that is served or that is on hand. □ Who drank all the root beer up? □ I drank up the root beer.

drink to excess Euph. to drink too much alcohol; to drink alcohol continually. □ Mr. Franklin drinks to excess. □ Some people drink to excess only at parties.

drink to someone or something to toast someone or something; to take an alcoholic drink in honor of someone or something. □ I’ll drink to that! □ Let us drink to our guest of honor, Wallace J. Wilson!

Drink up! Finish your drink!; Finish that drink, and we’ll drink to excess. □ Who drank all the root beer up? □ I drank up the root beer.

droop in[to something] [for a liquid] to fall into something drop by drop. □ The water dripped into the bowl we had put under the leak. □ Is the water still dripping in the bathtub?

drip something into something and drip something in! to make something fall into something drop by drop. □ Alice dripped a little candle wax into the base of the candlestick. □ Don’t pour it all into the jar. Drip in a little at a time.

drip with something 1. Lit. to be heavy or overloaded with something to the point of overflowing. □ The foliage dripped with the heavy morning dew. □ Her clothing dripped with seawater as she climbed back onto the deck. 2. Fig. [for someone’s speech] to show certain states of mind or attitudes. □ Her voice dripped with sarcasm. □ The old lady’s voice dripped with sweetness and affection.

drive a coach and horses through something Fig. to expose weak points or “holes” in an argument, alibi, or criminal case by [figuratively] driving a horse and carriage through them. (Formal. Emphasizes the large size of the holes or gaps in the argument.) □ The barrister drove a horse and carriage through the witness’s testimony. □ The opposition will drive a coach and horses through the wording of that government bill.

drive a hard bargain to work hard to negotiate prices or agreements in one’s own favor. □ All right, sir, you drive a hard bargain. I’ll sell you this car for $12,450. □ You drive a hard bargain, Jane, but I’ll sign the contract.

drive a price down! Fig. to force the price of something down. □ The lack of buyers drove the price down. □ The lack of buyers drove down the price.

drive a price up and force something up! to force the price of something upwards. □ Someone is buying a lot of gold and driving the price up. □ They are driving up the price.

drive a wedge between someone and someone else Fig. to cause people to oppose one another or turn against one another. □ The argument drove a wedge between Mike and his father.

drive at something to be making a point; to be hinting at something; to work up to making a point. □ What are you driving at? What’s the point? □ I could tell Mary was driving at something, but I didn’t know what it was.

drive away to leave some place driving a vehicle. □ They got in the car and drove away. □ They drove away and left us here.

drive back to go in a vehicle back to where it started. □ Mary drove back and parked the car where it had been when she started. □ You drive us there and I’ll drive back.

drive between something and something else to go in a vehicle between things or places. □ I can’t drive between work and home in less than thirty minutes. □ The cab driver drove between the airport and downtown more than twelve times in one day.

drive down (to some place) to go in a vehicle to a relatively lower place or to a place in the south. □ We are going to drive down to Houston for the weekend. □ We were going to fly to Florida, but it will be nice to drive down.

drive into someone or something to strike someone or something while driving. □ She drove into the garage and damaged the wall. □ Accidentally, Fred drove into Max.

drive in(to something) to enter something or some place by driving. □ She drove right into the garage and stopped the car before she realized that she was not at her own house. □ She drove in and looked around.

drive into the middle of nowhere Go to in the middle of nowhere.

drive off to leave somewhere, driving a vehicle. □ She got in her car and drove off. □ Please don’t drive off and leave me!

drive on to continue driving; to continue with one’s journey. □ We drove on for a little while. □ The traffic jam is breaking up, so we can drive on.

drive one out of one’s mind Fig. to make someone go crazy; to frustrate someone. □ You are driving me out of my mind with your nagging. □ Henry was driven out of his mind by all the negative comments.

drive out (to some place) to go in a vehicle to a place that is away from one’s home, away from a city, etc. □ We drove out to a little place in the country for a picnic. □ Why don’t you drive out this weekend? We would love to have you here.

drive over (to some place) to go in a vehicle to some place that is neither close by nor far away. □ Let’s drive over to Larry’s place. □ Yes, let’s drive over. It’s too far to walk.
Drive safely. an expression used to advise a departing person to be careful while driving. Mary: Good-bye, Sally. Drive safely. Sally: Good-bye. I will. "Drive safely!" everyone shouted as we left on our trip.
drive someone around something to transport a person in a vehicle on a tour of something or some place. Fred will drive you around the city to see the sights. He spent an hour driving himself around town.
drive someone around the bend Fig. to make someone angry or very frustrated. This tax stuff is about to drive me around the bend. Gert will drive us all around the bend with her constant complaining.
drive someone back on something to force someone to tap reserves of something. The hard times drove them back on their life savings. The challenges of being a corporate executive drove her back on all her personal resources.
drive someone back to someone to force someone to return to someone, such as a spouse, lover, parent, etc. Her bad experience with her new friend drove her back to her husband. Being homeless was no fun, and soon Wally was driven back to his parents.
drive someone batty and drive someone bonkers; drive someone nuts Fig. to annoy or irritate someone. You are certainly annoying! You’re going to drive me batty. This cold is driving me bonkers. These tax forms are driving me nuts.
drive someone bonkers Go to previous.
drive someone crazy and drive someone insane; drive someone mad 1. Lit. to force someone into a state of insanity or mental instability. The sound of the wind howling drove me crazy. The dog’s constant barking drove me insane. 2. Fig. to annoy or irritate someone. This itch is driving me crazy. All these telephone calls are driving me mad.
drive someone down (to some place) to transport someone to some place (as in town or away from home), or to a relatively lower place or to a place in the south. She drove herself down to the hospital. We have to drive Andrew down to school in the fall.
drive someone insane Go to drive someone crazy.
drive someone into a corner 1. Lit. to force someone into the place where two walls intersect. They drove him into a corner and captured him there. When he is driven into a corner, he will fight. 2. Fig. to force someone into a position or state where there are few choices and no escape. You have driven me into a corner, so I guess I have to give in. Todd was driven into a corner when everyone disagreed with him.
drive someone mad Go to drive someone crazy.
drive someone nuts Go to drive someone crazy.
drive someone on† (to something) to make someone move onward toward some kind of success. She said her parents drove her on to finish law school. They drove on their daughter to great things. The thought of earning a large salary drove him on.
drive someone or an animal away† (from something or some place) to repel someone or an animal from something or some place. We drove the monkeys away from the pineapples. We drove away the monkeys from the fruit.
drive someone or an animal out of something and drive someone or an animal out† to force or chase someone or an animal out of something or some place. We drove them all out of the country. We drove out the troublesome kids.
drive someone or something back† to force someone or something away; to force someone or something to retreat. The infantry drove the attackers back into the desert. They drove back the invading army. We drove them back to the border.
drive someone or something off† to repel or chase away someone or something. The campers drove the cows off before the animals trampled the tents. They drove off the cows.
drive someone out† Go to force someone out of office.
drive someone out of office Go to force someone out of office.
drive someone to despair Fig. to depress someone; to frustrate someone. Sometimes raising an infant drives me to despair! The recent problems drove her to despair.
drive someone to distraction Fig. to confuse or perplex someone. Can’t you see you’re driving her to distraction? The problems I am having with my boss are driving me to distraction.
drive someone to do something to force someone to do something. Poverty drove him to steal. She drove herself to earn a living.
drive someone to drink Fig. [for someone or something] to cause someone to turn to alcohol as an escape from frustration. Being a Cubs fan is enough to drive you to drink. She was driven to drink by the problems she had with her teenage son.
drive someone to the brink Go to next.
drive someone to the edge and drive someone to the brink Fig. to drive someone almost insane; to drive someone close to doing something desperate. Your trouble with the police has driven me to the brink! The next time you are arrested, I will not get you out of jail.
drive someone to the wall Go to force someone to the wall.
drive someone up the wall Fig. to annoy or irritate someone. Stop whistling that tune. You’re driving me up the wall. All his talk about moving to California nearly drove me up the wall.
drive someone up (to some place) to transport someone to a place on a higher level or to a place in the north. Ralph drove Sally up to the cabin. He was going to drive her up last week, but could not.
drive something around something 1. to steer or propel something around something. Wally drove the small car around the post easily. Please drive your truck around the corner carefully. 2. to go in a vehicle through different parts of a place. He drove his new car around town, hoping everyone would see it. We drove the car around the parade route twice so everyone could get a good look at it.
drive something down† (to some place) to transport a vehicle to a place by driving it there. I will drive the car down to the college and leave it there for you. I’ll drive down...
drive something home and drive something home† (to someone) Fig. to emphasize an important point about something (to someone).  
- The teacher repeated the point three times just to drive it home.  
- I hope this really drives the importance of safety home to you.  
- The accident drove home the importance of wearing seatbelts to everyone concerned.

drive something into someone or something to strike someone or something while driving.  
- He drove the truck right into the abutment.  
- She drove the car into the side of the garage.

drive something into something and drive something in†  
1. to steer or guide a vehicle into something.  
- Liz drove the car into the garage.  
- She drove in the car.  
2. to pound or hammer something into something.  
- Using a heavy mallet, he drove the stake into the hard earth.  
- With a mighty hammer blow, she drove in the nail.

drive something into the ground Go to run something into the ground.

drive through (something) to go in a vehicle from one side of something to the other; to pass through something while driving.  
- We drove through some nice little towns on the way here.  
- We didn’t stop. We just drove through.

drive up (to some place) to arrive some place in a vehicle.  
- She drove up to the door and stopped.  
- Sally drove up and honked.

*the driving force (behind someone or something) the person or a thing that motivates or directs someone or something.  
- (Typically: be ~; become ~; serve as ~.)  
- Making money is the driving force behind most businesses.  
- Ambition is the driving force behind Tom.  
- Love can also be the driving force.

drizle down (on someone or something) to rain on someone or something.  
- The light rain drizzled down and soaked us because we had no umbrella.

drone on (about someone or something) to lecture or narrate in a low-pitched, dull, and boring manner.  
- The dull old professor droned on about Byron—or was it Keats?  
- It was Shelley and, yes, he did drone on.

drone something out† to make a loud and low-pitched noise; to say something in a low-pitched and monotonous manner.  
- The announcer droned the winning numbers out.  
- She droned out the winning numbers.

drool (all) over someone or something 1. Lit. to drip saliva on someone or something.  
- You’re drooling all over my plate!  
- The dog drooled all over my hand.  
2. Fig. to envy or desire someone or something.  
- (Alludes to drooling from hunger.)  
- The boys stood there, drooling over the fancy sports car.  
- Wally Wilson spent many hours drooling over photographs of Marilyn.

drop a bomb(shell) and explode a bombshell; drop a brick Fig. to announce shocking or startling news.  
- They really dropped a bombshell when they announced that the mayor would resign.  
- Friday is a good day to drop a bomb like that. It gives the business world the weekend to recover.  
- They must choose their words very carefully when they explode a bombshell like that.  
- They really dropped a brick when they told her the cause of her illness.

drop a brick Go to previous.

drop a bundle (on someone) and blow a bundle (on someone) Inf. to spend a lot of money pleasing or entertaining someone.  
- I blew a bundle on the candidate, and it didn’t help me at all.  
- Over the years, I’ve dropped a bundle on clients at that restaurant.

drop a bundle (on something) Inf. to pay a lot of money for something.  
- I always buy old used cars. I’ve never dropped a bundle on any car.

drop a hint Fig. to give a tiny or careful hint about something.  
- Mary dropped a hint that she wanted a new ring for her birthday.

drop across someone or something [for something long or wide] to fall on and lay on someone or something.  
- A snake dropped across the hood of the tourist bus as it passed under a tree.  
- As I lay sleeping, a ceiling panel dropped across me and woke me up.

drop around (for something) to come for a casual visit that includes something such as tea, dinner, a drink, etc.  
- Drop around for a drink sometime.  
- Yes, please drop around.

drop around (sometime) and drop by (sometime) to come and visit (someone) at some future time.  
(Similar to drop in (on someone).)  
- Nice to see you, Mary. You and Bob must drop around sometime.  
- Please do drop around when you’re out driving.

drop away 1. Lit. to fall off; to fall away.  
- The leaves were still dropping away from the trees in November.  
- The dead branches dropped away from the tree.  
2. Fig. [for a group of people] to decline in number over time through disinterest or attrition.  
- His friends gradually dropped away as the years passed.  
- As the other contenders dropped away, Mary’s chances for election improved.

drop back 1. to fall back to an original position.  
- His arm raised up and then dropped back.  
- The lid dropped back to its original position as soon as we let go of it.  
2. to go slowly and lose one’s position in a march or procession.  
- He dropped back a bit and evened up the spacing in the line of marchers.  
- He got tired and dropped back a little.

drop behind (in something) to fail to keep up with a schedule.  
- I don’t want to drop behind in my work.  
- She is dropping behind and needs someone to help her.

drop behind (someone or something) 1. Lit. to reduce speed and end up after someone or a group, at the back of a moving line.  
- I dropped behind the rest of the people, because I can’t walk that fast.  
- I dropped behind the speeding pack of cars and drove a little slower.  
2. Fig. to fail to keep up with the schedule being followed by someone or a group.  
- My production output dropped behind what it should have been.  
- I stayed later at work to keep from dropping behind.

drop below someone or something to fall to a point lower than someone or something.  
- The gunman dropped below the cowboy’s hiding place and got ready to take a shot.  
- The temperature dropped below the freezing point.

drop by (sometime) Go to drop around (sometime).
drop by the wayside and fall by the wayside 1. Lit. to leave a mark or procession in exhaustion to recover beside the pathway. □ A few of the marchers dropped by the wayside in the intense heat. 2. Fig. to fail to keep up with others. □ Many of the students will drop by the wayside and never finish. □ Those who fall by the wayside will find it hard to catch up.

drop dead 1. to die suddenly. □ I understand that Tom Anderson dropped dead at his desk yesterday. □ No one knows why Uncle Bob suddenly dropped dead. 2. Go away and stop bothering me. (Usually Drop dead!) □ If you think I'm going to put up with your rudeness all afternoon, you can just drop dead! □ Drop dead! I'm not your slave!

drop down 1. [for someone] to fall down or stoop down. □ Suddenly, Ted dropped down, trying not to be seen by someone in a passing car. □ I dropped down as soon as I heard the loud sounds. 2. [for something] to fall from above. □ The tiles on the ceiling dropped down, one by one, over the years. □ The raindrops dropped down and gave the thirsty plants a drink.

drop down (on someone or something) to fall on someone or something. □ The leaves dropped down on the newly mowed lawn. □ The wind blew a mighty gust and a thousand leaves dropped down.

drop everything Fig. to stop doing whatever you are doing. □ Drop everything and go outside. The house is on fire. □ Do you expect me to drop everything and come and pick you up at school?

drop in (on someone) and drop in (to say hello) to pay someone a casual visit, perhaps a surprise visit. □ I hate to drop in on people when they aren't expecting me. □ You're welcome to drop in at any time.

drop in on someone's tracks 1. to collapse from exhaustion. □ I was so tired, I dropped in my tracks. □ Kelly almost dropped in her tracks from overwork. 2. to die instantly. □ Finally, one day, he worked so hard that he dropped in his tracks. □ I know that someday I will just drop in my tracks.


a drop in the bucket and a drop in the ocean Fig. an insignificant contribution toward solving a large problem. □ Jane: We need to stop spending so much. Alan: OK. It'll buy a cheaper brand of toothpaste. Jane: But that's just a drop in the bucket. □ Many companies donated food and medicine to help the survivors of the earthquake, but it was just a drop in the ocean of what was needed.

a drop in the ocean Go to previous.

drop in (to say hello) Go to drop in (on someone).

Drop it! Go to Drop the subject!

drop like flies Fig. to faint, sicken, collapse, or die, in great numbers like houseflies dying in a large group. □ It was a terrible year for the flu. People were dropping like flies.

drop names and drop someone's name to mention a name or the names of important or famous people as if they were personal friends. (See also drop someone's name.) □ Mary always tries to impress people by dropping the name of some big-time executives she claims to know.

□ Bill's such a snob. Leave it to him to drop the names of all the local gentry.

drop off 1. Lit. for a part of something] to break away and fall off. □ The car's bumper just dropped off—honest. □ I lifted boxes until I thought my arms would drop off. 2. Fig. to decline. □ Attendance at the meetings dropped off after Martin became president. □ Spending dropped off as the recession became worse.

drop off (to sleep) Fig. to go to sleep without difficulty; to fall asleep. □ I sat in the warm room for five minutes, and then I dropped off to sleep. □ After I've eaten dinner, I can drop off with no trouble at all.

drop one's drawers to lower one's pant or underpants. □ The boys dropped their drawers and jumped in the creek.

drop one's teeth Fig. to react with great surprise. □ I almost dropped my teeth when she told me her news. □ They dropped their teeth when I told them I was married.

drop out of sight 1. Lit. to fall behind something and be seen no longer. □ The pen dropped out of sight behind the sofa nevermore to be seen. 2. Fig. to disappear from public view; [for someone] to go into hiding. □ The robbers dropped out of sight and the crime was never solved.

drop out of something 1. Lit. to fall out of something. □ One by one, the skydivers dropped out of the plane. □ The marshmallows dropped out of the bag. 2. Lit. or Fig. [for the bottom of something] to break loose and drop. □ The bottom dropped out of the box, spilling everything everywhere. □ The bottom dropped out of the stock market, and we lost a lot of money. 3. Fig. [for someone] to resign from or cease being a member of something; [for someone] to leave school. □ Sally dropped out of school for some unknown reason. □ But why did she drop out?

drop over to come for a casual visit. □ We would love for you to drop over. □ I would really like to drop over soon.

drop someone 1. Sl. to knock someone down; to punch and knock down a person. □ Fred dropped Willie with one punch to the jaw. 2. Fig. to stop being friends with someone, especially with one's boyfriend or girlfriend. □ Bob finally dropped Jane. I don't know what he saw in her. □ I'm surprised that she didn't drop him first.

drop someone a few lines Go to next.

drop someone a line and drop someone a few lines; drop someone a note to write a letter or a note to someone. (The line refers to lines of writing.) □ I dropped Aunt Jane a line last Thanksgiving. □ She usually drops me a few lines around the first of the year. □ Drop me a note when you get a chance.

drop someone or something down1 to let someone or something fall. □ He dropped his pants down, revealing the swimming trunks beneath. □ The rescuer dropped down the baby and the doctor caught it. □ Sam went to the well and dropped a rock down.

drop someone or something from something 1. Lit. to release someone or something from some higher point. □ Galileo proved that two objects of different weights dropped from the same height will reach the ground at the same time. 2. Fig. to exclude someone or something from something. □ We had to drop Sally from our guest list. □ The professor was forced to drop the failing students from the course.
drop someone or something into something and drop someone or something in

drop someone or something into something and drop someone or something in
to let someone or something fall into something. □ He dropped a quarter into the slot and waited for something to happen. □ He dropped in a quarter. □ Johnny Green dropped a cat into a well. □ He went to the well and dropped a coin in.
drop someone or something like a hot potato Fig. to dissociate oneself with someone or something instantly. □ When we learned of the conviction, we dropped him like a hot potato. □ I dropped the idea like a hot potato when the big boss said he didn’t like it.
drop someone or something off

drop someone or something off
Go to drop someone or something off something.
drop someone or something off (some place) 1. Lit. to let someone or a group out of a vehicle at a particular place; to deliver someone or something some place. □ Let’s drop these shirts off at the cleaners. □ Let’s drop off Tom and Jerry at the hamburger joint. 2. Fig. to give someone or a group a ride to some place. □ Can I drop you off somewhere in town? □ I dropped off the kids at the party.
drop someone or something off something and drop someone or something off

drop someone or something off something and drop someone or something off to let someone or something fall from something; to make someone or something fall from something. □ They dropped the feather off the top of the building. □ Jake dropped off a feather and it fell to the ground.
drop someone or something on someone or something to release something so it falls on someone or something. □ Poor Alice dropped an iron on her toe. □ I accidentally dropped the baby on the floor.
drop someone or something out of something and drop someone or something out

drop someone or something out of something and drop someone or something out to let someone or something fall out of something. □ She dropped the paper out of the window. □ Max threatened to drop Lefty out of the open door of the plane. □ I opened the window and dropped out the caterpillar.
drop someone’s name

Go to drop names.
drop something across something to let something fall in such a way that a span is bridged; to let something fall in such a way that a pathway is blocked. □ Let’s drop a little rug across the threshold. □ They dropped a huge boulder across the road so no one could pass.
drop something on someone 1. Lit. to let something fall on someone. □ The bricklayer dropped some mortar on me. 2. Fig. to give someone some bad news. (As if dropping a burden on someone.) □ Sally dropped some really bad news on Walter. □ I’m sorry I had to drop it on you like that.
drop the ball

1. Lit. [in a ball game of some type] to let the ball get away or fall out of one’s grasp. □ Good grief! Bill dropped the ball, just as he was about to score! 2. Fig. to make a blunder; to fail in some way. □ Everything was going fine in the election until my campaign manager dropped the ball. □ You can’t trust John to do the job right. He’s always dropping the ball.
drop the other shoe Fig. to do the deed that completes something; to do the expected remaining part of something. (See also wait for the other shoe to drop.) □ Mr. Franklin has left his wife. Soon he’ll drop the other shoe and divorce her. □ Tommy has just failed three classes in school.

We expect him to drop the other shoe and quit altogether any day now.

Drop the subject! and Drop it! Fig. Do not discuss it further! □ Bill: Sally, you’re gaining a little weight. I thought you were on a diet. Sally: That’s enough! Drop the subject! □ Bill: That house is a mess. I wonder who lives there. Mary: That’s my aunt’s house. Just what did you want to know about it? Bill: Oh, drop it! Sorry I asked.
drop up (some place) to come for a visit to a place that is relatively higher or in the north. □ Drop up and see us sometime. □ Please drop up when you can.
drop-dead gorgeous Sl. very good-looking. □ Perry’s girlfriend is drop-dead gorgeous. How can a twit like him hold onto a looker like that?
drown in something

1. Lit. to be asphyxiated in some liquid. □ Wouldn’t you hate to drown in that nasty, smelly water? □ I am not choosy about what I don’t want to drown in. 2. Fig. to experience an overabundance of something. □ We are just drowning in cabbage this year. Our garden is fall of it. □ They were drowning in bills, not money to pay them with.
drown one’s sorrows

Go to next.
drown one’s troubles and drown one’s sorrows Fig. to try to forget one’s problems by drinking a lot of alcohol. □ Bill is in the bar, drowning his troubles. □ Jane is at home, drowning her sorrows.
drown someone in something Fig. to inundate someone with something. (See also drown in something.) □ I will drown you in money and fine clothes. □ Mike drowned the nightclub singer in fancy jewels and furs.
drown someone or an animal in something to cause someone or an animal to die of asphyxiation in a liquid. □ He accidentally drowned the cat in the bathtub. □ She drowned herself in the lake.
drown someone or an animal out

[for a flood] to drive someone or an animal away from home. □ The high waters almost drowned the farmers out last year. □ The water drowned out the fields.
drown someone or something out

[for a sound] to be so loud that someone or something cannot be heard. □ The noise of the passing train drowned out our conversation. □ The train drowned us out.

A drowning man will clutch at a straw. Prov. When you are desperate, you will look for anything that might help you, even if it cannot help you very much. □ Scott thinks this faith healer will cure his baldness. A drowning man will clutch at a straw.

drop dead gorgeous

drug on the market and a glut on the market something that is on the market in great abundance. □ Right now, small computers are a drug on the market. □ Twenty years ago, small transistor radios were a glut on the market.
drum on something to tap, thump, or beat on something in rhythm. □ Who is drumming on the table? □ Please stop drumming on the wall.
drum someone out

Go to next.
drum someone out of something and drum someone out

Fig. to expel or send someone away from something, especially in a formal or public fashion. □ They drummed Bill
out of the bridge club for having a bad attitude. □ The corps drums out a few cadets each year.

drum something into someone and drum something into someone’s head; drum something in 
□ Fig. to teach someone something intensely. □ Her mother had drummed good manners into her. □ She drummed in good manners day after day.

drum something out 1. to beat a rhythm, loudly and clearly, as if teaching it to someone. □ Drum the rhythm out before you try to sing this song. □ Drum out the rhythm first.

drum something up 1. to obtain something by attracting people’s attention to one’s need or cause. □ I shall try to drum up support for the party. □ You shall have to drum up new business by advertising. □ I need to do something to drum some business up.

drunk and disorderly a criminal charge for public drunkenness accompanied by bad or offensive behavior. □ The judge fined Richard for being drunk and disorderly. □ In addition to being convicted for driving while intoxicated, Richard was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly.

*drunk as a lord and *drunk as a skunk very drunk. (*Also: as ~.) □ After his fifth cocktail, Michael was as drunk as a lord. □ Judy bought herself a case of beer and proceeded to get as drunk as a skunk.

drink as a skunk Go to previous.

dry as a bone Go to next.

*dry as dust and *dry as a bone 1. Cliché very dry. (*Also: as ~.) □ The bread is as dry as dust. □ When the leaves are dry as bone, they break into powder easily. 2. Cliché very dull; very boring. (*Also: as ~.) □ This book is as dry as dust. I am going to stop reading it. □ Her lecture was dry as dust—just like her subject.

dry out 1. Lit. to become dry. □ The clothes finally dried out in the wet weather. □ 2. Fig. to allow alcohol and the effects of drunkenness, especially if habitual, to dissipate from one’s body. □ He required about three days to dry out completely. □ He dried out in three days.

dry run Fig. an attempt; a practice or rehearsal. □ We had better have a dry run for the official ceremony tomorrow. □ The children will need another dry run before their procession in the pageant.

dry someone or something off 1. to remove the moisture from someone or something. □ Please dry your feet off before coming in. □ Dry your feet off before you come in here!

dry someone out 1. Fig. to cause someone to become sober; to cause someone to stop drinking alcohol to excess. □ If the doctor at the clinic can’t dry him out, no one can. □ The hospital will dry out Mary and start treatment.

dry something out 1. to make something become dry. □ Dry this out and put it on immediately. □ Dry out your jacket in the clothes dryer.

dry something up 1. to cause moisture to dry away to nothing. □ Dry this spill up with the hair dryer. □ Will the hair dryer dry up this mess? 2. to cure a skin rash by the use of medicine that dries. □ Let’s use some of this to try to dry that rash up. □ This medicine will dry up your rash in a few days.

dry spell Rur. a period with no rain. □ The dry spell killed the crops. □ We ain’t had such a long dry spell since 1988.

dry up 1. Lit. [for something] to dry away to nothing. □ Finally, the water on the track dried up, and the race was able to continue. □ When will the fields dry up so we can plant? 2. Fig. [for someone] to be quiet or go away. □ Dry up, you jerk! □ I wish you would dry up!

dry-gulch someone to ambush someone. □ The outlaw dry-gulched the traveler and took everything he had. □ The posse planned to dry-gulch the outlaw by waiting outside his favorite saloon.

dub something in 1. to mix a new sound recording into an old one. □ The actor messed up his lines, but they dubbed the correct words in later. □ They dubbed in his lines.

dub something over 1. to record a replacement sound over another sound in a recording. □ They had dubbed over all the dialog in the movie. □ It doesn’t matter if you say a word wrong on the tape. We can dub it over.

duck and cover 1. Lit. to bend down and seek protection against an attack. □ When the gunfire started, we had to duck and cover or get killed. 2. Fig. to dodge something, such as an issue or a difficult question, and attempt to shield oneself against similar issues or questions. □ The candidate’s first reaction to the question was to duck and cover. □ The debaters were ducking and covering throughout the evening.

duck down to stoop down quickly, as if to avoid being hit. □ He ducked down when he heard the gunshot. □ Duck down and get out of the way.

duck out (of some place) Fig. to sneak out of some place. □ She ducked out of the theater during the intermission. □ When no one was looking, she ducked out.

duck out (of something) Fig. to evade something; to escape doing something. □ Are you trying to duck out of your responsibility? □ Fred tried to duck out of going to the dance.

duck soup Fig. very easy; an easy thing to do. □ For Maria, knitting a sweater is duck soup. □ Fill: This jar is stuck. Could you open it for me? Jane: Sure. Duck soup.

dude (oneself) up Sl. to dress in fancy or stylish clothing. □ I have to go duck myself up for the party. □ I’m not going to dude up tonight. □ Why don’t you dude yourself up so we can go out tonight?

duded up Sl. dressed up. □ She got all duded up in her fanciest dancing dress. □ He hates fancy clothes. He didn’t even get duded up for his own wedding.

duke it out Sl. to have a fistfight. □ John told George to meet him in the alley so they could duke it out.

duke someone out Sl. to knock someone out. □ Wilbur tried to duke the guy out first. □ Bob duked out the mugger with a jab to the cheek.

*dull as dishwater and *dull as ditchwater very uninteresting. (*Also: as ~.) □ I’m not surprised that he can’t find a partner. He’s as dull as dishwater. □ Mr. Black’s speech was as dull as dishwater.

dull as dishwater Go to previous.

dummy up Sl. to refuse to talk. □ Jill dummyed up when they got her into the station. □ John dummyed up right away when the police arrived.
dump a load Go to dump one’s load.

dump on someone or something 1. to snow on someone or something. □ Well, it dumped on us again last night. □ The cold front dumped on the northeast again today.

do a dump on someone or something; dump all over someone or something Sl. to criticize someone or something; to destroy someone or something. □ There is no need to do a dump on me. I didn’t wreck your car. □ The boss— mad as a wet hen—dumped all over me.

dump one’s load 1. Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. □ He’s had too much to drink and is dumping his load.

2. and dump a load Sl. to defecate. (Crude. Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ He had to go dump a load. □ He dumped his load and settled back down to work.

dump something on someone Fig. to pour out one’s troubles to someone. □ She dumped all her grief on her friend, Sally. □ I wish you wouldn’t dump all your problems on me.

dumped on 1. snowed on. □ The entire Midwest was dumped on with about ten inches of snow. □ Our town really got dumped on last night.

2. Sl. maligned; abused. □ I really feel dumped on by all the bad reviews in the press. □ The jerk who designed this stupid congested stairway hasn’t been dumped on enough.

dun someone for something to harass someone to pay a bill or deliver something. □ If you don’t pay the bill, they will dun you for it day and night. □ My job is to dun people for payment of their bills.

dunk someone or something into something and dunk someone or something in† to submerge someone or something in something, fully or partially. □ They dunked him into the pool as a way of celebrating. □ Liz pulled the cup of coffee toward herself and dunked in her doughnut. □ She dunked herself into the cold water for just a minute.

dust bunny and a dust kitten; a turkey’s nest Fig. a clump of dust and lint. □ She swept the dust bunnies out from under the bed. □ There’s a huge dust kitten behind the chiffarobe. □ He hasn’t cleaned in weeks. There are turkey’s nests in every corner.

dust kitten Go to previous.

dust someone off† Sl. to punch or beat someone. □ We dusted them off one by one. □ We had to dust off all those big guys.

dust someone or something off† to wipe or brush the dust off someone or something. □ Dust this vase off and put it on the shelf. □ Please dust off this vase.

dust someone’s pants Sl. to spank someone, usually a child. □ My dad will dust my pants if he hears about this. □ I’m too old for somebody to dust my pants.

dust something out† to brush the dust out of something.
□ Dust this cabinet out and put the china back in. □ Please dust out this cabinet.

Dutch auction an auction or sale that starts off with a high asking price that is then reduced until a buyer is found. (Viewed by some as insulting to the Dutch.) □ Dutch auctions are rare—most auctioneers start with a lower price than they hope to obtain. □ My real estate agent advised me to ask a reasonable price for my house rather than get involved with a Dutch auction.

Dutch courage unusual or artificial courage arising from the influence of alcohol. (Viewed by some as insulting to the Dutch.) □ It was Dutch courage that made the football fan attack the policeman. □ It will take a bit of Dutch courage to make an after-dinner speech.

Dutch treat a social occasion where one pays for oneself. (Viewed by some as insulting to the Dutch.) □ “It’s nice of you to ask me out to dinner,” she said, “but could we make it a Dutch treat?” □ The office outing is always a Dutch treat.

Dutch uncle a man who gives frank and direct advice to someone. (In the way an uncle might, but not a real relative.) □ I would not have to lecture you like a Dutch uncle if you were not so extravagant. □ He acts more like a Dutch uncle than a husband. He’s forever telling her what to do in public.

duty bound (to do something) forced by a sense of duty and honor to do something. □ Good evening, madam. I’m duty bound to inform you that we have arrested your husband. □ No one made me say that. I was duty bound.

dwell in an ivory tower Go to in an ivory tower.

dwell (up)on someone or something to remain on the [important] subject of someone or something for a long time. (Up on is formal and less commonly used than on.)

□ I can’t dwell upon this subject anymore. □ There is no need to dwell on Sarah further.

dwell (up)on something to live on something, such as the planet Earth. (Up on is more formal than on.) □ This is the largest turtle that dwells upon the earth. □ Many creatures dwell on this earth.

dwindle away (to something) and dwindle down (to something) to shrink, contract, or diminish to something.

□ The noise dwindled away to nothing.

□ It just dwindled down and was gone.

dwindle down (to something) Go to previous.

dyed-in-the-wool [of someone] permanent or extreme.

□ My uncle was a dyed-in-the-wool farmer. He wouldn’t change for anything. □ Sally is a dyed-in-the-wool socialist.

dying to do something Fig. very eager to do something. □ I’m just dying to go sailing in your new boat. □ After a long hot day like this one, I’m just dying for a cool drink.

dying to know (something) Fig. very eager to know something. □ I’m just dying to know how your weekend went.
eager beaver someone who is very enthusiastic; someone who works very hard. □ New volunteers are always eager beavers. □ The young assistant gets to work very early. She’s a real eager beaver.

eagle eye acute eyesight; an intently watchful eye. (From the sharp eyesight of the eagle.) □ The students wrote their essays under the eagle eye of the headmaster. □ The umpire kept his eagle eye on the tennis match.

*an earful Fig. a great amount of discussion, criticism, gossip, or complaint. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ She was really mad about something, and I sure got an earful. □ Sue was standing around the corner while Jim and Mary were arguing and got an earful.

early bird 1. Fig. a person who gets up early. □ I never miss sunrise. I’m an early bird. □ The early birds were up at dawn and ready for breakfast. 2. Fig. a person who arrives early. □ The early birds get the best seats. □ There were some early birds who arrived before the party was set to start. 3. Fig. having to do with early arrival. (Usually hyphenated.) □ Early-bird arrivals will be given a free cup of coffee. □ The early-bird special this week is a free six-pack of iced tea for the first 100 visitors.

The early bird catches the worm. Prov. If you wake up and get to work early, you will succeed. (Sometimes used to remark that someone is awake and working surprisingly early, as in the first example.) □ Fred: What are you doing in the office at 7:30 a.m.? Jane: The early bird catches the worm. □ I didn’t expect to see you studying at the library at this hour of the morning. The early bird catches the worm, huh?

early on early; at an early stage. □ We recognized the problem early on, but we waited too long to do something about it. □ This doesn’t surprise me. I knew about it early on.

Early ripe, early rotten. and Soon ripe, soon rotten. Prov. A child with extraordinary talent or intelligence will probably lose those qualities by the time he or she grows up. □ Jill: Philip was such a fine young boy; I’m surprised he’s become such a good-for-nothing adult. Jane: Early ripe, early rotten. □ Jane: You must be very proud of your little boy. He seems so mature for his age. Ellen: I’m afraid it won’t last. You know what they say: “Soon ripe, soon rotten.”

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. Prov. Going to bed early and waking up early is good for success. □ Grandmother: I don’t think it’s good for you to be staying out so late, dear. Early to bed and early to rise—Grandson: Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. Yeah, Grandma, I know. □ Host: Don’t leave so soon! The party’s just beginning. Guest: It’s past my bedtime, I’m afraid. Host: Early to bed, early to rise, huh?

earmark something for someone or something Fig. to reserve something for someone or something. □ Tom earmarked the best of the steaks for his special guests. □ I have earmarked this chair for the family room.

earn one’s keep to help out with chores in return for food and a place to live; to earn one’s pay by doing what is expected. □ I earn my keep at college by shoveling snow in the winter. □ Tom hardly earns his keep around here. He should be fired.

earn one’s spurs Fig. to prove oneself. □ After that rodeo, all the cowboys agreed that Sally had earned her spurs. □ He felt that he had earned his spurs when he received his Ph.D.

ease away (from someone or something) to pull away from someone or something slowly and carefully. □ The great ship eased away from the pier. □ The ship eased away slowly.

ease back (on something) to move something back slowly and carefully. (Usually refers to a throttle or some other control on an airplane or other vehicle.) □ Ann eased back on the throttle and slowed down. □ Please ease back on the volume control a little. You will deafen us.

ease off [for something] to diminish. □ The storm began to ease off. □ The storm seems to have eased off a little.

ease off (from someone or something) to move away from someone or something, slowly and carefully. □ Ease off carefully from the deer, so you don’t frighten it. □ Ease off quietly.

ease off (on someone or something) and ease up (on someone or something) to reduce the urgency with which one deals with someone or something; to put less pressure on someone or something. □ Ease off on John. He has been yelled at enough today. □ Yes, please ease off. I can’t stand any more. □ Tell them to ease up on the horses. They are getting tired.

ease (on) out (of something) 1. Lit. to continue moving out of something, slowly and carefully. □ I was able to ease out on the parking space, but only with difficulty. □ I looked both ways and eased on out. 2. Fig. to leave something, such as an office or position, quietly and without much embarrassment. □ The bum finally eased out on offfice without much public notice. □ He eased out while the press was concerned with some other crisis.

ease someone (on) out (of something) 1. Lit. to help someone continue to get out of something. □ We helped her on out of the car. □ With care, we eased her out on. □ After taking a look around, Tom eased himself out of the opening. 2. Fig. to help someone decide to leave something, such as an office or position, quietly and without much embarrassment. □ The scandal eased her on out of office in a way that an election might not have. □ The scandal eased her on out.

ease someone or something along to help someone or something to move along, very carefully. □ Just ease the piano along little by little. □ She eased the shy child along.
ease someone or something down\textsuperscript{1} (from something) to bring someone or something downward from something gently. \(\square\) The rescuers eased the injured hiker down from the mountain. \(\square\) They eased down the hiker carefully.

ease someone out of something and ease someone out\textsuperscript{1} 1. Lit. to get someone out of something carefully. \(\square\) The paramedics eased the injured man out of the wreckage. \(\square\) Please ease out the patient carefully. 2. Fig. to get someone out of an office or position quietly and without much embarrassment. \(\square\) We eased the sheriff out of office without a fight. \(\square\) The board eased out the chairman by offering him a huge bonus.

ease up (on someone or something) Go to ease off (on someone or something).

easier said than done Cliché said of a task that is easier to talk about than to do. \(\square\) Yes, we must find a cure for cancer, but it’s easier said than done. \(\square\) Finding a good job is easier said than done.

East is East and West is West (and never the twain shall meet). Prov. Two things are so different that they can never come together or agree. (From Rudyard Kipling’s poem, “The Ballad of East and West.”) \(\square\) I had hoped that Andrew and I could be friends in spite of our yard Kipling’s poem, “The Ballad of East and West.”) \(\square\) that they can never come together or agree. (From Rudyard Kipling’s poem, “The Ballad of East and West.”)

East, west, home’s best. and East or west, home is best. Prov. Home is the best place to be no matter where it is. \(\square\) You may think that traveling all the time is fun, but eventually you’ll discover that east or west, home is best.

*easy as A, B, C and *easy as falling off a log; *easy as rolling off a log; *easy as (apple) pie; *easy as duck soup very easy. (*Also: as \(~\) \(\sim\) \) \(\square\) If you use a cake mix, baking a cake is easy as A, B, C. \(\square\) Mountain climbing is as easy as pie. \(\square\) Finding your way to the shopping center is easy as duck soup. \(\square\) Getting out of jail was easy as rolling off a log.

easy as (apple) pie Go to previous.

easy as duck soup Go to easy as A, B, C.

easy as falling off a log Go to easy as A, B, C.

easy as rolling off a log Go to easy as A, B, C.

easy as shooting fish in a barrel Go to like shooting fish in a barrel.

easy come, easy go Cliché said to explain the loss of something that required only a small amount of effort to acquire in the first place. \(\square\) Ann found twenty dollars in the morning and spent it foolishly at noon. “Easy come, easy go,” she said. \(\square\) John spends his money as fast as he can earn it. With John it’s easy come, easy go.

Easy does it. 1. Move slowly and carefully. \(\square\) Bill (holding one end of a large crate): It’s really tight in this doorway. Bob (holding the other end): Easy does it. Take your time. \(\square\) Nurse (holding Sue’s arm): Easy does it. These first few steps are the hardest. Sue: I didn’t know I was so weak. 2. Calm down.; Don’t lose your temper. \(\square\) John: I’m so mad I could scream. Bob: Easy does it, John. No need to get so worked up. \(\square\) Sue (frantic): Where is my camera? My passport is gone too! Fred: Easy does it, Sue. I think you have someone else’s purse.

easy money Go to soft money.

easy pickings [of things] easy to get or steal; [of people] easy to get or persuade. \(\square\) The pickpockets found lots of easy pickings at the state fair.

Easy, there! Calm down! \(\square\) “Easy, there!” said Arizona Slim, putting his horse’s neck. \(\square\) Easy, there! Before you start yellin’, tell me what you’re yellin’ about.

easy to come by easily found; easily purchased; readily available. \(\square\) Please be careful with that phonograph record. It was not easy to come by. \(\square\) A good dictionary is very easy to come by.

eat (a meal) out and dine out to eat a meal at a restaurant. \(\square\) I like to eat a meal out every now and then. \(\square\) Yes, it’s good to eat out and try different kinds of food. \(\square\) It costs a lot of money to dine out often.

eat an animal up\textsuperscript{1} Go to eat something up\textsuperscript{1}.

eat and run Fig. to eat a meal or a snack quickly and then leave. \(\square\) Well, I hate to eat and run but I have to take care of some errands. \(\square\) I don’t invite John to dinner anymore because he always has some excuse to eat and run.

eat (away) at someone Fig. [for a problem] to trouble someone constantly. \(\square\) The nasty situation at work began to eat away at me. \(\square\) Nagging worries ate at me day and night.

eat (away) at something Fig. to erode something. \(\square\) The acid ate away at the metal floor. \(\square\) Fingers have a mild acid that eats at the metal of the door handle.

eat crow 1. Fig. to display total humility, especially when shown to be wrong. \(\square\) Well, it looks like I was wrong, and I’m going to have to eat crow. \(\square\) I’ll be eating crow if I’m not shown to be right. 2. Fig. to be shamed; to admit that one was wrong. \(\square\) When it became clear that they had arrested the wrong person, the police had to eat crow. \(\square\) Mary talked to Joe as if he was an uneducated idiot, till she found out he was a college professor. That made her eat crow.

Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die. Prov. Enjoy yourself whenever you can, because you may die soon. (“Eat, drink, and be merry” by itself is simply a way of encouraging people to enjoy themselves.) \(\square\) Fred: No cake for me, thank you. I’m on a diet. Jane: But, Fred, this is a birthday party. Eat, drink, and be merry. \(\square\) Natasha encouraged all her guests to eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.

eat high on the hog Go to live high off the hog.

eat humble pie to act very humble when one is shown to be wrong. \(\square\) I think I’m right, but if I’m wrong, I’ll eat humble pie. \(\square\) You think you’re so smart. I hope you have to eat humble pie.

eat in to eat a meal at home. \(\square\) I really don’t want to eat in tonight. \(\square\) Let’s eat in. I’m tired.

eat in(to something) to erode into something; to etch something. \(\square\) The acidic water ate into the rocks on the shore. \(\square\) The acid ate in and weakened the structure.

eat like a bird Fig. to eat only small amounts of food; to peck at one’s food. \(\square\) Jane is very slim because she eats like a bird. \(\square\) Bill is trying to lose weight by eating like a bird.

eat like a horse Fig. to eat large amounts of food. \(\square\) No wonder he’s so fat. He eats like a horse. \(\square\) John works like a horse and eats like a horse, so he never gets fat.
Eat my shorts! Sl. Leave me alone!; Nonsense!; Drop dead! \(\square\) You're nuts! Eat my shorts! \(\square\) You think I'm going to clean up after you? Eat my shorts!

eat one's cake and have it too Go to have one's cake and eat it too.

eat one's fill to eat as much as one can hold; to eat as much as one wants. \(\square\) Please eat your fill. There's plenty for everyone.

eat one's hat Fig. a phrase telling the kind of thing that one would do if a very unlikely event really happens. \(\square\) If we get there on time, I'll eat my hat. \(\square\) I'll eat my hat if you get a raise. \(\square\) He said he'd eat his hat if she got elected.

eat one's heart out 1. Fig. to grieve; to be sorrowful. (Fixed order.) \(\square\) She has been eating her heart out over that jerk ever since he ran away with Sally. \(\square\) Don't eat your heart out. You really didn't like him that much, did you? 2. Fig. to suffer from envy or jealousy. (Usually a command.) \(\square\) Yeah, the reward money is all mine. Eat your heart out! \(\square\) Eat your heart out! I won it fair and square.

eat one's words Fig. to have to take back one's statements; to confess that one's predictions were wrong. \(\square\) You shouldn't say that to me. I'll make you eat your words. \(\square\) John was wrong about the election and had to eat his words.

eat out to eat a meal away from home, as at a restaurant. \(\square\) I just love to eat out every now and then. Let's eat out tonight. I'm tired.

eat out of someone's hand Fig. to do exactly as someone says; to grovel to someone. \(\square\) I've got her eating out of my hand. She'll do anything I ask. \(\square\) He will be eating out of your hand before you are finished with him.

eat someone out 1. Go to chew someone out.

eat someone out of house and home Fig. to eat everything that someone has in the house. \(\square\) That huge dog is eating us out of house and home. \(\square\) The entire football team came over and ate poor Sally out of house and home.

eat someone's lunch Sl. to best someone; to defeat, outwit, or win against someone. (Like a school bully taking away children's lunches and eating them.) \(\square\) The upstart ABC Computer Company is eating IBM's lunch.

eat someone's salt Rur. to be someone's guest. \(\square\) The least you can do when you're eating someone's salt is to help them out around the house. \(\square\) That good-for-nothing Jim was flirting with Bill's wife at the same time he was eating Bill's salt.

eat someone up 1. Lit. to consume the flesh of someone. \(\square\) The big bad wolf said he was going to eat you up! \(\square\) The bear ate up the fish. 2. Fig. [for an idea] to consume a person. \(\square\) The whole idea of visiting Australia was just eating her up. \(\square\) The obsession to own a car was eating up my brother and his friends. 3. Fig. [for insects] to bite a person all over. \(\square\) These mosquitoes are just eating me up! \(\square\) The bugs literally ate up all the hikers. 4. Fig. [for someone] to overwhelm and devastate someone. \(\square\) The guy is a devil! He just eats up people! \(\square\) Fred will just eat you up. He is a vicious administrator.

eat something away to erode something; to consume something bit by bit. \(\square\) The acid ate the finish away. \(\square\) It ate away the finish.

eat something off Go to next.

eat something off (of) something and eat something off to erode something off a larger part. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) \(\square\) The acidic rain ate the finish off the steeple. \(\square\) The acid ate off the finish.

eat something out 1. to eat some kind of meal or a particular food away from home, as at a restaurant. \(\square\) We eat fish out, but we don't cook it at home. \(\square\) We may eat out a meal or two, but certainly not every meal. 2. [for something or an animal] to consume the inside of something. \(\square\) The ants ate the inside of the pumpkin out. \(\square\) The ants ate out the pumpkin.

eat (something) out of something to eat food directly from a container, such as a bag, box, can, etc. \(\square\) You shouldn't eat out of the can. \(\square\) Maria was eating potato chips right out of the bag.

eat something up 1. and eat an animal up Lit. to devour all of some food or an animal. \(\square\) They ate the turkey up, and no one had to eat leftovers. \(\square\) The lion ate up the zebra very quickly. 2. Fig. to consume something rapidly, such as money. \(\square\) Running this household eats my income up. \(\square\) The car really eats up gas. 3. Fig. to believe something. \(\square\) Those people really eat that stuff up about tax reduction. \(\square\) They'll eat up almost anything you tell them. 4. Fig. to appreciate something. \(\square\) The audience liked my singing; they really ate it up. \(\square\) The stuff about the federal budget went over well. They really ate up the whole story.

eat through (something) to erode all the way through something. \(\square\) The acid ate through the countertop and ruined everything in the drawers below. \(\square\) The vinegar ate through the top of the pickle jar.

Eat to live, not live to eat. Prov. Do not be gluttonous; Eating should not be your favorite activity, but something you do to maintain your health. \(\square\) “Eat to live, not live to eat,” was the doctor's advice to Gene, who was dangerously overweight.

Eat up! to eat everything; to eat eagerly. (Usually a command to begin eating. Compare this with Drink up!.) \(\square\) Come on, let's eat up and get going. \(\square\) Eat up, you guys, and get back to work!

eat(en) up with something Fig. consumed with something, such as jealousy. \(\square\) Jed was so eaten up with hatred that he couldn't see straight. \(\square\) Effie was eaten up with jealousy.

eavesdrop on someone to listen in on people having a private conversation. \(\square\) I saw her eavesdropping on them. \(\square\) Please don't eavesdrop on me.

eavesdrop on something to listen in on a private conversation. \(\square\) She was eavesdropping on their conversation. \(\square\) Maria was eavesdropping on the telephone call.

Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves. Prov. If you eavesdrop on people who are talking about you, chances are that you will hear them say unfavorable things about you. (This implies that you should not eavesdrop.) \(\square\) Child: Mommy, I heard Suzy and Lisa talking about me, and they said I was a crybaby! Mother: That just goes to show you, dear, that eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves. \(\square\) I knew that Mother and Dad had gone into the other room to discuss my situation, and I was tempted to put my ear to the door and
listen to them, but I remembered that listeners never hear any good of themselves.

**ebb and flow** to decrease and then increase, as with tides; a decrease followed by an increase, as with tides. □ The fortunes of the major political parties tend to ebb and flow over time. □ The ebb and flow of democracy through history is a fascinating subject.

**ebb away** to recede; to subside; to flow back. □ His life ebbed away little by little. □ As the sunlight ebbed away, the sky took on a grayish color.

**echo back to something** [for something] to recall something similar in the past. □ This idea echoes back to the end of the last century, when people thought this way.

**echo with something** 1. Lit. [for a large space] to resound with the echoing sounds of a loud noise. □ The cathedral echoed with the sounds of the organ. □ The valley echoed with the sound of horses’ hooves. 2. Fig. [for something] to have reminders of something. (Literary and very limited.) □ My thoughts echoed with the sounds of spring. □ The room echoed with happier days.

**economical with the truth** Euph. untruthful. □ The mayor was known to be economical with the truth. □ I discovered that my boss had been economical with the truth when she said that the company was making money.

**economize on something** to save money by cutting the cost of something. □ We will have to economize on our food budget. □ We can only economize on a few things.

**edge away (from someone or something)** to move cautiously away from someone or something. □ We edged away from the dirty man in the ragged clothes. □ As others saw the gun, they edged away.

**edge by (someone or something)** to move carefully past someone or something. □ Try to edge by the portly gentleman carefully. He is very grumpy about being bumped. □ Edge by as carefully as you can.

the **edge on someone** Go to the advantage of someone.

**edge (one’s way) across (something)** to make one’s way across something carefully. □ The hikers edged their way across the narrow ledge. □ Now, edge your way across and don’t look down.

**edge (one’s way) around something** to make one’s way around something carefully. □ I edged my way around the table, trying not to disturb anyone. □ Sam edged around the perimeter of the room.

the **edge over someone** Go to the advantage of someone.

**edge someone out of something** to pressure someone gradually to leave something; to put gradual pressure on someone to retire from a job. □ We grasped the child’s hand and edged her out of the stable without frightening the horses. □ The board tried to edge him out of the job by limiting his staff and budget.

**edge something out** Go to next.

**edge something out of something** and **edge something out** to move something out of something very carefully, bit by bit. □ Sam edged the control rod out of the reactor, using the remote control device. □ Mary edged the car out of the parking place. □ Carefully, she edged out the car.

**edge something with something** to put an edging or border of something onto something. □ The tailor edged the hem with lace, making the skirt appear longer. □ The hem was edged with lace.

**edit something out of something** and **edit something out** to strike out words or sentences from something that is going to be published; to cut out textual material in the editing process. □ She edited the foul language out of the essay. □ Frank edited out the misspelled words.

**educate someone for something** to train someone for something or to do something. □ I wasn’t educated for doing this kind of thing. □ He had spent many years educating himself for just this kind of job.

**educate someone in something** to train someone about something; to school someone in something. □ Her parents educated her in the ways of the old country. □ She had educated herself in the ways of big business.

**egg someone on** to encourage, urge, or dare someone to continue doing something, usually something unwise. □ John wouldn’t have done the dangerous experiment if his brother hadn’t egged him on. □ The two boys kept throwing stones because the other children were egging them on.

**eighty-six something** Sl. to throw something away. □ Let’s eighty-six this stew and go out and get some decent pizza.

**(either) feast or famine** Fig. either too much (of something) or not enough (of something). (*Typically: be ~; have ~.) □ This month is very dry, and last month it rained almost every day. Our weather is either feast or famine. □ Sometimes we are busy, and sometimes we have nothing to do. It’s feast or famine.

**eject someone from some place** to use force to make someone leave a place; to throw someone out of some place. □ The management ejected Sam from the theater. □ He was ejected from the theater.

**ekte something out** to extend something; to add to something. □ He worked at two jobs in order to eke his income out. □ He managed to eke out a living.

**elaborate on someone or something** to give additional details about someone or something. □ Would you care to elaborate on that? □ I want to know more about Kelly. Could you elaborate on her?

**elbow grease** Fig. hard scrubbing. □ Tom: What did you use to get your car so shiny? Mary: Just regular wax and some elbow grease. □ Joe put a lot of elbow grease into cleaning the kitchen.

**elbow (one’s way) through (something)** to push or drive oneself through something, such as a crowd, perhaps using one’s elbows or arms to move people out of the way. □ She elbowed her way through the crowd. □ They elbowed through the people gathered at the door.

**elbow someone aside** to push someone aside with one’s elbow or arm. □ She elbowed the other woman aside and there was almost a fight. □ The rude woman elbowed aside all the other people.

**elbow someone out of something** and **elbow someone out** Fig. to force or pressure someone out of something, such as an office, post, or status. □ The board managed to elbow out the old head of the company. □ They tried to elbow me out, but I held on to what was mine.
elect someone (as) something to select someone to be something by ballot. □ We elected her as our representative. □ She was elected as our president.

elect someone to something to select someone to be a member of something by ballot; to select someone to be an officer in something by ballot. □ We elected you to office, so do your job. □ Tom was elected to the congress.

an elegant sufficiency Go to a gracious plenty.

elevate someone or something to something to raise the status of someone to something; to promote someone to something higher, such as a job, a better status, etc. □ The success elevated her to a new rank and higher pay. □ The boss's attention elevated the policy question to the highest priority. □ She sought to elevate herself to some sort of social goddess.

eleventh-hour decision Fig. a decision made very late in a process, or at the last possible moment. □ Eleventh-hour decisions are seldom satisfactory. □ The president's eleventh-hour decision was made in a great hurry, but it turned out to be correct.

elicit something from someone to obtain information from someone. □ I hoped to elicit a statement from the mayor, but I could not reach her. □ Larry was not able to elicit anything new from Jane.

eliminate someone or something from something to remove someone or something from something. □ We had to eliminate Jeff from the list. □ The cook eliminated veal from the menu. □ She sought to eliminate herself from consideration.

elope with someone to sneak away with someone and get married without much ceremony. □ Sally eloped with Tom, and everyone was surprised. □ I don't want to elope with Juan. I want a church wedding.

emanate from someone or something to arise from or come out of someone or something. □ A strange smell emanated from the basement. □ Some kind of eerie light emanated from the eyes of the statue.

emancipate someone from someone or something to free someone from someone or something. □ The president emancipated the slaves from their bondage. □ The planter emancipated Fred from slavery long before the law was written.

embezzle something from someone or something to steal something from someone or a group. □ They caught her embezzling funds from the bank. □ Jerry's business partner embezzled a large sum from their checking account.

emblazon something with something 1. Lit. to ornament something with something. □ He emblazoned the painting with too many little decorations. □ The room has been emblazoned with too many baroque sconces. 2. Fig. to add to a story with detail. □ The storyteller emblazoned the tale with the names of people in the audience. □ I always try to emblazon my tales with a little local color. 3. Fig. to add untrue things to a story. □ He tends to emblazon the truth with a few imaginative details. □ There is no need to emblazon this story with anything untrue.

embrace (from something) (into something) to embrace something with something. □ They embraced their legs in the muddy river bottom. □ Laura embraced sequins in the candles and turned them into clever gifts.

emblazon something in something to insert someone or something in something. □ The team of oxen emblazoned their legs in the muddy river bottom. □ Laura emblazoned sequins in the candles and turned them into clever gifts.

embody something in something to stick something into something. □ The mugger only embedded his knife in the cloth of the victim's coat. □ A ring was embedded in the bread dough by accident.

embody something with something to add something to something. □ The workers emblazoned the wall with pictures of past triumphs. □ His shield was emblazoned with the family crest.

emblazon something with something to add something with something. □ They emblazoned their coat of arms with the names of people in the audience. □ They emblazoned the wall with pictures of past triumphs. □ His shield was emblazoned with the family crest.

embody something in something to actualize something in something; to make something represent something else in actuality. □ I tried to embody both good and evil in my painting. □ A strong sense of morality is embodied in her writing.

emboss something with something to add something with something. □ The workers emblazoned the wall with pictures of past triumphs. □ His shield was emblazoned with the family crest.

embroil someone in something Fig. to entangle someone in something; to get someone involved in something. □ Please do not embroil me in your squabbles. □ I wish I could keep from embroiling myself in this kind of mess.

emerge (from something) (as something) to come out of something as something. □ The caterpillar would emerge as a butterfly in a short time. □ A new man emerged from prison.

emigrate (from some place) (to some place) to move away from a foreign land to a new land. □ My family emigrated from England to this country over two centuries ago. □ They emigrated to this country from England.

emit something (from something) (into something) to discharge something from something into something else. □ The snake emitted poison from its fangs into the cup the man held. □ It emitted venom into the cup from its fangs.
empathize with someone or something to have an understanding about the way someone feels; to feel emotional pain with someone.

I can really empathize with what you must be going through. I’ve been through the same thing. I empathize with people who have the same family problems that I have.

employ someone as something to pay someone to work in some capacity. I employed Fred as a personal secretary for about three months. Can you employ me as a stock clerk?

employ someone for something to hire someone for a particular purpose. I employ Tom in machine maintenance. Laura is employed in accounting.

empower someone to do something to authorize someone to do something; to grant someone the power to do something. I will empower you to collect the dues of the members. The prime minister empowered a special office to oversee tax collection.

emptier than a banker’s heart Rur. completely empty. My wallet was emptier than a banker’s heart. His pockets were emptier than a banker’s heart.

empty into something [for a river, stream, or man-made conduit] to pour its contents into something. The Amazon River empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The drainage pipe empties into the river.

An empty sack cannot stand upright. Prov. A poor or hungry person cannot function properly. Sit down and have something to eat before you go back to work. An empty sack can’t stand upright.

empty something out 1 to cause someone to empty the bowels, stomach, or bladder. This stuff could empty out an army! He fasted for two days to empty himself out.

empty something into something and empty something in 1 to pour something into something else. Now, empty the can of soup into the pan. Open the can and empty it in the contents.

empty something out 1 to remove or pour all of the contents from something. Please empty this drawer out and clean it. She emptied out the aquarium and cleaned it well.

Empty vessels make the most sound. Prov. Foolish people make the most noise. I suspect Amy is not very smart. She chatters constantly, and as they say, empty vessels make the most sound.

enable someone to do something to make it possible for someone to do something. This money will enable me to open my own business. My uncle enabled me to open my own candy shop.

*enamored of someone or something to feel love for someone or something. (Often an exaggeration. *Typically: be ~; become ~.) She is hopelessly enamored of Tom. Tom is enamored of chocolate ice cream.

encase someone or something in something to contain someone or something in something. We encased her broken leg in a splint and raced to the hospital. Sammy encased the butterfly in a glass display box.

enchant someone with something 1. Lit. to bewitch someone or something with a magic spell. The children were enchanted with a spell that made them forget. Fig. to fascinate someone with some object. She enchanted the children with the little drawings she made of them. We were enchanted with her drawings.

enclose someone or something (with)in something to contain someone, something, or some space inside of something. The police enclosed the people in a safe area while the accident was being cleaned up. The farmer enclosed the pig within a new pen.

encumber someone or something (with)in something to surround or include someone or something within the domain or span of something. We encompassed the group within our administrative area. They could not encompass our neighborhood in the new school district.

encourage someone in something to give support to someone about something in particular. We want to encourage her in her musical career. Ted encouraged me in my efforts to become a baseball player.

encourage someone to do something to inspire or stimulate someone to do something; to give someone the courage to do something. We encouraged her to develop her musical talents. He encouraged himself to study hard so he could make it into medical school.

encroach (up)on someone or something to infringe or trespass on someone or something; to move into the space belonging to someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) I did not mean to encroach upon your property. I need lots of space. Don’t encroach on me.

encumber someone or something with someone or something to burden someone or something with someone or something. Please do not try to encumber me with your debts. She encumbered the marriage with a number of children from a previous marriage. She encumbered herself with the weight of both children and her purse.

*an end in itself existing for its own sake; existing for no clear purpose. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) For Bob, art is an end in itself. He doesn’t hope to make any money from it. Learning is an end in itself. Knowledge does not have to have a practical application.

end in something [for something, such as a play, film, opera, etc.] to end in a particular way. The opera ended in a lengthy duet before the death of the heroine. The party ended in a champagne toast.

end it (all) Euph. to kill oneself. He had been depressed for months. He decided to end it all. I’m no good to anybody. I’m going to end it. Don’t try to talk me out of it.

The end justifies the means. Prov. You can use bad or immoral methods as long as you accomplish something good by using them. (Not everyone agrees with this idea.) Lucy got money for the orphanage by embezzling it from the firm where she worked. “The end justifies the means,” she told herself. The politician clearly believed that the end justifies the means, since he used all kinds of nefarious means to get elected.
End of story. Inf. That completes the story, and I will say no more. □ I did it because I wanted to. End of story.

the end of the ball game Fig. the end of some process; the end of life. □ Well, the car broke down. I guess that’s the end of the ball game. □ It looked like the end of the ball game as we sped too fast around the curve.

the end of the line Go to next.

the end of the road and the end of the line 1. Lit. the place where the road stops; the end of the route, such as a bus, train, or subway route. □ Our house is at the end of the road. □ We drove to the end of the road and began our hike into the mountains. 2. Fig. the end of the whole process. □ When we reach the end of the road on this project, we’ll get paid. □ You’ve come to the end of the line. I’ll not lend you another penny. □ When I reach the end of the road, I wish to be buried in a quiet place, near some trees. □ She was nearly ninety when she came to the end of the line.

end something up† to terminate something; to bring something to an end. □ He ended his vacation up by going to the beach. □ She ended up her speech with a poem.

end up to come to an end. □ When will all this end up? □ I think that the party will have to end up about midnight.

end up (as) (something) to become something at the end of everything. □ I always knew I would end up as a doctor. □ If I don’t get a job, I will end up a beggar.

end up at something to be at something or some place at the end. □ The plane ended up at Denver airport because of a storm in Colorado Springs. □ We ended up at home for the evening because the car broke down.

end up (by) doing something and wind up (by) doing something 1. to conclude something by doing something. □ We ended up by going back to my house. □ They danced until midnight and wound up by having pizza in the front room. 2. to end by doing something [anyway]. □ I wound up by going home early.

end up in the poorhouse Go to in the poorhouse.

end up (somehow) to end something at a particular place, in a particular state, or by having to do something. □ I ended up having to pay for everyone’s dinner. □ After paying for dinner, I ended up broke. □ We all ended up at my house. □ After playing in the rain, we all ended up with colds.

end up (somewhere) and wind up (somewhere) to finish at a certain place. □ If you don’t get straightened out, you’ll end up in jail. □ I fell and hurt myself, and I wound up in the hospital.

end up with all the marbles Go to all the marbles.

end up with someone or something to finish with the possession of someone or something or in the company of someone or something. □ Careful or you will end up with Johnny for the weekend. □ Do you want to end up with the bill? □ I thought my date was with Sally, but I ended up with her twin sister.

end up with the short end of the stick Go to the short end of the stick.

end with something to make something the final element, just before the end. □ We will end with the singing of the school song. □ The concert ended with a vigorous march.

endear someone to someone or something to cause someone to be cherished by someone else or a group. □ Her good humor endears her to all of us. □ Sally endears herself to everyone because she is so funny. □ She failed to endear herself to her husband’s parents.

endeavor to do something to try to do something. □ Whenever I endeavor to console her, she breaks down again.

endorse someone or something with something 1. to give something to someone or something. □ We endorsed her with the courage she needed to do the job. □ Gerald endowed the proceedings with a distinctive atmosphere. 2. to provide someone or something with a large sum of money that will provide income. □ I will endow my alma mater with some of my fortune. □ The family endowed a chair in the humanities at the university.

enfold someone in something to wrap or contain someone in something. □ He enfolded the tiny baby in a soft blanket. □ Sarah enfolded herself in the silk sheets and giggled with glee.

enforce something on someone to make a law effective with regard to someone. □ I can’t enforce this on her if I don’t enforce it on you. □ This law can’t be enforced on anyone.

engage in small talk to talk only about minor matters rather than important matters or personal matters. □ All the people at the party were engaging in small talk. □ They chatted about the weather and otherwise engaged in small talk.

engage someone as something to hire someone to serve as something. □ Yes, I engaged her as a secretary just last month. □ Will you engage me as a general troubleshooter?

engage someone or something in something 1. to make someone or a group busy doing something. □ She knew how to engage the boys in useful activity. □ The den mother engaged the scouts in a woodworking project. 2. to draw someone or something into something. □ The enemy sought to engage our troops in battle but failed. □ I tried to engage Gerald in conversation.

engage someone to someone to betroth someone to someone. □ Her parents engaged her to the man she ended up marrying. □ She engaged herself to some guy she met at a singles bar.

engorge (itself) on someone or something and engorge (itself) with something [for an animal] to drink its fill of blood. □ The vampire bat engorged itself on a number of creatures last night. □ Mosquitoes engorge on human victims. □ The mosquitoes engorged themselves with my blood all night long.

engorge (itself) with something Go to previous.

engrave something into something to cut symbols into something. □ She engraves a lovely design into the soap that she puts out for guests. □ Todd engraved his initials into the bark of the tree.

engrave something on(to) something to cut symbols into the surface of something. □ She engraved her initials onto the side of the tree. □ Ted engraved her name on the bracelet.

engrave something (up) on something 1. Lit. to cut letters or a design into the surface of something; to engrave something on(to) something. □ Todd engraved his initials
enlist someone in something to recruit someone into something; to recruit someone into the armed services. □ They tried to enlist me in the army, but I decided against it. □ David enlisted his brother in an organization that gave assistance to peasants in South America.

enmesh someone or something in something 1. Lit. to entangle someone or a group in something. □ Don’t enmesh yourself in these ropes and chains. □ I didn’t mean to enmesh you in this net. I should have kept it out of the way. □ Jane enmeshed herself in the net that had been set out to dry. 2. Fig. to get someone or a group involved in some problem. □ They enmeshed us in their problems even though we tried to avoid it. □ We enmeshed the entire committee in the lawsuit. □ Why do I always enmesh myself in someone else’s business?

enough and some to spare Fig. plenty. □ Would you like some more pie? We’ve got enough and some to spare. □ Mary: Can I borrow a cup of milk? Tom: Don’t worry about borrowing. Take it. I have enough and some to spare.

enough as good as a feast. Prov. You do not need more than enough of anything. □ We don’t have much of a surplus of food for dinner tonight, but enough is as good as a feast. □ Jane: I wish I could offer you more lavish hospitality. Jane: Don’t be silly. Enough is as good as a feast.

enough is enough. Prov. That is enough, and there should be no more.; Stop! □ Stop asking for money! Enough is enough! □ I’ve heard all the complaining from you that I can take. Enough is enough!

enough something to plague a saint and something is enough to plague a saint Rur. enough of something to annoy even a patient person. □ That little boy has enough curiosity to plague a saint! □ Sally’s a well-meaning woman, but her endless gossiping is enough to plague a saint.

enough (something) to go (a)round enough to serve a need; enough to serve all who have a need. □ There’s not enough coffee to go around. □ Will there be enough chocolates to go around?

enough to keep body and soul together Fig. very little; only enough to survive. (Usually refers to money.) □ When he worked for the library, Marshall only made enough to keep body and soul together. □ Maria’s savings were just enough to keep body and soul together while she looked for another job.

enrich someone or something with something to improve or enhance someone or something with something. □ You might want to enrich this soup with a little milk or cream. □ The teacher enriched her students with field trips and films.

enroll (someone) for something to sign someone up for something; to allow someone to join something. □ I intend to enroll myself for physics next year. □ Todd enrolled himself for a refresher course in algebra.

enroll (someone) in something to sign someone up to be in something. □ They enrolled me in calculus against my wishes. □ I want to enroll myself in the history class offered at the latest hour.

ensconce oneself in something Fig. to establish oneself in something; to settle oneself into something; to place oneself firmly into something. □ He ensconced himself in the...
most comfortable chair.  □ Sally enshrouded herself in the huge throne and pretended she was a queen.

enshrine someone in one’s heart and enshrine someone’s memory in one’s heart Fig. to keep the memory of someone in a special place in one’s heart or mind.  □ Bob enshrined Jill’s memory in his heart.

enshrine someone’s memory in one’s heart Go to previous.

enshrine something in something to honor someone or something by placement in a shrine.  □ Bill enshrined his grandfather’s watch in a glass dome.

ensnare someone or something in something 1. Lit. to capture someone or something in something.  □ Dave ensnared the rabbit in his trap.  □ Henry ensnared himself in the trap they had laid for deer. 2. Fig. to catch or “trap” someone in an act or pattern of deception.  □ She sought to ensnare him in his own framework of lies.  □ He ensnared himself in his many lies.

ensue from something to result from someone or something.  □ What ensued from the change in policy was not anticipated at all.  □ A very serious problem ensued from the events of the day.

entangle someone or something in something 1. and entangle an animal in something Lit. to catch or tangle up someone, a group, or an animal in something.  □ Careful! Don’t entangle your foot in the anchor chain.  □ Someone entangled the dog in the fishing net. 2. Fig. to get someone or a group involved in something.  □ She was trying to entangle us in her latest cause.  □ They entangled us in their lawsuit.

entangle someone or something with something to get someone or something tangled up with something.  □ He sought to entangle the pursuuing muggler with a mass of ropes and boards.  □ Sam entangled the rabid dog with a net and got away.  □ He entangled himself with the ropes on the deck.

enter in something to enroll as a participant in something, such as a contest, competition, etc.  □ She was not ready to enter in the competition.  □ I can’t enter in that contest. I’m not prepared.

enter into something 1. Lit. to get into something.  □ She entered into the house and immediately went to work.  □ As the people entered into the cathedral, they became quiet. 2. Fig. to join in something; to participate in something.  □ I couldn’t get him to enter into the spirit of the party.  □ She just loves to enter into things and have a good time with people.

enter one’s mind Fig. [for an idea or memory] to come into one’s consciousness; to be thought of.  □ Leave you behind? The thought never even entered my mind.  □ A very interesting idea just entered my mind. What if I ran for Congress?

enter someone or something in(to) something to enroll someone or something in something; to make someone or something a competitor in something.  □ I will enter you into the contest whether you like it or not.  □ The trainer entered his fastest horse in the race.

enter (something) by something and enter (something) through something to enter something or some place by way of a certain entrance.  □ We entered the building by the west door.  □ You should enter through the revolving door only.

enter the fray Go to join the fray.

enter the lists Fig. to begin to take part in a contest or argument.  □ He had decided not to stand for Parliament, but entered the lists at the last minute.  □ The family disagreement had almost been resolved when the grandfather entered the lists.

enter (upon) something 1. to come in at a particular point as marked by something.  □ We entered the theater upon the most delicate point of the story.  □ We entered on the tail end of a live scene. 2. to begin something.  □ Todd entered upon a new phase of his life.  □ He entered on the management of a new project.

entertain someone with something to provide something for amusement or refreshment to someone.  □ Will you try to entertain the children with a game or two, please?  □ She entertained herself with the puzzle.

enthral someone with something to charm or captivate someone with something.  □ They enthralled us with the beauty of their singing.  □ The children enthralled us with their rustic dances.

entice someone or an animal into doing something to lure or cajole someone or an animal into doing something.  □ We finally enticed him into running for office.  □ Donna enticed the cat into coming down from the tree.

entice someone or an animal into something to lure someone or an animal into something.  □ Can I entice you into the house for some cold lemonade?  □ We were able to entice the squirrel into the box with nuts.

entice someone or an animal with something to lure someone or an animal with something.  □ We tried to entice him with a description of the cake, but he was not interested in coming.  □ If the cat won’t come in, try enticing it with a bit of fish.

entitle someone to do something [for something] to qualify someone to do something.  □ This ticket entitles you to go in and take a seat.  □ Does this paper entitle me to get a discount?

entomb someone or an animal in something to imprison someone or an animal in a tomblake enclosure.  □ Please don’t entomb me in that huge, cold office.  □ Unknowingly, when they closed the door, they had entombed a tiny mouse in the church.

entrap someone (in something) (with something) Fig. to use something to deceive someone into involvement in something.  □ The investigators entrapped Max into breaking the law with promises to buy the goods he stole.  □ They entrapped Max into breaking the law.

entreat someone to do something to beg someone to do something.  □ They entreated us to come back as soon as we could.  □ I entreat you to think it over again.

entrust someone or something to someone to place someone or something into the protection of someone.  □ Can I entrust Johnny to you while I shop?  □ I entrusted my share of the money to Fred until I returned to town.

entrust someone with someone or something to trust someone to provide protection and care for someone or something.  □ Can I entrust you with Johnny while I go in and
vote? □ I entrusted Fred with my share of the money until I returned. □ I would not even entrust myself with the care of this priceless vase!

**entwine around** someone or something to weave or wind around someone or something. □ The snake entwined around the limb of the tree. □ The huge python entwined around the horrified farmer.

**entwine something around** someone or something to weave or wind something around someone or something. □ They entwined their arms around each other. □ Jack entwined the garland of flowers around Jill.

**enunciate something to** someone to say something to someone very clearly and distinctly. □ I will enunciate it to you one more time, slowly.

**envelop** someone or something in someone or something to wrap someone or something in someone or something. □ The fog enveloped us in its grasp. □ Mountains of fog rolled in and enveloped the house in dense vapor.

**envisage** someone or something as someone or something to imagine or visualize someone or something as someone or something. □ I envisaged you as a more graceful person than you are. □ We envisaged the living room as sort of a gathering place for the entire family.

**envision** someone as someone else and envision something as something else to imagine or fantasize someone as someone else; to imagine or fantasize something as something else. □ I envision her as the next company president. □ We envisioned this as larger than it turned out to be.

**envy** someone for someone or something to regard one with jealousy or resentment because of someone or something. □ I envy you for your lovely car. □ We all envy you for your beautiful children.

**equal** someone or something in something to be even or identical with someone or something in something. □ John equals Bill in strength and size, I think. □ This cake equals that one in texture but not in richness.

**equal to** someone as good or as accomplished as someone else. □ I certainly feel equal to Randy. He's nothing special. □ I don't think that Bill feels equal to Bob, even though they are twins.

**equal to** someone or something able to handle or deal with someone or something. □ I'm afraid that I'm not equal to Mrs. Smith's problem right now. Please ask her to come back later. □ That's a very difficult task, but I'm sure Bill is equal to it.

**equate** someone or something with someone or something to compare people and things, in any combination. □ I tend to equate Tom with trouble. □ I equate the Johnsons with a long boring evening.

**equate** someone to someone else and **equate** something to something else to claim that someone is in some manner the same as someone else; to claim that something is in some manner the same as something else. □ I would equate Tom to Wally when it comes to native ability. □ You cannot equate my car to that jalopy you drive!

**equip** someone or something (with something) (for something) to outfit someone or something with something for something; to provide equipment for someone or something for some purpose. □ We equipped everyone with a spade for digging. □ They equipped the rescuers with equipment for any conceivable occurrence.

**equip something with** something to add a piece of equipment to something. □ We will equip our truck with a plow blade and plow snow this winter. □ This car is equipped with air-conditioning.

**erase something from** something 1. Lit. to delete or wipe something from something. □ Please erase the writing from the blackboard. □ I will erase the incorrectly spelled word from my paper. 2. Fig. to remove something from something. □ Erase that smile from your face! □ I hope you will erase that thought from your mind.

**erupt** to burst out of something or come out of something. □ A bellow of smoke erupted from the chimney. □ A mass of ashes and gases erupted from the volcano.

**erupt into** something to become a serious problem suddenly. □ The argument erupted into a terrible fight. □ They were afraid the fight would erupt into a riot.

**escalate into** something to intensify something; to increase gradually into something. □ This argument is going to escalate into something serious very soon. □ These cases of the flu could escalate into a real epidemic.

**escalate something into** something to cause something to intensify. □ He escalated the argument into a vicious fight. □ The dictator tried to escalate the disagreement into a cause for war.

**escape by the skin of** someone's teeth Go to by the skin of one's teeth.

**escape (from someone or something) (to some place)** to get away from someone, something, or some place. □ Max escaped from prison to a hideout in Alabama. □ He escaped to Alabama from one of the worst-run prisons in the land.

**escape someone's notice** Fig. to go unnoticed; not to have been noticed. (Usually a way to point out that someone has failed to see or respond to something.) □ I suppose my earlier request escaped your notice, so I'm writing again. □ I'm sorry. Your letter escaped my notice.

**escort** someone or something from someone or something to accompany or lead someone or something away from something or some place. □ A police officer escorted them from the auditorium. □ A band of honorary pallbearers escorted the coffin from the chapel.

**escort** someone or something to someone or something to accompany or lead someone or something to something or some place. □ We escorted the women to their seats. □ Claude escorted Harry to the exit and bade him farewell.

**establish** someone or something as someone or something to validate or confirm someone or something as someone or something. □ As soon as we establish her as a viable candidate, we will launch the publicity campaign. □ She established herself as an authority on rare books.

**establish** someone or something in something to set someone or something up in something or some place; to install someone or something in something or some place. □ We established a restaurant in the middle of downtown. □ My uncle established me in the candy business.
**estimate the cost** to approximate the cost of something at a particular amount. □ I estimate the cost at about one hundred dollars. □ The cost of repairing the car was estimated at over four thousand dollars!

*estranged from someone* to be alienated from someone. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.*) □ Toward the end, they were estranged from each other, so a separation was perfectly natural. □ She had been estranged from her husband for a number of years.

**etch** something into something and etch something into〈 to erase a design or message into something, usually with acid. □ They etched their family crest into their good crystal. □ He etched in his initials.

**eternal life** Euph. life after death. □ He passed on into eternal life, leaving us behind to mourn. □ She is now at rest in eternal life.

the **eternal triangle** a sexual or emotional relationship involving two women and one man or two men and one woman. (*Typically, a couple [man and woman] and another man or woman.*) □ Henry can't choose between his wife and his mistress. It's the eternal triangle. □ I'm surprised Jane doesn't get tired of the eternal triangle. She goes out with Peter at the weekend and Jim during the week.

**evacuate** one's bowels Euph. to defecate. □ After taking a jog around the block, Jill felt the need to evacuate her bowels. □ I am afraid my little boy is sick. He has not evacuated his bowels for several days.

**evacuate** someone (from something) (to something) to remove someone from something or some place to another thing or place, as in an emergency. □ They had to evacuate everyone from the subway station to a nearby building. □ The rescuers evacuated the people from the building.

**evaluate** someone as something to judge someone's performance as something. □ I will have to evaluate you as a new student. □ We must evaluate ourselves as teachers and leaders.

**Even a worm will turn**. Prov. Even a meek person will become angry if you abuse him or her too much. □ You'd better stop maltreating Amy. She's a mild-mannered woman, but even a worm will turn.

**even as we speak** Go to as we speak.

*an even break* a fair chance; a fair judgment. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.*) □ Please give me an even break! I need some help here!

**even if it kills me** Fig. [pledging to do something] even if [doing it] is very difficult. □ Don't worry, I will get it done even if it kills me.

**even in the best of times** even when things are good; even when things are going well. □ It is hard to get high-quality leather even in the best of times. □ John had difficulty getting a loan even in the best of times because of his poor credit record.

**even something out** to make something even or level. □ Please even the gravel out. □ They evened out the surface of the road.

**even something up** to make something even, square, level, equal, balanced, etc. □ I'll even the table up. □ See if you can even up the legs of this table. It wobbles.

**even steven** to be even (with someone or something) by having repaid a debt, replied in kind, etc. □ Bill hit Tom; then Tom hit Bill. Now they are even steven. □ Mary paid Ann the $100 she owed her. Ann said, "Good, we are even steven."

(Even) the **best of friends must part**. Prov. Even very good friends cannot stay together forever. □ Child: I don't want Debby to move away. She's my best friend. Mother: Sometimes the best of friends must part, honey, even if they don't want to.

*even (with someone)* not being indebted to someone for money; no longer needing to retaliate against someone. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ I will get even with you for breaking my baseball bat! □ Jimmy got even with Bill by punching him in the nose.

the **evening of life** Euph. old age. □ As she approached the evening of life, Sarah looked back on her accomplishments with satisfaction. □ The residents of this rest home are all in the evening of life.

**ever and anon** now and then; occasionally. (Literary and archaic.) □ Ever and anon the princess would pay a visit to the sorcerer in the small walled garden directly behind the castle.

**Every cloud has a silver lining**. Prov. You can derive some benefit from every bad thing that happens to you. (You can also refer to the silver lining of a particular cloud, the benefit you can derive from a particular misfortune.) □ I'm sorry your business is going badly, but don't despair. Every cloud has a silver lining. □ When Mary's friends visited her in the hospital, they tried to cheer her up, but Mary never could find the silver lining in the cloud of her illness.

**Every dog has its day**. and **Every dog has his day**. Prov. Everyone gets a chance eventually. □ Don't worry, you'll get chosen for the team. Every dog has its day. □ You may become famous someday. Every dog has his day.

**every fool thing** every ridiculous or insignificant thing. □ Every fool thing seems to go wrong with this car.

**Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest**. Prov. Everyone thinks he or she has the hardest work to do or the most difficult problems to overcome. □ When we were growing up, my sister and I each thought our own chores were harder than the other's. Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest.

**every inch a something** and **every inch the something** completely; in every way. (Usually strengthening a following adjective.) □ Mary is every inch the schoolteacher. □ Her father is every inch a gentleman.

**Every Jack has his Jill**. Prov. Every man will eventually find a woman to be his romantic partner. □ Bill: I'll never have a girlfriend. None of the girls I take out will agree to a second date. Fred: Cheer up; every Jack has his Jill.

**every last one** every one; every single one. □ You must eat all your peas! Every last one! □ Each of you—every last one—has to take some medicine.

**Every little bit helps**. Prov. Even the smallest amount is helpful. □ Tom: I can only give a dollar to your charity. Mary: That's OK. Every little bit helps. □ Jane gave me a
pair of booties for my new baby. It’s not much, but every little bit helps.

ey every living soul Fig. every person. □ I expect every living soul to be there and be there on time. □ This is the kind of problem that affects every living soul.

ey Every man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost), and Devil take the hindmost Prov. Everyone has to fight for his or her own survival. (You can use this to describe an extremely competitive situation.) □ At first we tried to help each other study for the exam, but soon it was every man for himself, and the devil take the hindmost. □ The inventors tried to collaborate, agreeing to share the profits from their invention, but they grew so suspicious of each other that each began to work separately, and devil take the hindmost. □ When the ship began to sink, it was every man for himself.

ey Every man has his price. Prov. It is possible to bribe anyone as long as you know how much or what to bribe him or her with. □ Henchman: I’ve offered the judge half a million dollars to give you a light sentence, but he says he can’t be bought. Gangster: Keep trying. Every man has his price. □ Every man has his price, and the townsfolk were shocked to discover just how low their mayor’s price had been.

ey Every man is the architect of his own fortune. Prov. Your own decisions and your own actions determine what your life will be like. □ The teacher told us, “If you work hard, you can become whatever you want. Every man is the architect of his own fortune.” □ You shouldn’t blame other people for your problems. Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

ey Every man to his taste. Prov. Everyone likes something different, and you should not condemn people because of what they like. (Can be used to remark that someone’s tastes are different from yours, as in the first example.) □ Jill: Why don’t you get some decent neckties, Fred? Fred: What do you mean, decent? My ties are perfectly fine! Jill: Oh, well. Every man to his taste. □ Ellen: People who like cats are much more discerning than people who like dogs, don’t you think? Jane: Not necessarily. Everyone to his taste.

ey Every minute counts, and Every moment counts. Fig. time is very important. (Used especially in situations where time is very limited.) □ Doctor, please try to get here quickly. Every minute counts. □ When you take a test, you must work rapidly because every minute counts. □ When you’re trying to meet a deadline, every moment counts.

ey Every moment counts. Go to previous.

ey every mother’s son (of them) Fig. every one of them. □ The scout leader said that unless the scouts told him who had stolen the money, he would punish every mother’s son of them. □ When the football team won the championship, they were all crying, every mother’s son of them.

ey every nook and cranny Fig. every small, out-of-the-way place or places where something can be hidden. □ We looked for the tickets in every nook and cranny. They were lost. There was no doubt. □ The decorator had placed flowers in every nook and cranny.

ey (every) now and again Go to next.

ey (every) now and then and (every) now and again; (every) once in a while occasionally; infrequently. □ We eat lamb every now and then. □ We eat pork now and then. □ I read a novel every now and again.

ey every other person or thing every second or alternate person or thing. □ The magician turned every other card over. □ Every other table had an ashtray on it.

ey every time one turns around Fig. frequently; at every turn; with annoying frequency. □ Somebody asks me for money every time I turn around. □ Something goes wrong with Bill’s car every time he turns around.

ey (every) Tom, Dick, and Harry and any Tom, Dick, and Harry Fig. everyone, without discrimination; ordinary people. (Not necessarily males.) □ The golf club is very exclusive. They don’t let any Tom, Dick, or Harry join. □ Mary’s sending out very few invitations. She doesn’t want every Tom, Dick, and Harry turning up.

ey Every tub must stand on its own bottom, and Let every tub stand on its own bottom. Prov. People should be independent. □ Emily did not want to join the other students, who were helping each other study for the exam. “Every tub must stand on its own bottom,” she said. □ Don’t ask me for help. Let every tub stand on its own bottom.

ey every walk of life every status and occupation. □ We invited people from every walk of life, but only those who could afford the long drive could possibly come.

ey (every) which way Rur. in all directions. □ When they heard me yell, the kittens ran off every which way. □ That mountain road kind of turns you ever which way before it finally gets you to the top.

ey everybody and his brother and everybody and his uncle Fig. everybody; lots of people. □ The state fair was packed. Everybody and his brother was there. □ Everybody and his uncle was asking me where you was today.

ey everybody and his uncle Go to previous.

ey Everybody loves a lord. Prov. People are attracted to the wealthy and powerful. □ Although the prince was vulgar and unpleasant, he always received plenty of invitations to social gatherings; everybody loves a lord.

ey everything an’ all Rur. everything that is in the range of human powers. □ The rescuers did everything an’ all. □ The thieves broke into Mary’s house and took the television, the silver, her jewelry, everything an’ all. □ I had to write a report about my trip to Memphis, what I did, what I ate, what I saw, and everything an’ all.

ey everything but the kitchen sink Cliché almost everything one can think of. □ When Sally went off to college, she took everything but the kitchen sink. □ John orders everything but the kitchen sink when he goes out to dinner, especially if someone else is paying for it.

ey Everything comes to him who waits. Go to Good things come to him who waits.

ey everything from A to Z Go to next.

ey everything from soup to nuts and everything from A to Z Cliché almost everything one can think of. □ For dinner we had everything from soup to nuts. □ In college I studied everything from soup to nuts.

ey everything humanly possible everything that is in the range of human powers. □ The rescuers did everything humanly possible to find the lost campers. □ The doctor tried everything humanly possible to save the patient.
Everything’s coming up roses. Fig. Everything is really just excellent. Life is prosperous. □ Life is wonderful. Everything is coming up roses. □ Q: How are things going? A: Everything’s coming up roses.

Everything’s going to be all right. and Everything will be all right.; Everything will be okay.; Everything will be just fine.; Everything will be great.

Do not worry, everything will be okay. □ “Don’t worry, Fred,” comforted Bill. “Everything will be all right.” □ Mary: I just don’t know if I can go on! Bob: Now, now. Everything will be just fine.

Everything will be all right. Go to previous.

Everything will be great. Go to Everything’s going to be all right.

Everything will be just fine. Go to Everything’s going to be all right.

Everything will be okay. Go to Everything’s going to be all right.

Everything will work out (all right). Go to Things will work out all right.

Everything will work out for the best. Go to Things will work out all right.

evict someone from some place to force someone to move out of something or some place. □ They evicted the squatters from the building. □ They were evicted from their home for not paying their mortgage.

Evil be to him who evil thinks. Prov. May bad things happen to anyone who thinks evil things. (A curse against those who wish you harm. This is the English version of the French Honi soit qui mal y pense, the motto of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, a British order of knighthood.) □ The secret brotherhood took an oath of loyalty and financed their meeting by declaring, “Evil be to him who evil thinks.”

evolve (from something) (into something) and evolve out of something (into something) to develop from something to something else; to develop from a more primitive form to the present form. □ This creature evolved from a smaller, horselike creature into what we know as a horse. □ The human brain evolved out of a smaller and less complex form into the brain of today.

exact something from someone to demand something from someone; to take something payment from someone. □ The bill collector sought to exact payment from them for a debt that had been paid off long ago. □ You cannot exact a single cent from me.

examine someone in something to give someone an examination in a particular subject or covering certain material. □ The committee examined him in her knowledge of history. □ I was examined in math.

examine someone on something to give someone an examination covering certain material. □ I will have to examine you on this chapter myself. □ The teacher examined Larry on his understanding of phonetics.

examine someone or something for something to inspect someone or something for the presence of something. □ I examined the child for signs of abuse. □ You had better examine this dog for ticks. □ Don’t forget to examine yourself for ticks after you return from the hike.

Example is better than precept. Prov. You will teach people more effectively by being a good example than you will by telling them what to do. □ Mother never lectured us; she just tried her best to be a good person, and we tried hard to be like her. She was living proof that example is better than precept.

exceed someone or something by something to surpass someone or something by some amount. □ Wally exceeded his quota by two hundred. □ He exceeded Larry by a large amount.

exceed someone or something in something to surpass someone or something in something. □ Tom exceeds Walter in athletic ability. □ Ralph exceeded the Rock of Gibraltar in hardheadedness.

excel at something and excel in something to do something in a superior fashion. □ She really excels at running. □ Wally does not excel at anything. □ Frank always hoped he would excel in math.

excel in something Go to previous.

The exception proves the rule. Prov. Something that does not follow a rule shows that the rule exists. (Often used facetiously, to justify some rule you have proposed but which someone else has listed exceptions to. From a Latin phrase meaning that an exception tests a rule.) □ Ellen: Men are always rude. Jane: But Alan’s always polite. And Larry and Ted are polite, too. Ellen: They’re just the exceptions that prove the rule. □ Bill: All the shows on TV are aimed at people with low intelligence. Alan: What about that news program you like to watch? Bill: The exception proves the rule.

excerpt something from something to select a part of something from the whole. □ We excerpted a few short scenes from the play and performed them for the class. □ A few paragraphs had been excerpted from the film as an example.

exchange no more than some number of words with someone and not exchange more than some number of words with someone; hardly exchange more than some number of words with someone; scarcely exchange more than some number of words with someone to say hardly anything to someone. (Always negative.) □ I know Tom was there, but I am sure that I didn’t exchange more than three words with him before he left. □ We hardly exchanged more than two words the whole evening. □ Sally and Liz didn’t have enough time to exchange more than five words.

exchange something for something to trade something for something else. □ I will exchange this one for a larger size. □ Can this be exchanged for something more suitable?

exchange something with someone to trade something with someone. □ I exchange Christmas presents with him, but I never see him otherwise. □ Let’s exchange coats with each other.

excite someone about something to stimulate someone about something. □ I thought our vacation stories would excite her about going, but they did not. □ She was excited about the trip to Moscow.

excite something in someone to arouse something in someone; to arouse someone with something. □ The horror
movie excited a lot of fear in Mike. The smell of jasmine in the warm air excited a romantic streak in me.

*exciting as watching (the) paint dry* very, very dull. (Sarcastic. *Also: about as ~; as ~.*) This book is about as exciting as watching paint dry. Listening to you is exciting as watching the paint dry.

**exclude** someone or something from something to leave someone or something out of something; to leave someone or something off a list. Did you mean to exclude me from the party? I excluded chocolate cake from the shopping list.

**Excuse me.** and **Excuse, please.**; **Pardon (me).**; **‘Scuse (me).**; **‘Scuse, please.** 1. an expression asking forgiveness for some minor social violation, such as belching or bumping into someone. (‘Scuse is colloquial, and the apostrophe is not always used.) John: Ouch! Mary: Excuse me. I didn’t see you there. Mary: Oh! Ow! Sue: Pardon me. I didn’t mean to bump into you. Tom: Ouch! Mary: Oh, dear! What happened? Tom: You stepped on my toe. Mary: Excuse me. I’m sorry. Sue: Please let me through.; Please let me by. Tom: Excuse me. I need to get past. Sue: Oh, sorry. I didn’t know I was in the way. Mary: Pardon me. Sue: What? Mary: Pardon me. I want to get past you.

**Excuse my French.** Go to Pardon my French.

**excuse** someone 1. to forgive someone. (Usually with me. Said when interrupting or when some other minor offense has been committed. There are many mannerly uses of this expression.) John: I came late and said, “Excuse me, please.” John said “excuse me” when he interrupted our conversation. When John made a strange noise at the table, he said quietly, “Excuse me.” John suddenly left the room saying, “Excuse me. I’ll be right back.” 2. to permit someone to leave; to permit someone to remain away from an event. The coach excused John from practice yesterday. The teacher excused John, and he ran quickly from the room.

**excuse** someone for something to pardon someone for something or for (doing) something. Please excuse me for this mess. I’ve not been able to clean the house. I can’t excuse myself for not doing it.

**excuse** someone from something to permit a person not to do something; to exempt someone from something. Please excuse me from attending the meeting. I must excuse myself from the discussion.

**exemplify** something by something to use something to explain or illustrate something. He exemplifies wisdom by his decisions. Roger exemplifies virtue by the way he treats his employees.

**exempt** someone from something to release someone from the obligation to do something; to allow a person not to be affected by a rule or law. I cannot exempt anyone from this rule. The members of Congress exempted themselves from the wage freeze.

**exercise a firm hand** Go to a firm hand.

**exercise control over** someone or something Go to next.

**exercise power over** someone or something and **exercise influence over** someone or something; **exercise influence** over someone or something to have someone or something under one’s control or influence. The dictator exercised power over the island for many years. See if you can exercise some control over your appetite. I wish I could exercise some influence over the committee.

**exercise** someone or an animal in something to give someone or an animal practice in doing something; to drill someone or an animal at something. Please exercise the dog in obedience routines. I hope you will exercise me in my Spanish irregular verbs.

**exercised about** something Fig. upset about something. Mary: You lost a hundred dollars playing poker? Bill: Now don’t get exercised about it. I can’t tell Ma I’m failing English class. She gets exercised about every dumb thing I do.

**exhort** someone to do something to urge or pressure someone to do something. She exhorted us to do better, but we only did worse. The boss exhorted the workers to increase productivity.

**exile** someone from something (to something) to force someone to leave something or some place and go to something or some place, often as a punishment for political reasons. The government exiled him from his hometown to an island off the coast of South America. They exiled Gerald to another country.

**exit** from something (to something) to go out of something or some place to another. The children exited from the school to the parking lot when the fire alarm rang. We exited to the main street from the parking lot.

**exorcise** something out of someone and **exorcise** something out to remove or cast out evil from someone. We saw a movie about a priest who exorcised a demon out of a young girl.

**expand** into something to grow into something; to enlarge something. The little problem expanded into a big one in no time at all. In no time at all, the vegetable garden had expanded into a small farm.

**expand** one’s **horizons** Fig. to experience and learn new things. Read more! Travel! Go out and expand your horizons!

**expand** something into something to enlarge something into something; to make something grow into something. She expanded her business into a national company. I would like to build on an addition to expand this room into a more usable space.

**expand** **up** on something and **enlarge** **up** on something Fig. to add detail to a report about something; to say more about something. Would you please expand upon that last remark? Would you care to enlarge upon your remarks?

**expatiate on** someone or something to say or write many words about someone or something. She expatiated endlessly on the evils of tobacco. I have heard you expatiate on Harry quite enough, thank you.

**expect** someone or something for something to anticipate someone or a group to attend something. I expect you for dinner on Thursday. We expected all of the board of directors for the meeting.

**expect** something from someone or something 1. to anticipate receiving something from someone or a group. I expect a letter from you at least once a week while you are gone. We expect at least a postcard out of you. 2. and
expect something (out) of someone or something to demand something from someone or something. 1 I expect more effort from you. Get to work. 3. and expect something (out) of someone or something to anticipate a certain kind of behavior from someone or something. 2 We expected better from you. I'm very disappointed in your behavior. 2 We really expected better behavior of you.

expectant mother a pregnant woman. 2 The doctor's waiting room was filled with expectant mothers. 2 The magazine has articles of interest to young parents and expectant mothers.

expecting (a child) to be pregnant. 2 Tommy's mother is expecting a child. 2 Oh, I didn't know she was expecting.

expel someone from something to force someone to leave something or some place; to eject someone from something or some place. 2 The two men expelled the fighters from the tavern. 2 Ken was expelled from school for disciplinary reasons.

expel something from something to force or eject something out of something. 2 The machine expelled cup after cup from its opening. 2 The volcano expelled huge globs of molten lava.

expend something for something to pay a certain amount for something. 2 I expended an enormous amount for skin creams. 2 How much money did you expend for this gaudy tie?

expend something in something to use or consume something in some activity. 2 You expend too much energy in talking. 2 Harry expended a lot of time in the preparation of his speech.

expend something on someone or something to use something on someone or something. 2 Don't expend too much energy on him. He isn't worth it. 2 There is no point in expending any more money on this car.

Expense is no object. Go to Money is no object.

Experience is the best teacher. Prov. You will learn more from things that happen to you in real life than you will from hearing about or studying things that happen to other people. 2 I don't care how many books you read about how to run a business; experience is the best teacher. 2 The nurse believed that experience was the best teacher when it came to developing a bedside manner, so she made sure that all her students spent a lot of time with patients.

Experience is the father of wisdom. and Experience is the mother of wisdom. Prov. The more that happens to you, the more you will learn. 2 I never understood why supervisors got so frustrated with me until I became a supervisor and got frustrated with my subordinates. Experience was definitely the mother of wisdom, in my case.

Experience is the mother of wisdom. Go to previous.

Experience is the teacher of fools. Prov. Only fools do not learn after seeing other people's mistakes and insist on repeating them. 2 Father: You should spend more time studying and less time having fun with your friends. If I had been a better student when I was your age, I'd have a better job now. Son: Oh, come on, Dad. School's worthless. Father: Don't make the same mistake I did! Experience is the teacher of fools.

experiment in something to conduct research or experiments about something. 2 The research group is experimenting in the field of biomechanics. 2 We want to experiment in thermodynamics.

experiment (upon) someone or something to use someone or something as the subject of an experiment. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) 2 Do you think we should experiment upon people? 2 The researchers were experimenting on a new drug that might cure rabies.

experiment with someone or something to try different experiments on someone or something; to use different people or things as key variables in an experiment. 2 They are supposed to be experimenting with new drugs. 2 We no longer experiment with animals.

explain at great length Go to at great length.

explain oneself 1. to explain what one has said or done or what one thinks or feels. (Formal and polite.) 2 Please take a moment to explain yourself. I'm sure we are interested in your ideas. 2 Yes, if you will let me explain myself, I think you'll agree with my idea. 2 to give an explanation or excuse for something wrong that one may have done. (Usually said in anger.) 2 Young man! Come in here and explain yourself this instant. 2 Why did you do that, Tom Smith? You had better explain yourself, and it had better be good.

explain someone or something to someone to give information or instruction about someone or something to someone. 2 Please explain it to me. 2 Can you explain Andrew to me?

explain something away! to explain something so that it is no longer a problem. 2 You can try to explain it away if you want, but that won't solve the problem. 2 You can't just explain away all your problems.

explode a bombshell Go to drop a bombshell.

explode with something 1. Lit. to make a loud noise upon exploding or releasing energy. 2 The bomb exploded with a thunderous roar. 2 When the joke was finished, the audience exploded with laughter. 2 Fig. to burst out saying something; to be about to burst with eagerness to say something. 2 The children exploded with protest when their parents told them it was bedtime. 2 Hanna was exploding with questions. 3. Fig. to produce a sudden abundance of something. (Alludes to buds bursting or a sudden blooming or sprouting of vegetation.) 2 The fields exploded with an enormous crop of wildflowers. 2 The cherry trees exploded with blossoms.

export something to some place to sell something abroad to a particular country. 2 They are now exporting their products to Hungary. 2 We are exporting all our product line to Eastern Europe.

export something to someone or something to sell something abroad to someone or some country. 2 The company exported alcohol to Brazil. 2 We only export books to our agents abroad.

expose someone or an animal to a disease to place someone or an animal near a source of a disease. 2 Try to expose your children to chicken pox while they are young. It's horrible when you are an adult. 2 He accidentally exposed his sheep to an infected animal.
expose someone or something to someone or something to show someone or something to someone or something. □ You should not expose the children to violent movies at their age. □ Do not expose the film to the light.

expose something or oneself to someone or something to disclose someone’s or something’s secrets to someone or a group. □ He exposed his inner thoughts to everyone there. □ She refused to expose herself to the ears of the curious and ceased talking. □ He exposed himself to the public when he revealed his involvement in the arms sale.

expostulate about someone or something and expostulate on someone or something to comment or argue intensely about someone or something. □ He always seems to be expostulating on something. Why can’t he simply say “Yes” or “No”? □ Sam is expostulating on Bill’s many shortcomings again.

expound (upon) someone or something (to someone) to speak at length about someone or something to someone. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Let me expound upon Tom to you for a while. I think you need all the details on his qualifications. □ Please do not expound on Bill anymore.

express one’s anger to allow a release or expression of anger, such as through angry words, violence, or talking out a problem. □ Don’t keep your emotions inside of you. You have to learn to express your anger. □ Bob expresses his anger by yelling at people.

express oneself (to someone) (on something) to say what one thinks about something. □ I will express myself to Karen on that matter at another time. □ She expressed herself on Karen to the entire group.

express something in round figures Go to in round figures.

express something in round numbers Go to in round numbers.

expropriate something (from someone or something) (for someone or something) to seize something from someone or something for someone or something. □ The government expropriated the land from the peasants for an airfield. □ They expropriated land for a highway. □ They expropriated land from the farmers.

expunge something from something to erase something from something. □ The judge ordered the clerk to expunge the comment from the record. □ Please expunge the lawyer’s remark from the transcript.

expurgate something from something to cleanse something by removing something. (Often refers to editing objectionable material from written or broadcast material.) □ We will expurgate the most graphic passages from the novel. □ We will expurgate the offensive matter from the article.

extend across something to spread across something. □ The shadows extended across the whole land. □ The fog extended across the low-lying land.

extend credit (to someone or a company) and extend someone or a company credit to allow someone to purchase something on credit. □ I’m sorry, Mr. Smith, but because of your poor record of payment, we are no longer able to extend credit to you. □ Look at this letter, Jane. The store won’t extend credit anymore.

extend (from something) (to something) to spread from one point to another point. □ The cloud of smoke extended from one end of town to the other. □ It extended to the end of the road from our front gate.

extend one’s sympathy (to someone) to express sympathy to someone. (A very polite and formal way to tell someone that you are sorry about a misfortune.) □ Please permit me to extend my sympathy to you and your children. I’m very sorry to hear of the death of your husband. □ Let’s extend our sympathy to Bill Jones, who is in the hospital with a broken leg. We should send him some flowers.

extend over someone or something to spread over someone or something. □ The smoke extended over Tom and his friends, who were having a picnic. □ The cloud extended over the entire valley.

extend someone or a company credit Go to extend credit (to someone or a company).

extend something to something 1. to lengthen something to reach something. □ We extended the antenna to its full length. □ Extend your arm to the wall and see how straight you can make it. 2. to push a stated deadline further into the future. □ I will extend the deadline to Friday. □ We cannot extend the due date to next month.

extend to someone or something to reach all the way to someone or something. □ This policy extends to you also. □ The road extends to Los Angeles.

extenuating circumstances special (but otherwise unspecified) circumstances that account for an irregular or improper way of doing something. □ Mary was permitted to arrive late because of extenuating circumstances. □ Due to extenuating circumstances, the teacher will not meet with the class today.

extol someone or something as something to praise someone or something as something. □ We extol her as a heroine. □ The salesman extolled the medicine as a cure-all.

extort something from someone or something to steal something from someone by coercion; to force someone to give something by making threats. □ The crook was trying to extort a lot of money from the widow by selling her a worthless insurance policy. □ The authorities caught the accounting firm trying to extort a great deal of money from the bank.

extract something from someone or something to remove something from someone or something; to make someone or a group give something. □ We extracted the juice from the oranges. □ The police questioned Maggie extracted the truth from her.

extradite someone from some place (to some place) to have someone sent from some place to face criminal prosecution. □ The state’s attorney sought to extradite Max from Missouri. □ The gang leader was extradited from Indiana to New York to face assault charges.

extrapolate something from something to reason out the answer from the known facts. □ I cannot extrapolate what he meant from these notes. □ Can you extrapolate the annual total from the company’s sales so far this year?

extricate someone or something from someone or something to disentangle someone or something from someone or something; to free someone or something from someone or something. □ I tried to extricate myself from her, but
she made it hard for me to get away politely. □ I managed to extricate the ring from the vacuum cleaner bag.

**exult at something** and **exult over something** to rejoice because of something; to rejoice about something. □ We exulted at the end of the hostilities. □ The citizens exulted over the downfall of the dictator.

**exult in something** to take great pleasure in something; to enjoy something immensely. □ I exult in the beauty of a spring day. □ We exulted in the glory of summer.

**exult over something** Go to **exult at something**.

An **eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth)**. *Prov.* If someone hurts you, you should punish the offender by hurting him or her in the same way. (An ancient principle of justice going back to biblical times.) □ When they were children, the two brothers operated on the principle of an eye for an eye, so that if the older one hit the younger one, the younger one was entitled to hit him back just as hard.

the **eye of the hurricane** and the **eye of the storm** 1. *Lit.* the area of calm in the center of a tornado, hurricane, or cyclone. □ *It is calm and peaceful in the eye of the storm.*

2. *Fig.* a temporary peaceful time amidst more trouble and strife yet to come. □ Don't relax. This is the eye of the storm. The lunch hour rush is over, but the dinner rush will start soon.

the **eye of the storm** Go to previous.

**eyeball-to-eyeball** *Fig.* face-to-face and often very close; in person. □ They approached each other eyeball-to-eyeball and frowned. □ Let's talk more when we are eyeball-to-eyeball.

*an **eyeful (of someone or something)** *Fig.* a shocking or surprising sight. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.*) □ The office door opened for a minute and I got an eyeful of the interior. □ Mary got an eyeful of the company's extravagant spending when she saw the bill for the executive board's catered lunch.

**eyes like saucers** *Fig.* eyes opened widely as in amazement. □ Our eyes were like saucers as we witnessed another display of the manager's temper.

**eyes like two burnt holes in a blanket** *Rur.* eyes with dark circles around them. □ I can tell you ain't slept. You got eyes like two burnt holes in a blanket.
**face away (from someone or something)** to turn away from someone or something. □ Please face away from me while I change clothes. □ I’ll face away. You go right ahead.

**face off** 1. to begin a hockey game with two players facing one another. □ They faced off and the match was on.
2. to prepare for a confrontation. □ The opposing candidates faced off and the debate began. □ They faced off and I knew there was going to be a fight.

**face on(to) something** [for something] to have a view out onto something. □ The house faced onto the sea and provided a beautiful view of the incoming ships. □ Our office building does not face onto the street. □ We asked for a room that faces on the main square.

**face someone down** 1 to make a face-to-face stand with someone who eventually backs down. □ Chuck succeeded in facing Tom down. □ Facing down Tom wasn’t difficult for Chuck.

**face someone or something forward** to turn someone or something to the front. (Also with many other directions—backward, to the right, to the left, etc.) □ Please face your brother forward now. □ Face the book forward so we can read the title.

**face (someone or something) into something** to turn (the face or front of) someone or something directly toward something. □ Face the sail into the wind. □ Please face into the camera.

**face someone with something** to present evidence of something to someone. □ When I faced him with the evidence, he confessed immediately. □ The police faced Max with the witness’s story. □ The CEO was faced with the problem of bringing the bankrupt firm back to profitability.

**face something down** to turn something face downward. □ Ted drew a card and faced it down. □ Face your cards down when you leave the card table.

**face something head-on** Fig. to confront a problem directly and openly. □ Let’s face this problem head-on and try to solve it quickly and painlessly.

**face something with something** to install something on the surface of something. □ We faced the kitchen walls with yellow tile. □ The wall was faced with tile.

a **face that could stop a clock** Go to next.

a **face (that) only a mother could love** and a **face that could stop a clock** Fig. a very ugly face. (Usually jocular. See also homely enough to stop a clock.) □ The poor baby has a face only a mother could love. □ Look at that guy. That’s a face that could stop a clock.

**face (the) facts** to confront the truth about someone or something; to confront and accept the consequences of something. □ Eventually, you will have to face the facts. Times are hard.

**face the music** Fig. to receive punishment; to accept the unpleasant results of one’s actions. □ Mary broke a dining-room window and had to face the music when her father got home. □ After failing a math test, Tom had to go home and face the music.

**face up (to someone or something)** to confront with courage someone or something representing a threat or unpleasantness. □ You are simply going to have to admit your mistake and face up to the boss. □ You must face up to the authorities if you have done something wrong.

**face-to-face** 1. Fig. in person; in the same location. (Said only of people. An adverb.) □ Let’s talk about this face-to-face. I don’t like talking over the telephone. □ Many people prefer to talk face-to-face. 2. Fig. facing one another; in the same location. (Used as an attributive.) □ I prefer to have a face-to-face meeting. □ They work better on a face-to-face basis.

**Fact is stranger than fiction.** and **Truth is stranger than fiction.** Prov. Things that really happen are harder to believe or more amazing than stories that people invent.

□ Did you see the story in the newspaper about the criminal who attacks people with a toenail clipper? Fact is stranger than fiction! □ fill: I can’t believe someone’s paying 900 dollars for Tom’s broken-down old car—it doesn’t even run. Jane: Truth is stranger than fiction.

the **facts of life** 1. Euph. the facts of sex and reproduction, especially human reproduction. (See also the birds and the bees.) □ My parents told me the facts of life when I was nine years old. □ Bill learned the facts of life from his classmates. 2. Fig. the truth about the unpleasant ways that the world works. □ Mary really learned the facts of life when she got her first job. □ Tom couldn’t accept the facts of life in business, so he quit.

**fade away (into something)** 1. to diminish into something. □ The light faded away into nothing. □ The sound of the drums faded away into the distance. 2. Go to fade out.

**fade back (into something)** to move back into a particular area. □ He faded back to throw a pass. □ Quickly and unnoticed, he faded back.

**fade down** [for sound] to diminish. □ The roar of the train faded down as it passed and fled into the night. □ As the thunder faded down, the sun began to break through the clouds.

**fade from something** [for something] to leave something gradually, such as one’s consciousness, memory, view, etc. (See also fade from view.) □ The image faded from her memory at last.

**fade from view** [for a sight] to fade away, typically owing to loss of light or distance. □ The scene faded from view as the stage lights dimmed. □ My house faded from view as we drove down the long road to town.
fade into something to diminish or change into something.
- The light of dusk faded into blackness. □ In the corner of the painting, the deep reds faded into lavender.

fade out and fade away to diminish and go away altogether. □ The light in the distance faded out as the sun began to set. □ The light faded out as the candles burned themselves out, one by one. □ As it got farther into the distance, the car faded away.

fade something down¹ to turn down a sound. (Broadcasting.) □ The radio engineer faded the music down and the announcer’s voice began. □ She faded down the music.

fade something in¹ to bring a picture, sound, or both into prominence. (Broadcasting.) □ The technician faded the picture in and the program began. □ Fade in the picture a little faster next time.

fade something out¹ to diminish something altogether. (Broadcasting.) □ At the end, you should fade the music out completely. □ Fade out the music earlier.

fade something up¹ to increase the sound gradually. (Broadcasting.) □ The director faded the music up and then down again before the announcer spoke. □ Fade up the music when the announcer stops talking.

fag someone out Sl. to tire someone out. □ All that work really fagged me out. □ The hard climb fagged the hikers out.

fagged out Sl. exhausted. □ I’m really fagged out after all that running. □ John, you sure look fagged out.

fail in something to have not earned passing or satisfactory grades in some school subject. □ George is failing in geometry. □ I hope I do not fail in math.

fail someone on something to give someone an unsatisfactory grade on an assignment or test. □ She failed us all on the math assignment. □ The teacher failed half the class on the assignment.

faint dead away Fig. to faint and fall unconscious. □ I almost fainted dead away. □ David will faint dead away when he reads this.

faint from something to faint because of something. □ I nearly fainted from fear! □ Three people along the parade route fainted from the heat.

Faint heart never won fair lady. Prov. A timid suitor never won his lady. (Used to encourage boys or men to be bold in courting women.) □ Bill: I’d really like to go out with Alice, but what if she says no? Alan: You won’t know till you ask her. Faint heart never won fair lady. □ Don’t be so shy about talking to Edith. Faint heart never won fair lady.

the faint of heart Fig. people who are squeamish; someone who is sickened or disturbed by unpleasantness or challenge. □ The pathway around the top of the volcano, near the crater, is not for the faint of heart.

fair and impartial just and unbiased. (Usually referring to some aspect of the legal system, such as a jury, a hearing, or a judge.) □ Gary felt that he had not received a fair and impartial hearing. □ We demand that all of our judges be fair and impartial in every instance.

fair and square completely fairly; justly; within the rules. □ She won the game fair and square. □ The division of the money should be fair and square.

fair game (for something) someone or something that it is considered permissible to attack or abuse in some way. □ I don’t like seeing articles exposing people’s private lives, but politicians are fair game for that kind of criticism. □ Journalists always regard movie stars as fair game.

* a fair shake an instance of fair treatment. *(Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ He’s unpleasant, but we have to give him a fair shake. □ He got a fair shake from us. Don’t worry!

fair something out¹ Rur. to distribute something fairly. □ She faired the meager stew out the best she could. □ Walter faiored out the pie.

fair to middlin’ Rur. mediocre; not bad but not good. (Middlin means ‘of average quality.’) □ Tom: How are you feeling today? Bill: Fair to middlin’. □ My sewing is excellent, but my cooking is only fair to middlin’.

fair-haired boy Fig. a favored person. (Not necessarily young or a boy.) □ The teacher’s fair-haired boy always does well on tests. □ The supervisor’s son was the fair-haired boy on the construction site.

fair-weather friend Fig. someone who is your friend only when things are pleasant or going well for you. □ Bill stayed for lunch but he wouldn’t help me with the yard work. He’s just a fair-weather friend. □ A fair-weather friend isn’t much help in an emergency.

Faith will move mountains. Prov. If you believe in what you are doing, you can overcome any obstacle. (Sometimes refers to faith in God.) □ Jane’s faith in her cause could move mountains. □ You may feel disheartened sometimes, but remember that faith will move mountains.

fake it to pretend (to do something). □ If you don’t know the right notes, just fake it. □ I can’t fake it anymore. I’ve got to be honest with you.

fake off Sl. to waste time; to goof off. □ Hey, you guys, quit faking off! □ All you clowns do is fake off. Now, get busy!

fake someone out¹ to deceive someone; to fool someone. □ You really faked me out. I never would have guessed it was you. □ The student tried to fake out the teacher.

fake someone out of something Sl. to get something from someone by deception. □ He faked Tom out of his place in line. □ She faked me out of a lot of money.

fall (a)foul of someone or something and run (a)foul of someone or something to get into a situation where one is opposed to someone or something; to get into trouble with someone or something. □ Dan fell afoul of the law at an early age. □ I hope that you will avoid falling afoul of the district manager. She can be a formidable enemy. □ I hope I don’t run afoul of your sister. She doesn’t like me.

fall (all) over oneself (to do something) Fig. to rush eagerly and awkwardly to do something. □ The boys fell all over themselves to open the door for Sarah. □ Larry fell over himself trying to help Sarah on with her coat.

fall all over someone Fig. to give a lot of attention, affection, or praise to someone. □ My aunt falls all over me whenever she comes to visit. □ I hate for someone to fall all over me. It embarrasses me.

fall apart (at the seams) and come apart at the seams 1. Lit. [for something] to break apart where its seams 1.
fall asleep Fig. to go to sleep. ① I fell asleep while reading the very dull book. ② I got in bed and fell asleep at once.

fall asleep at the switch Go to aslep at the switch.

fall away (from something or something) ① Lit. [for something] to drop away from someone or something. ② The paint is falling away from the sides of the house. ③ Over the years, all the paint fell away. ④ Fig. [for someone] to move back or retreat from someone or something. ⑤ The soldiers fell away from the line of battle. ⑥ Fig. to distance oneself from someone; to end an association with someone. ⑦ The candidate’s supporters fell away from her when they heard about the scandal.

fall away toward something to slant downward toward something. ① The yard fell away toward the shore of the lake. ② The broad expanse of prairie land fell away toward the river bottomland, and beyond that, the river itself.

fall back to move back from something; to retreat from something. ① The gang members fell back, and I took that opportunity to get away. ② The troops fell back to regroup.

fall back on(to) someone or something ① Lit. to fall back- wards on someone or something. ② She stumbled and fell back onto the lady behind her. ③ She fell back on the couch. ④ Fig. to begin to use someone or something held in reserve. ⑤ We fell back on our savings to get us through the hard times. ⑥ We had to fall back on our emergency generator.

fall behind (in something) and fall behind (on something); fall behind (with something); get behind (in something); get behind (on something); get behind (with something) to lag behind schedule in some kind of work or some other scheduled activity. ① You are falling behind in your car payments. ② I tried not to get behind on them. ③ Please don’t fall behind with your payments. ④ I won’t fall behind again.

fall behind schedule Go to behind schedule.

fall behind (someone or something) to lag behind someone or something. ① You have fallen behind everyone else in class. ② Our production fell behind that of the other production line.

fall behind (with something) Go to fall behind (in something).

fall below something to drop to a lower level than something. ① The temperature has fallen below freezing again. ② When the audience fell below two hundred a night, they closed the play.

fall beneath something to drop under something. ① The thimble fell beneath the sofa. ② The gift that Bob had purchased for Maggie fell beneath the wheels of a truck.

fall between something and something else to drop between things. ① My loose change fell between the cushions of the sofa. ② I hope that my wallet doesn’t fall between the table and the wall. I would never be able to move the table to get it.

fall between two stools Fig. to come somewhere between two possibilities and so fail to meet the requirements of either. ① The material is not suitable for an academic book or for a popular one. It falls between two stools. ② He tries to be both teacher and friend, but falls between two stools.

fall by some amount [for an asset] to drop in value by a certain amount. ① The gas stocks fell by nearly 10 percent today. ② If the stock market falls by four hundred points, I’m going to jump off a cliff.

fall by the wayside Go to drop by the wayside.

fall down to drop or topple. ① The baby fell down. ② Walk carefully on this ice or you will fall down.

fall down on something to fall and drop onto something. ① Bits of the ceiling paint fell down on us and into our food. ② The leaves fell down on the lawn.

fall down on the job Fig. to fail to do something properly; to fail to do one’s job adequately. ① The team kept losing because the coach was falling down on the job. ② Tom was fired because he fell down on the job.

fall (flat) on one’s face ① Lit. to fall down, perhaps turning over or rolling. ② Bobby fell flat on his face and skinned his nose. ③ Down he went—he fell on his face. ④ Fig. to fail miserably, usually in a performance. ⑤ She was terrible in the play. ⑥ She fell flat on her face. ⑦ The whole play fell flat on its face.

fall for someone Fig. to fall in love with someone. ① I fell for her in a big way. She’s gorgeous! ② Ted fell for Alice and they decided to get married.

fall for something Fig. to believe something without reservation. ① Surely, you don’t expect me to fall for that! ② She fell for the excuse I gave her about getting stuck in traffic.

fall from grace ① Lit. to sin and get on the wrong side of God. (A Christian concept.) ② It was either fall from grace or starve from lack of money. That’s how thieves are made. ③ Given the choice between falling from grace and starving, few people choose to starve. ④ Fig. to do something wrong and get in trouble with someone other than God. ⑤ I hear that Ted lost the Wilson contract and has fallen from grace with the boss. ⑥ The accounting firm has fallen from grace and the board is looking for a new one.

fall from power Fig. to go out of power; to go out of office. ① The dictator fell from power after the riots. ② Every ruler will fall from power sooner or later.

fall from someone or something to fall off of someone or something. ① The books fell from the top shelf in the earthquake. ② The eggs rolled and fell from the counter and broke on the floor.

fall head over heels Fig. to fall down, perhaps turning over or rolling. ① Fred tripped on the rug and fell head over heels into the center of the room. ② Slow down or you will fall down—head over heels.

fall head over heels in love (with someone) Fig. to fall deeply in love with someone, especially suddenly. ① Roger fell head over heels in love with Maggie, and they were married within the month. ② Very few people actually fall head
over heels in love with each other. She fell head over heels in love and thought she was dreaming.

fall heir to something 1. Lit. to inherit something; to end up with certain possessions of someone who has died. I fell heir to all my grandmother’s old photographs. 2. Fig. to end up with having to take care of something that no one else wants; to be placed in charge of something unexpectedly. Bob fell heir to the Wilson project and has to complete what Jane failed to do.

fall ill Fig. to become ill. Tom fell ill just before he was to perform. We both fell ill after eating the baked fish.

fall in to line up in a row, standing shoulder to shoulder. The Boy Scouts were told to fall in behind the leader. The soldiers fell in quickly.

fall in love (with each other) [for two people] to become enamored of each other. Tom fell in love with Mary, but she only returned his love. John is too young to really fall in love.

fall in love (with someone) to develop the emotion of love for someone. Tom fell in love with Mary, but she only wanted to be friends. John fell in love with Max, who had served time in prison.

fall in love (with something) to become enamored of something. I simply fell in love with the dress. I had to have it. I fell in love with the red car and bought it at once.

fall in on someone or something to cave in on someone or something; to collapse on someone or something. The roof of the mine fell in on the workers. The ceiling fell in on the diners.

fall in the drink Go to fall off the wagon.

fall in with something to get caught in a trap. John fell in with Max, who had served time in prison.

fall ill 1. Fig. to become ill. Tom fell ill just before he was to perform. We both fell ill after eating the baked fish.

fall in to line up in a row, standing shoulder to shoulder. The Boy Scouts were told to fall in behind the leader. The soldiers fell in quickly.

fall in love (with each other) [for two people] to become enamored of each other. Tom fell in love with Mary, but she only returned his love. John is too young to really fall in love.

fall in love (with someone) to develop the emotion of love for someone. Tom fell in love with Mary, but she only wanted to be friends. John fell in love with Max, who had served time in prison.

fall in love (with something) to become enamored of something. I simply fell in love with the dress. I had to have it. I fell in love with the red car and bought it at once.

fall in on someone or something to cave in on someone or something; to collapse on someone or something. The roof of the mine fell in on the workers. The ceiling fell in on the diners.

fall in the drink Go to fall off the wagon.

fall in with someone or something to become involved with someone or a group. I’m afraid that he fell in with the wrong kind of friends. John fell in with Max, who had served time in prison.

fall in with something to concur with something; to harmonize with something. We had to fall in with her wishes. The statement falls in exactly with my view.

fall into a trap 1. Lit. to get caught in a trap. The tiger fell into a trap and leapt out again immediately. The boys tried to get a squirrel to fall into a trap, but squirrels are too clever. 2. and fall into the trap; fall into someone’s trap Fig. to become caught in someone’s scheme; to be deceived into doing or thinking something. We fell into a trap by asking for an explanation. I fell into his trap when I agreed to drive him home.

fall into decay to degenerate; to rot. The house was very old and had fallen into decay. The small town fell into decay, and people moved out.

fall into disfavor to lose one’s influence; to be preferred less and less. This style of government fell into disfavor some years ago. Poor Lee fell into disfavor with the boss and lost all his special privileges.

fall into disgrace to become without honor. The mayor fell into disgrace because of his financial dealings. We fell into disgrace because of our criminal affiliations.

fall into disuse to be used less and less. The pump had fallen into disuse and the joints had rusted solid. Since my books had fallen into disuse, I sold them to a used-book dealer.

fall in(to) line 1. Lit. to line up so that each person (except the first person) stands behind someone. The teacher told the students to fall in line for lunch. Hungry students fall in line very quickly. 2. Fig. to conform; to fall in(to) place. All the parts of the problem finally fell into line. Bill’s behavior began to fall in line. Fig. to behave in a manner similar to someone or something. You are expected to fall in line with the other people. We want you to fall in line.

fall into one’s lap Fig. [for something of great value or usefulness] to be given or granted to someone without having been requested. Some valuable antique jewelry just fell into his lap. His late mother had kept it hidden for years.

fall in(to) place to fit together; to become organized; to make sense. After we heard the whole story, things began to fall in place. When you get older, the different parts of your life begin to fall into place.

fall into someone’s trap Go to fall into a trap.

fall in(to something) to drop into something. The rabbit fell into the hole and was trapped. It went right up to the hole and fell in.

fall in(to step) to get into the same marching pattern as everyone else as regards which foot moves forward. (Everyone should be moving the same foot forward at the same time.) I just can’t seem to fall into step. I am very uncoordinated. Fall in! March with the others!

fall into the gutter Go to fall into the gutter.

fall into the trap Go to fall into a trap.

fall into the wrong hands Fig. to become associated with the wrong person; to become the possession of the wrong person. I don’t want these plans to fall into the wrong hands. This could be dangerous if it fell into the wrong hands.

fall like a ton of bricks Go to fall like a ton of bricks.

fall off to decline or diminish. Business falls off during the summer months. My interest in school fell off when I became twenty.

fall off (of something) to drop off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) A button fell off my shirt. I fell off the log. The twigs fell off of him as he stood up.

fall off the wagon Go to fall off the wagon.

fall on deaf ears Fig. [for talk or ideas] to be ignored by the persons they were intended for. Her pleas for mercy fell on deaf ears; the judge gave her the maximum sentence. All of Sally’s good advice fell on deaf ears. Walter had made up his own mind.

fall on hard times Fig. to experience difficult times, especially financially. Since the war, her family had fallen on hard times. We fell on hard times during the recession.

fall on one’s knees and fall to one’s knees to kneel down, usually in respect. The people fell on their knees and prayed in gratitude for their salvation from the flood. They fell to their knees in awe.

fall on one’s sword 1. Lit. to fall down and be penetrated by one’s own sword, accidentally or on purpose. He tripped and fell on his sword. 2. Fig. to accept defeat; to go to extremes to indicate one’s defeat. (From the ancient
fall on someone's shoulders Go to on someone's shoulders.

fall on(to) someone or something to collapse toward or onto someone or something. □ The fence fell onto the car, denting it severely. □ The branch fell on David.

fall out 1. to happen; to result. □ As things fell out, we had a wonderful trip. □ What fell out of our discussion was a decision to continue. 2. to leave one's place in a formation when dismissed. (Usually in scouting or the military. The opposite of fall in.) □ The scouts fell out and ran to the campfire. □ All the soldiers fell out and talked among themselves. 3. to depart. □ It's late, George. I have to fall out. □ Let's fall out. I have to get up early in the morning.

fall out of bed 1. Lit. to roll out of one's bed onto the floor. □ I fell out of bed and broke my arm. □ Billy fell out of bed and started to cry. 2. Fig. [for a measurement] to drop very low very fast. □ The major stock averages fell out of bed today as the market suffered its second severe crash in two months. □ The temperature fell out of bed last night.

fall out of favor (with someone) and lose favor (with someone) to lose someone's approval or acceptance. □ This style of house has fallen out of favor with most people lately. □ Saving money has lost favor with most people.

fall out of love (with someone) to stop being in love with someone. □ She claimed she had fallen out of love with him. □ He also had fallen out of love.

fall out of (something) to topple out of something. □ Mary fell out of the tree and hurt herself.

fall out (with someone) (about something) Go to next.

fall out (with someone) (over something) and fall out (with someone) (about someone or something) to quarrel or disagree with someone about something. □ Tony fell out with Nick about the video game. □ Bill fell out with Sally over the question of buying a new car. □ Bill fell out with John about who would sleep on the bottom bunk.

fall outside something to be beyond someone's power, responsibility, or jurisdiction. □ This matter falls outside my bailiwick. □ Her offense fell outside of the manager's jurisdiction.

fall over to topple over and fall down. □ The fence fell over and dented the car. □ I felt faint and almost fell over.

fall over backwards (to do something) and bend over backwards (to do something); lean over backwards (to do something) Fig. to do everything possible to please someone. □ The taxi driver fell over backwards to be helpful. □ The teacher bent over backwards to help the students understand. □ You don't have to lean over backwards to get me to help. Just ask.

fall over someone or something to stumble over someone or something. □ Sam came into the house and fell over a kitchen chair. □ Walter fell over Roger, who was napping on the floor.

fall onboard to fall from a boat or a ship into the water. (See also go onboard.) □ Someone fell onboard and they had to stop the boat and go back. □ The lady's sunglasses fell overboard.

fall short to lack something; to lack enough of something, such as money, time, etc. □ We fell short of money at the end of the month. □ Tom fell short of cash and had to borrow from me.

fall short of one's goal(s) and fall short of the goal(s); fall short of the record to fail to achieve a goal. □ We fell short of our goal of collecting a thousand dollars. □ Ann ran a fast race, but fell short of the record.

fall through [for something, such as plans] to fail. □ Our party for next Saturday fell through. □ I hope our plans don't fall through.

fall through something to fall and break through something. □ One of the skaters fell through the thin ice. □ A number of hailstones fell through the roof of the greenhouse.

fall through the cracks Go to through the cracks.

fall to begin doing something; to prepare to do something and go to work on it. □ She asked for help, and everyone fell to. □ Fall to, you guys!

fall to one's knees Go to fall on one's knees.

fall to pieces 1. Lit. to break into pieces. □ The road was so rough the car almost fell to pieces. □ I was afraid that my bicycle would fall to pieces before I got there. 2. Fig. to become emotionally upset. □ I was so nervous, I fell to pieces and couldn't give my speech. □ Roger fell to pieces when his mother died.

fall to someone Fig. to become the responsibility of someone. □ It always falls to me to apologize first. □ Why does it fall to me to answer the telephone every time it rings?

fall toward something to drop or fall in the direction of something. □ She fell toward the curb rather than toward the traffic. □ The tree fell toward the garage rather than toward the house.

fall under something or someone to drop down and end up beneath someone or something. □ The old man fell under the wheels of the truck, but he suffered only minor injuries. □ The child tripped and fell under Mrs. Rogers, who almost did not see her.

fall under someone's spell 1. Lit. to come under the magical control of a magician or similar person. □ The damsel fell under the wizard's spell and sat there speechless. □ As the children fell under the witch's spell, they went to sleep. 2. Fig. to be fascinated by someone; to be enchanted by someone. □ She was so beautiful. I fell under her spell at once. □ Wally fell under Donna's spell and became helpless in her presence.

fall upon someone [for a task] to become the duty of someone. □ The task of telling Mother about the broken vase fell upon Jane. □ The job of cleaning up the spill fell upon Tom.

fall upon someone or something 1. to collapse on top of someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The bridge fell upon a boat passing beneath it. □ A small branch fell upon Jerry as he passed beneath the tree. 2. to attack someone or something. □ The cat fell upon the mouse and killed it. □ The children fell on the birthday cake and ate it all.

fall wide of the mark Go to wide of the mark.
fall within something to belong to a specific category or classification. □ This falls within the realm of the medical profession. There’s no more I can do for you. □ Does this fall within your area of expertise?

a false move and one false move Fig. [even] a single movement that indicates that one is disobeying an order to remain still or in a nonthreatening posture. □ The robber threatened to shoot us if we made one false move.

falter in something to fail in doing something; to exhibit a lack of something, such as faith, loyalty, perseverance, etc. □ He did not falter in his effort to see the project through to the end. □ I promised not to falter in my loyalty.

*familiar with someone or something to have a good knowledge of someone or something. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ Are you familiar with changing a flat tire? □ I can’t speak German fluently, but I’m somewhat familiar with the language.

Familiarity breeds contempt. Prov. People do not respect someone they know well enough to know his or her faults. □ The movie star doesn’t let anyone get to know him, because he knows that familiarity breeds contempt.

familiarize someone with something to help someone get to know or understand someone or something. □ I hope you will take the time to familiarize yourself with the instructions before you set out to operate this device. □ Let me take a moment to familiarize myself with the facts of the case.

The family that prays together stays together. Prov. Families who practice religion together will not break apart through divorce or estrangement. □ Mother believed that the family that prays together stays together and insisted that we all say prayers every night.

famous last words Fig. assertions that are almost immediately countered. (Sarcastic.) □ A: I said I would never speak to her again in my entire life! B: Famous last words! □ I promised not to falter in my loyalty.

*fan of someone or something to be a follower of someone; to idolize someone. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ My mother is still a fan of the Beatles. □ I’m a great fan of the mayor of the town.

fan out Fig. to spread out over a wide area. □ The searchers fanned out, looking for the child lost in the woods. □ Let’s fan out and search a wider area.

fan out (from some place) to spread outward from a particular area. □ The paths seem to fan out from the wide trail that starts at the house. □ The trails fanned out and soon we were all separated.

fan something out to spread something out so that all parts can be seen better. (As one opens a wood and paper fan.) □ Todd fanned the cards out so we could see which ones he held. □ He fanned out the cards.

fan the breeze Fig. to chat or gossip. □ We’re just fanning the breeze, so you didn’t interrupt anything. □ Stop fanning the breeze and get to work.

fan the flames (of something) Fig. to make something more intense; to make a situation worse. □ The riot fanned the flames of racial hatred even more. □ The hostility in the school is bad enough without anyone fanning the flames.

fancy footwork 1. Lit. clever and intricate dance steps. □ The old man was known for his fancy footwork when he was on Broadway. 2. Lit. adroit movements of the feet that help someone retain balance or move through treacherous territory. □ It took some fancy footwork to get down the mountain carrying the injured child. 3. Fig. a clever and intricate strategy that helps someone get out of trouble. □ The governor did some fancy footwork to keep from getting blamed for the scandal.

Fancy meeting you here! I am very surprised to meet you here! □ Tom: Hi, Sue! Fancy meeting you here! Sue: Hi, Tom. I was thinking the same thing about you. □ “Fancy meeting you here,” said Mr. Franklin when he bumped into the company president at the racetrack.

fancy someone as someone or something to imagine that someone were someone else or some particular type of person. □ Can you fancy her as a zookeeper? □ I can fancy him as a tall, dark stranger. □ I really don’t fancy myself as a farmer.

fancy someone’s chances to have confidence in someone’s [including one's own] ability to be successful. □ We all think she will refuse to go out with him, but he certainly fancies his own chances. □ The other contestants are so talented that I don’t fancy his chances at all.

Fancy that! and Imagine that! I am very surprised to hear that.; That is hard to imagine or believe. □ Mary: My father was elected president of the board. Sally: Fancy that! □ Sue: This computer is ten times faster than the one we had before. Jane: Imagine that! Is it easy to operate? Sue: Of course not.

far and away the best unquestionably the best. □ This soap is far and away the best I’ve ever used. □ Sally is good, but Ann is far and away the best artist in our school.

far be it from me to do something it is not really my place to do something. (Always followed by but, as in the example.) □ Far be it from me to tell you what to do, but I think you should buy the book.

a far cry from something a thing that is very different from something else. □ What you did was a far cry from what you said you were going to do. □ The song they played was a far cry from what I call music.

far from it not at all; not at all. □ Do I think you need a new car? Far from it. □ The old one is fine.

far from the madding crowd in a quiet, restful place. (From Thomas Gray’s poem, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard.”) □ Julia sat daydreaming at her desk, wishing she were far from the madding crowd. □ Jane: Where shall we go this weekend? Alan: Anywhere, as long as it’s far from the madding crowd.

far gone 1. in an extreme state, usually an irrational or intoxicated state. □ Wow, that chick is far gone. Listen to her rave. □ He was too far gone to make any sense. 2. intoxicated. □ Larry’s far gone and looking sick. □ Wow, is she ever far gone!

far into the night late into the night; until very late. □ She sat up and read far into the night. □ The party went on far into the night.

far out 1. Lit. far from the center of things; far from town. □ The Smiths live sort of far out. □ The restaurant is nice,
faraway look

far-off look Fig. an appearance on one's face of having one's mind in another place. □ Dave had a faraway look in his eyes, so I elbowed him to get his attention. □ Lisa's face had a far-off look indicating that she was daydreaming.

farm someone out! 1. [for someone in control] to send someone to work for someone else. □ I have farmed my electrician out for a week, so your work will have to wait. □ We farmed out the office staff. 2. to send a child away to be cared for by someone; to send a child to boarding school. □ We farmed the kids out to my sister for the summer. □ We farmed out the kids.

fasten something down! (to something) to attach something down to something else. □ Fasten this board down to the top of the workbench. □ Please fasten down the board. fasten something up! to close something up, using buttons, a zipper, snaps, hooks, a clasp, or other things meant to hold something closed. □ Please fasten this up for me. I can't reach the zipper. □ Please fasten up my buttons in back.

fasten (up) on someone or something 1. Lit. to take firm hold of someone or something. □ She fastened upon me and would not let me go until she finished speaking. □ I don't like people who fasten on me and ask a lot of questions. 2. Fig. to fix one's attention on someone or something. □ He fastened upon the picture for a brief moment and then turned away. □ The baby fastened on the television screen and watched it for many minutes.

faster and faster at an increasing rate of speed; fast and then even faster. □ The car went faster and faster and I was afraid we would crash. □ The cost of education goes up faster and faster every year.

fast-talk someone into something to use deceitful talk to get someone to do something. □ You can't fast-talk me into giving you money. How dumb do you think I am? □ Max tried to fast-talk Lefty into robbing a bank with him.

fast-talk someone out of something to use deceitful talk to get someone not to do something or to give something up. □ Don't try to fast-talk me out of my share.

fat and happy Fig. content, as if from being well-fed. □ Since all the employees were fat and happy, there was little incentive to improve productivity. □ You look fat and happy. Has life been treating you well?

fat and sassy Fig. in good health and spirits. □ She came back from her vacation all fat and sassy. □ Under Joe's care, the runt of the litter grew up fat and sassy.

*fat as a pig* exceptionally fat; grotesquely fat. (Also: as ~.) □ If I don't stop eating this cake, I'll be fat as a pig! □ You really ought to go on a diet; you're as fat as a pig.

fat cat Fig. someone who is ostentatiously and smugly wealthy. □ I like to watch the fat cats go by in their BMWs. □ I'm no fat cat. I can't even pay my normal bills!

fat chance Fig. very little likelihood. □ Fat chance he has of getting a promotion. □ You think she'll lend you the money? Fat chance!

*the fat hit the fire* Fig. a situation that suddenly becomes frantic and unpleasant. (Typically: suddenly ~; then ~; when ~.) □ Things were looking bad in the stock market, then the fat hit the fire and I lost everything.

The fat is in the fire. Prov. Matters have come to a crisis; trouble is about to start. □ Brother: Mom found out that we broke the clock. Sister: Uh-oh. The fat's in the fire now. □ The fat is in the fire at work; we're nowhere near finishing the project, but the deadline is in two days.

a fate worse than death Fig. a terrible fate. (Usually an exaggeration.) □ Having to sit through one of his lectures is a fate worse than death.

father something on someone Fig. to regard someone as the author or originator of something. □ Do not attempt to father that stupid idea on me! □ We fathered the whole plan...
on the president. And we learned later she had nothing to do with it.

**fatten** someone or an animal 1. (with something) to use something to make someone or an animal fat. 2. We will fatten the calf up with corn. 3. I don't know why they keep fattening up their children with so much food. **fatten up** (on something) 1. Lit. to get fat by eating something. 2. The cattle fattened up on the succulent grass. 3. The bears have to fatten up on food before they hibernate even during the recession when the workers were laid off.

**fear** for someone or something; to worry about someone or something. 1. He always fawned around me. **fawn** (up)on someone or something 1. Fig. to fawn upon someone because of something. 2. The corporations fattened up on easy profits and low taxes. 3. The directors of the company fattened up even during the recession when the workers were laid off.

**fault** someone for something; to blame or criticize someone for something. 1. I can't fault you for that. I would have done the same thing. 2. He tended to fault himself for the failure of the project.

**faunch around** Rur. to fuss and complain. 1. Stop faunching around about your problems and go to sleep. 2. Aunt Bess is always faunching around about something.

**favor** someone or something with something; to provide someone or something with something beneficial or special. 1. Mary favored us with a song. 2. Nature favored Bill with curly hair.

**fawn** (all) over someone 1. Fig. to flatter someone or attend to someone excessively; to curry favor with someone. 2. Please stop fawning all over the guests. You are embarrassing me. 3. She always fawns over us when we visit.

**fawn** (up)on someone 1. Fig. to praise and flatter someone. 2. Aunt Mabel fauned on the new baby till the poor child was rescued by her mother. 3. I hate the way our aunts fawn on us at family gatherings.

**fear for** someone or something; to be afraid for the safety of someone or something; to worry about someone or something. 1. I fear for Tom. He has gone to a very dangerous place. 2. I don't want to go down that rocky trail. I fear for my car.

**feast** one's eyes (up)on someone or something 1. Fig. to enjoy the sight of someone or something. (Up is formal and less common used than on.) 2. Just feast your eyes on that beautiful beach. 3. Jane feasted her eyes on Roger for a while and then went on with her studying.

**feast** (up)on something 1. to eat a great deal of something; to eat a feast built around something in particular. 2. We will feast upon turkey for weeks. 3. We feasted on the fish Harry had caught.

**feather** in one's cap 1. Fig. an honor; a reward for something. 2. Getting a new client was really a feather in my cap. 3. John earned a feather in his cap by getting an A in physics.

**feather** one's (own) nest 1. Fig. to decorate and furnish one's home in style and comfort. (Alludes to birds lining their nests with feathers to make them warm and comfortable.) 2. Fig. to use power and prestige to provide for oneself selfishly. (Said especially of politicians who use their offices to make money for themselves.) 3. The mayor seemed to be helping people, but she was really feathering her own nest. 4. The building contractor used a lot of public money to feather his nest.

**feature** someone as something 1. to imagine someone to be something or a particular type of person. 2. I really can't feature you as a ship's captain. 3. Alice had always featured Fred as a fairly even-tempered person. 4. They featured Laura as the lead singer in the group. 5. The director refused to feature Roger as a lead.

**feature** someone in something 1. to imagine someone wearing something. 2. I can't feature you in that ridiculous dress. 3. Can you feature Fran in that hat? 4. to imagine someone being in something or some place. 5. I can't feature you in Paris. 6. You are too rural to enjoy a place like Paris. 7. Can you feature David in New York City?

*fed up (to some degree) (with someone or something) *bored or disgusted with someone or something. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) 1. I am fed up to my eyeballs with your complaining. 2. I am just fed up to here!

**Feed a cold and starve a fever.** Prov. You should feed someone who has a cold, and withhold food from someone who has a fever.; (or, interpreted differently) If you feed someone who has a cold, that will ward off a fever. 1. Fill: I don't feel like going out to lunch with you. I have a cold. Jane: All the more reason you should get something to eat. Feed a cold and starve a fever, you know.

**feed off (of) something** to eat something in particular customarily. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) 1. This creature feeds off fallen fruit. 2. Mosquitoes seem to want to feed off of me!

**feed** something to someone or an animal 1. to give something to someone or an animal. 2. Don't feed pizza to the baby. 3. To feed the rope back to those in need. 4. We fed the entire group with paper plates.

**feed** someone, something, or an animal with something 1. to feed something to someone, a group, or an animal. 2. Don't feed any of those lies to Mark.

**feed** someone a line 1. Go to give someone a line. 2. nature favored Bill with curly hair.
feed the kitty Fig. to contribute money. (A kitty here is a small collection of money.) □ Please feed the kitty. Make a contribution to help sick children. □ Come on, Bill. Feed the kitty. You can afford a dollar for a good cause.

feed (up)on someone or something to eat someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ They say that some Bengal tigers feed upon people. □ They feed on anything that moves.

a feeding frenzy 1. Lit. [of sharks] a vicious, competitive feeding attack on prey animals. □ One of the sharks was fatally bitten during a feeding frenzy amongst his own kind. 2. Fig. a vicious attack on someone or something. □ It wasn't an office argument, it was a feeding frenzy led by the head accountant!

feel a draft to sense that one is being rejected; to sense that someone is cool toward one, possibly for racial reasons. □ Oh, man, I feel a draft in here. Let's leave. □ What a reception! I sure felt a draft.

feel a glow of contentment Go to next.

feel a glow of happiness and feel a glow of satisfaction; feel a glow of peacefulness Fig. to have a good feeling of some kind. □ Anne felt a glow of happiness as she held her new baby. □ Sitting by the lake, the lovers felt a warm glow of contentment.

feel around (for someone or something) and feel about (for someone or something) to try to find someone or something by feel [rather than sight]. □ He felt around for the soap in the bathtub. □ She felt about for the dog at the foot of the bed, but it wasn't there. □ Gerald felt about for a pencil.

feel at home to feel as if one belongs; to feel as if one were in one's home; to feel accepted. □ I liked my dormitory room. I really felt at home there. □ We will do whatever we can to make you feel at home.

feel blue Fig. to feel sad. □ You look like you feel blue. What's wrong?

feel fit to feel well and healthy. □ If you want to feel fit, you must eat the proper food and get enough rest. □ I hope I still feel fit when I get old.

feel for someone to feel the emotional pain that someone else is feeling; to empathize or sympathize with someone. □ I really feel for you. I'm so sorry it turned out this way. □ Fred felt for Dave, but there was nothing he could do for him.

* a feel for something a natural or learned ability to do something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~.) □ I will do better with this work as soon as I get a feel for it. □ He doesn't have a feel for this kind of careful work.

feel free (to do something) to feel one is permitted to do something or take something. □ Please feel free to stay for dinner. □ If you see something you want in the refrigerator, please feel free.

feel guilty (about something) to feel that one is to blame for something; to feel intense regret for something that one has done. □ I feel guilty for forgetting about your birthday. □ You shouldn't feel guilty about the accident. It's not your fault.

feel it beneath one (to do something) to feel that one would be lowering oneself to do something. □ Tom feels it beneath him to scrub the floor. □ Ann feels it beneath her to carry her own luggage. □ I would do it, but I feel it beneath me.

feel like a million (dollars) Fig. to feel well and healthy, both physically and mentally. □ A quick swim in the morning makes me feel like a million dollars. □ What a beautiful day! It makes you feel like a million.

feel like a new person Fig. to feel refreshed and renewed, especially after getting well or getting dressed up. □ I bought a new suit, and now I feel like a new person. □ Bob felt like a new person when he got out of the hospital.

feel like death warmed over Go to feel like death warmed over.

feel like doing something to want to do something: to be in the mood to do something; to feel well enough to do something. □ Do you feel like stopping work to eat something? □ I feel like going on a vacation.

feel like oneself again Go to oneself again.

feel like someone or something to have the feel of someone or something: to seem to be someone or something according to feel or touch. □ Whoever this is feels like Tom. Sort of soft and pudgy. □ This thing feels like a rubber hose, not a hot dog.

*the feel of something Fig. a sense for how something feels when it is being used correctly. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I haven't yet got the feel of this bat. I hope I don't strike out. □ I can drive better now that I have the feel of this car's steering.

feel on top of the world Fig. to feel very good, as if one were ruling the world. □ I feel on top of the world this morning. □ I do not actually feel on top of the world, but I have felt worse.

feel one's gorge rise Fig. to sense that one is getting very angry. □ I felt my gorge rise and I knew I was going to lose my temper. □ Bob could feel his gorge rise as he read his tax bill.

feel one's oats Fig. to be very lively. □ Careful with that horse. He's feeling his oats today. □ Mary was feeling her oats and decided to go out dancing.

feel out of place Go to out of place.

feel out of sorts Go to out of sorts.

feel out of things to feel alienated from something. □ I feel out of things lately. Are people ignoring me? □ I feel a little out of things at this party, but I will try to join in the fun.

feel pinched and feel the pinch Fig. experiencing hardship because of having too little money. □ The Smiths used to go abroad every year, but now that he's retired, they're really feeling pinched. □ You're bound to feel the pinch a little when you're a student.

feel somehow about someone or something to have ideas, opinions, or reactions regarding someone or something. □ I feel good about him. □ Do you feel good about how you did on the test? □ How do you feel about Sally?

feel someone out* (about someone or something) Fig. to find out what someone thinks about someone or some-
thing. (This does not involve touching anyone.)  □ I will feel him out about what he thinks about going to Florida.  □ Let me feel out the boss about this matter.

**feel someone up**  to feel someone sexually. (Use discretion with topic.)  □ I heard him say he really wanted to feel her up.  □ He wanted to feel up the girl.

**feel something in** (over someone or something)  to enclose an area within a fence.  □ When they fenced the garden in, they thought the deer wouldn’t be able to destroy the flowers.  □ We fenced in the yard to make a safe place for the children.

**fend**  for oneself  Go to **shift** for oneself.

**fend something off**  to hold someone or something off; to fight someone or something off.  □ We knew we could fend them off only a little while longer.  □ They could not fend off the attackers.

**fender bender**  Fig. a minor car accident.  □ A small fender bender tied up traffic on the expressway for hours!

**ferret something out**  Go to **ferret** something out of someone or something.

**ferret something out** (from something)  Fig. to fetch something out from something.  □ We will have to ferret the mouse out from behind the stove.  □ We can ferret out the mouse with the aid of the cat.

**ferret something out of someone or something and ferret something out**  Fig. to get, remove, or retrieve something from someone or something, usually with cunning and persistence.  □ I tried very hard, but I couldn’t ferret the information out of the clerk.  □ I had to ferret out the answers one by one.

**ferry someone around**  to transport people here and there in small groups.  □ I really don’t want to spend all my days ferrying children around.  □ Why am I ferrying around a bunch of kids all day?

**ferry someone or something across something and ferry someone or something across**  to transport someone or something across a river on a ferryboat.  □ Can we get someone to ferry us across the lake to the island?  □ After they ferried across all the cars, they closed the ferryboat down for the night.

**fess up (to something)**  to confess to having done something. (Short form of confess.)  □ I tried to get the boy to fess up to doing it, but he wouldn’t do it.  □ Come on, fess up.

**festoon**  someone or something with something.  □ Karen festooned her daughter with flowers for the party.  □ The kids festooned the gymnasium with crepe paper and garlands of plastic flowers.

**fetch something in**  to bring or pull something in.  □ Would you please fetch some more firewood in?  □ Can you fetch it in the paper?

**fetch something out of something** and **fetch something out**  to pull something out of something.  □ Could you fetch me another hot dog out of the pot?  □ I’ll fetch out a hot dog for you.

**fetch up**  Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit.  □ I really felt like I was going to fetch up.  □ Somebody fetched up in here and didn’t clean it up.

**fetch up at some place**  to reach a place; to end up at a place.  □ We fetched up at Sam’s house at about midnight.  □ The car fetched up at the cabin and everyone got out.

**feud** (with someone)  (over someone or something) and **feud** (with someone) about (someone or something)  to fight with someone over someone or something; to have an ongoing battle with someone about someone or some-
thing. □ Some of the neighbors are feuding with each other over the parking places on the street. □ Don’t feud over her with me!

few and far between very few; few and widely scattered. □ Get some gasoline now. Service stations on this highway are few and far between. □ Some people think that good movies are few and far between.

few bricks short of a load and a few cards shy of a full deck; a few cards short of a deck; not playing with a full deck; two bricks shy of a load

Fig. lacking in intellectual ability. (Many other variants.) □ Tom: Joe thinks he can build a car out of old milk jugs. Mary: I think Joe’s a few bricks short of a load. □ Ever since she fell and hit her head, Jane’s been a few bricks short of a deck.

fight about someone or something to have a battle or argue about someone or something. □ Why do we always have to fight about money? □ Let’s not fight about Ed.

fight against someone or something to battle against someone or something. □ The general refused to fight against the enemy, which was much stronger. □ He fought against the disease to the very end.

fight against time Fig. to hurry to meet a deadline or to do something quickly. □ The ambulance sped through the city to reach the accident, fighting against time. □ All the students fought against time to complete the test.

fight back (at someone or something) to defend oneself against someone or something; to retaliate against someone or something. □ You are going to have to fight back at them. You can’t expect us to defend you. □ It’s hard for me to fight back against three of them by myself.

fight fire with fire. Prov. Use against your opponent the same methods he or she is using against you. □ After her opponent had spent several weeks slandering her, the candidate decided to fight fire with fire. □ When evangelists would come to our house and try to convert us, Mother would fight fire with fire and try to convert them to her religion.

fight for someone or something to go to battle for the benefit of someone or something; to go to battle in the name of someone or something. □ They all went off to fight for their country. □ The soldiers fought for the queen and the survival of the empire. □ I guess I will have to learn to fight for my rights.

fight like hell Go to like the devil.

fight like the devil Go to like the devil.

fight like the dickens Go to like the devil.

fight on to continue to fight. □ The boys fought on until one of them was down. □ They fought on until they were exhausted.

fight one’s way back (to something) to struggle to return to something or some place. □ She fought her way back to the head of the line. □ Jan fought back to good health.

fight one’s way out of something and fight one’s way out to struggle to get out of something or some place. □ He fought his way out of the crowded room and out through the door. □ He couldn’t fight his way out of a paper bag.

fight one’s way through (something) 1. to struggle to get through something; to struggle to penetrate something. □ I’ll have to fight my way through all this crepe paper in order to reach the punch bowl. □ The room was filled with trash, and I had to fight through it to get to the other door. 2. to struggle to work through all of some-
thing.  □ I have to fight my way through this stack of papers by noon.  □ I am tired of fighting through red tape.

**fight over** someone or something to fight a battle that decides who gets someone or something.  □ Well, let's not fight over Tom. You can have him. I can make a better team without him.  □ The children were fighting over who would get the largest piece of cake.

**fight** someone or something **down**\(^1\) to fight against and defeat someone or something.  □ We fought the opposition down and got our bill through the committee.  □ We had to fight down Fred, who wanted something entirely different.

**fight** someone or something **hammer and tongs** and **fight** someone or something **tooth and nail**; **go at it hammer and tongs**; **go at it tooth and nail** Fig. to fight against someone or something energetically and with great determination.  □ They fought against the robber with clubs and pitchforks!  □ Jed fought the attacker off.

**fight** someone or something **with** something to attack or battle someone or something with something.  □ We can't fight the enemy with clubs and pitchforks!  □ I fought him with my bare fists.

**fight** something **down**\(^1\) 1. to struggle to hold something back; to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by something.  □ She fought her anger down and managed to stay calm.  □ She fought down the urge.  2. to struggle to swallow something; to fight to get something down one's throat.  □ It tasted terrible, but I managed to fight it down.  □ She fought down the nasty-tasting medicine.

**fight** something **out**\(^1\) to settle something by fighting.  □ Do we have to fight this out? Can't we use reason?  □ I prefer to fight out this matter once and for all.

**fight** something **through**\(^1\) (something) to force something through some sort of procedure or process; to railroad something **through** (something).  □ The governor fought the bill through the legislature successfully.  □ She fought through the bill successfully.

**fight the good fight** to fight a noble and well-intentioned battle.  □ He fought the good fight and left the meeting with a clear conscience.

**fight to the death** to engage in a battle that isn't finished until one opponent is dead.  □ The two men looked as though they were going to fight to the death.  □ These evil-tempered dogs will fight to the death.

**fight (with)** someone or some creature (over someone or something) to fight with someone or an animal over who gets or keeps someone or something.  □ The terrier fought with the collie over the piece of meat.  □ I don't want to fight you over Harry.

**fight (with)** someone or something (about someone or something) to do battle or argue with someone or something about someone or something.  □ Let's not fight with each other about this simple matter.  □ I don't want to fight with you about this!

a **fighting chance** a good possibility of success, especially if every effort is made.  □ They have at least a fighting chance of winning the race.  □ The patient could die, but he has a fighting chance since the operation.

**figure in** something [for someone or something] to play a role in something.  □ Tom figures in our plans for future office management.  □ I don't wish to figure in your future.

**figure on** doing something to plan on something.  □ I figured on arriving at the party around eight o'clock.  □ Jane figured on spending $25 on dinner.

**figure on** someone or something to count on someone or something; to assume something about someone or something.  □ I am figuring on twelve people for dinner next Friday.  □ We are figuring on you and your wife for dinner next weekend.

**figure out the root of the problem** Go to the root of the problem.

**figure someone as** something to think of a person as a particular type of person.  □ I figured her as a reliable worker.  □ We figured them all as good credit risks.

**figure someone or something in**\(^1\) Go to **figure** someone or something in\((to)\) something.

**figure someone or something in**\((to)\) something and **figure someone or something in**\(^3\) to reckon someone or something into the total.  □ I will figure the electric bill into the total.  □ We can figure in one more person.

**figure someone or something out**\(^4\) to begin to comprehend someone or something; to come to understand someone or something better.  □ I just can't figure you out.  □ I can't figure out quiet people readily.

**figure something up**\(^1\) to add up the amount of something.  □ Please figure the bill up. We have to go now.  □ I will figure up the bill right away.

**filch** something (from someone) Sl. to grab or steal something from someone.  □ The young boy filched a candy bar from the store.  □ Who filched my wallet from me?

**file charges (against someone)** Go to press charges (against someone).

**file for** something to submit an application or document for something.  □ The company filed for bankruptcy.  □ Let's file for reorganization.

**file in\((to)\) something** [for a line of people] to move into something or some place.  □ The people file into the hall quietly.  □ Everyone filed in quietly.

**file out** (of something) [for a line of people] to move out of something or some place.  □ The people filed quietly out of the theater.  □ They filed out at the end.

**file past** (someone or something) [for a line or procession] to move past someone or something.  □ The people filed past the coffin, looking sadly at the still figure inside.  □ As they filed past, some wept openly.

**file something against** someone to lodge a criminal charge against someone.  □ Sally filed a charge of assault against Max.  □ The old man filed charges against the attacker.

**file something (away)**\(^1\) to put something away, usually in a file folder or file cabinet.  □ She filed the letter away for
future reference. □ Please file away this report. You will need it some day.

file something away¹ (from something) and file something off (of something); file something off² to remove something from something else by filing. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The dentist filed the sharp point away from the tooth. □ The dentist filed away the sharp point from the tooth. □ The dentist filed the point off.

file something down³ to level off a protrusion by filing. □ File this edge down so no one gets cut on it. □ Please file down this edge.

file something off² (of something) Go to file something away¹ (from something).

file something with someone or something to submit an application or a document to someone or a group. □ You must file this copy with the state office. □ I will file this with my boss.

file something off² Go to file something away¹ (from something).

fill in [for an indentation, hole, etc.] to become full. □ The scar filled in after a few months. □ Will this hole in the ground fill in by itself, or should I put some dirt in?

fill in (for someone or something) Fig. to substitute for someone or something; to take the place of someone or something. □ I will have to fill in for Wally until he gets back. □ I don’t mind filling in.

Fill in the blanks. You can figure out the rest.; You can fill in (for an indentation, hole, etc.) to become full. □ You can fill in the blanks.

fill out 1. to become full. □ The creek filled up after the heavy rain yesterday. □ The rain barrel began to fill up during the storm. 2. to fill one’s gas tank. □ I need cloth to make a shirt. This muslin ought to fit the bill.

fill up 1. to become full. □ The clear water filtered through and filled up to a certain point. □ The shopkeeper bought a gun and swore the next time someone broke into the shop, he’d fill him full of lead. □ Don’t move, or I’ll fill you full of lead.

fill one’s face and stuff one’s face Sl. to eat food fast; to stuff food into one’s face. □ Everyday I see you, you are stuffing your face. No wonder you’re overweight!

fill out to become full; to gain weight. □ About a month after her debilitating illness, Maggie began to fill out again. □ I will fill out this form in. □ I will fill in the form for you.

filter in(to some place) 1. Lit. to leak or seep into some place. □ The smell of bacon cooking filtered into his room and made him wake up. □ The smoke filtered in and burned our eyes. 2. Fig. for people to come into a place, a few at a time, over a period of time. □ One by one, the guests filtered into the room. □ They filtered in and started on the snacks.

filter something out¹ of something and filter something out² to remove something from a fluid by running it through a filter. □ We filtered the odors out of the water and made it fit to drink. □ I’m glad you filtered out the odor.

filter through (something) to pass or seep through something. □ The water filtered through the coffee grounds and dripped into the pot. □ The clear water filtered through and left the sand behind.

filthy money. □ I sure could use a little of that filthy money. □ I don’t want to touch any of your filthy money.

filthy rich 1. Fig. very wealthy. □ I wouldn’t mind being filthy rich. □ There are too many filthy rich people now. 2. Fig. people who are very wealthy. □ The filthy rich can afford that kind of thing, but I can’t. □ I sort of feel sorry for the filthy rich.

a final fling Fig. the last act or period of enjoyment before a change in one’s circumstances or lifestyle. □ You might as well have a final fling before the baby’s born. □ Mary’s
find (something) out (about someone or something) (from someone or something)

find one's way (around) Fig. to be able to move about an area satisfactorily without getting lost. □ I can go downtown by myself. I can find my way around. □ I know the area well enough to find my way.

find one's way around (something) to discover a way to move around something or some place without getting lost. □ Can you find your way around or shall I have someone take you? □ Don't worry. I can find my way around.

find one's way (somewhere) [for someone] to discover the route to a place. □ Mr. Smith found his way to the museum. □ Can you find your way home?

find oneself Fig. to discover what one's talents and preferences are. □ Bill did better in school after he found himself. □ John tried a number of different jobs. He finally found himself when he became a cook.

find oneself in a bind Go to in a bind.

find oneself in a jam Go to in a jam.

find oneself in the doghouse Go to in the doghouse.

find oneself in the market (for something) Go to in the market (for something).

find oneself in the public eye Go to in the public eye.

find oneself with someone or something to discover that one has a disease or a problem. □ I found myself with a terrible case of sunburn after the first day of my vacation.

find oneself without someone or something to discover that one no longer has someone or something. □ When I got to the head of the line, I found myself without a cent!

find out a thing or two (about someone or something) Go to a thing or two (about someone or something).

find someone a bit off Go to a bit off.

find someone a little off Go to a little off.

find someone guilty and find someone innocent; find someone not guilty to decide guilt or innocence and deliver a verdict in a court of law. □ The judge found the defendant not guilty by reason of insanity. □ The jury found the defendant innocent.

find someone in to learn or discover that one is at home; to learn or discover that one is in one's office. □ I never expected to find you in at this time of night. □ Did you really expect to find me in on a Friday night?

find someone innocent Go to find someone guilty.

find someone not guilty Go to find someone guilty.

find someone out 1. to discover that someone is not at home. □ We knocked on their door and found them out. □ Sam found Frank out when he arrived to collect the debt. 2. to discover something surprising or shocking about someone. □ I don't want them to find me out. □ We found her out despite her deviousness.

find something in mint condition Go to in mint condition.

find something out† to discover facts about someone or something; to learn a fact. □ I found something out that you might be interested in. □ We found out that the Smiths are going to sell their house.

find (something) out† (about someone or something) (from someone or something) to learn something about someone or something from someone or something. □
What did you find out about Terry from Mr. Franklin? □ I didn’t find anything out about Roger from the newspaper stories. □ I found out what I wanted to know about solar flares from the encyclopedia. □ What did you find out about Bill?

find (something) out the hard way Go to learn (something) the hard way.

find the root of the problem Go to the root of the problem.

find time for someone or something Go to time for someone or something.

Finders keepers, losers weepers. Prov. If you find something, you are entitled to keep it. (This is a children’s rhyme and sounds childish when used by adults.) □ Bill: Hey! How come you’re using my fountain pen? Fred: It’s mine now. I found it on the floor—finders keepers, losers weepers. □ Child: That’s my hat. You can’t have it. Playmate: I found it. Finders keepers.

fine and dandy nice; good; well. □ Well, that’s just fine and dandy. Couldn’t be better. □ I feel fine and dandy, and I’m going to have a good time here.

Fine feathers make fine birds. Prov. If you dress elegantly, people will think you are elegant. (Can be used ironically, to suggest that even though someone dresses well, he or she is not a high-class person.) □ Ironically, to suggest that even though someone dresses gantly, people will think you are elegant. (Can be used to bring something into a poem.)

a fine how do you do an unpleasant situation. (Said with surprise.) □ This is a fine how do you do! Someone left a big puddle of motor oil in my driveway. □ John saw his girlfriend out with another young man. He walked up to her and said, “Well, isn’t this a fine how do you do!”

a fine kettle of fish Fig. a troublesome situation; a vexing problem. (Usually appears in the expression, This is a fine kettle of fish!) □ This is a fine kettle of fish. My husband is not here to meet me at the train station, and there’s no phone here for me to call him. □ Alan: Oh, no! I’ve burned the roast. We don’t have anything to serve our guests as a main dish. Jane: But they’ll be here any minute! This is a fine kettle of fish.

fine print Go to small print.

fine someone for something to demand a monetary penalty from someone for having done something. □ The judge fined her for speeding. □ The agency fined our company for having the wrong kind of tank to store waste oil.

a fine state of affairs Go to a pretty state of affairs.

Fine weather for ducks. Go to Lovely weather for ducks.

Fine words butter no parsnips. Prov. Just because someone promises something does not guarantee that he or she will do it. (Can be used as a rebuke, implying that the person you are addressing is promising something he or she will not do, as in the second example.) □ Sue: Tom promised he would buy me any house I want if I marry him! Jane: Fine words butter no parsnips. □ Fred: Sweetheart, I’m very sorry I’ve been so short-tempered. I’ll never, never be like that anymore. Ellen: Fine words butter no parsnips.

fine-tune something 1. Lit. to make delicate adjustments in some mechanical or electronic device. □ It took a while to fine-tune the flute, but it was worth it. 2. Fig. to make small alterations in a plan or procedure. □ We need to spend some time fine-tuning the scheme, then we will seek approval.

finger someone as someone Sl. to identify someone as a certain person. (As if one were pointing a finger at someone.) □ Max fingered his partner as the gunman. □ The accountant fingered the bookkeeper as the one who fixed the books.

Fingers were made before forks. Prov. It is all right to eat with one’s fingers because people had to eat somehow before there were forks. (Used to justify eating something with your fingers.) □ Mother: Put that chicken wing back on your plate and eat it properly, with a knife and fork. Child: But Mom, fingers were made before forks. □ I don’t see why it’s considered bad manners to eat with your fingers. Fingers were made before forks.

finish ahead of schedule Go to ahead of schedule.

finish someone or an animal off! to kill someone or an animal that is already injured or wounded. □ They had to finish the wounded bear off with a revolver. □ The hunter finished off the bear.

finish someone or something off! Fig. to complete some activity being performed on someone or something. □ Let’s finish this one off and go home. □ Yes, let’s finish off this one. □ Nancy is cutting Elaine’s hair. When she finishes her off, she will be ready to leave.

finish someone or something up? Fig. to finish doing something to someone or something. □ I will finish this typing up in a few minutes. □ She finished up Fred in a short time.

finish (something) by doing something to bring something to a conclusion by doing something. □ She finished the lecture by naming her sources. □ Sharon finished by reading a poem.

finish something off! Fig. to eat or drink up all of something; to eat or drink up the last portion of something. □ Let’s finish the turkey off. □ You finish off the turkey. I’ve had enough.

finish (something) off! with something to bring something to a conclusion with something. □ She finished the dinner off with fancy cheeses and fruit. □ She finished off the dinner with pie.

finish something with a lick and a promise Go to a lick and a promise.

finish with something to complete something; to become done with something. □ I will finish with fixing this soon, and then you can have it. □ When will this be finished with?

finishing touch(s) a final adjustment of something; some effort or action that completes something. □ Norm is in his workshop putting the finishing touches on his latest project.

fink on someone Sl. to inform parents, the authorities, etc. on someone. □ You’re not going to fink on me, are you? □ Chuck finked on all of us.

fink out (on someone or something) Sl. to decide not to cooperate with someone or something (after all). □ Come on, don’t fink out on us now. □ Bob finked out on the plan.

fire away (at someone) Fig. to ask many questions of someone; to criticize someone severely. □ When it came time for questions, the reporters began firing away at the
**Fire** is a good servant but a bad master. Prov. You must be careful to use fire wisely and under control so that it will not hurt you. □ Don't play with the candle flames, children. Fire is a good servant but a bad master. □ At camp, we learned how to build and extinguish fires safely, since fire is a good servant but a bad master.

**fire over** something to shoot over something with a weapon, usually people's heads. □ We fired over their heads to warn them to stay away. □ Wally fired over the target.

**fire someone up** Fig. to motivate someone; to make someone enthusiastic. □ See if you can fire John up and get him to rake the leaves. □ I have to fire up the electorate if I want them to vote for me.

**fire someone with anger** and **fire someone with enthusiasm**; **fire someone with hope**; **fire someone with expectations** Fig. [for someone's words] to fill someone with eagerness or the desire to do something. □ The speech fired the audience with enthusiasm for change. □ We were fired with anger to protest against the government.

**fire someone with enthusiasm** Go to previous.

**fire someone with expectations** Go to fire someone with anger.

**fire (something) at someone or something** and **fire (something) away at someone or something** to shoot at someone or something with a weapon. □ Someone fired a gun at my car! □ The cowboy fired at the rattlesnake. □ The hunters fired away at the ducks. □ On television, somebody is always firing away at somebody else.

**fire (something) away at someone or something** Go to previous.

**fire (something) back (at someone or something)** to shoot back at someone or something. □ We fired about ten rounds back at them. □ The soldiers in the fort did not fire back at the attackers.

**fire something back**! (to someone or something) Fig. to send something back to someone or a group immediately. □ Look this over and fire it back to me immediately. □ Fire back all this stuff to the printer as soon as you have proved it.

**fire something into** someone or something to shoot something as a weapon, into someone or something. □ She fired the gun into a special box that stopped the bullet. She would then examine it under a special microscope. □ Max fired two shots into Lefty, but even that did not stop him.

**fire something off**! (to someone) Fig. to send something to someone immediately, by a very rapid means. □ Fire a letter off to Fred, ordering him to return home at once. □ I fired off a letter to Fred as you asked. □ I finished the e-mail and fired it off.

**fire something up**! 1. Lit. to light something, such as a pipe, cigarette, etc. □ If you fire that pipe up, I will leave the room. □ Please don't fire up that cigar in here! 2. Fig. to start something such as an engine. □ Fire this thing up, and let's get going. □ Andy fired up the snowblower and started to clear a path.

*a fire under someone* Fig. something that makes someone start doing something. (*Typically: build ~; light ~; start ~.*) □ The teacher built a fire under the students, and they really started working. □ You had better light a fire under your staff. Either that or we will lay off some of them.

**fire up** to light a cigarette, cigar, or pipe. □ One by one, the guests went outside and fired up. □ I have to get out of here and fire up.

**fire (upon) someone or something** to shoot at someone or something with a weapon; to shoot in the direction of someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The troops fired upon the advancing army. □ The cops fired on Max.

**fired up** Fig. excited; enthusiastic. □ How can you be so fired up at this time of the morning? □ It's impossible to get Martin fired up at all.

**firing on all cylinders** and **hitting on all cylinders**

1. Lit. [of an internal combustion engine] having all its cylinders working and thus providing the maximum amount of power. □ The old car is firing on all cylinders despite its age. □ This thing's not hitting on all cylinders.

2. Fig. working at full strength; making every possible effort. □ The team is firing on all cylinders under the new coach. □ The factory is hitting on all cylinders to finish the orders on time.

*a firm hand* Fig. [someone's] strong sense of management; a high degree of discipline and direction. (*Typically: exercise ~; have ~; need ~; take ~; use ~.*) □ I had to use a firm hand with Perry when he was a child. He had a problem with discipline.

**firm something up**! 1. Lit. to make something more stable or firm. □ We need to firm this table up. It is very wobbly. □ You need to use a whisk to firm up the egg whites. 2. Fig. to make a monetary offer for something more appealing and attractive and therefore more “solid” and likely to be accepted. □ You will have to firm the offer up with cash today, if you really want the house. □ Please firm up this offer if you still want the house.

**firm up** 1. Lit. to develop better muscle tone; to become less flabby. □ I need to do some exercises so I can firm up. □ You really ought to firm up. 2. Fig. to become more stable or viable; to recover from or stop a decline. □ The economy will probably firm up soon. □ I hope that cattle prices firm up next spring.

**first and foremost** Cliché first to be dealt with and most important. □ First and foremost, I think you should work harder on your biology. □ Have this in mind first and foremost: Keep smiling!

**First catch your hare.** Prov. Do not make plans about what you will do when you have something until you actually have it. □ Fred: When I buy my house on the beach, you can spend summers with me there. Ellen: First catch your hare.

**First come, first served.** Prov. The first people to arrive will be able to get the best choices. □ You can't reserve a seat at the movie theater; it's strictly first come, first served. □ We should get to the book sale as soon as they open; it's first come, first served.

*first crack at something* Fig. the first opportunity at doing, fixing, or having something. (*Typically: get ~;
first hundred years are the hardest.

**have ~; give someone ~; take ~; want ~;** □ I’ll take the first crack at it, and if I can’t do it, you can try.

The **first hundred years are the hardest.** *Prov.* The first hundred years of your life are the hardest, and after that, you can expect things to get easier; in other words, your whole life will probably be difficult. (A jocular, ironic way to console someone who is having difficulties.) □ Don’t worry; things are bound to improve for you. The first hundred years are the hardest.

**First impressions are the most lasting.** *Prov.* People will remember the way you appear when you first meet them, so it is important to look and act your best when you meet someone for the first time. □ George spent two hours picking just the right clothes to wear when he met the head of the law firm, since he knew that first impressions are the most lasting.

the **first leg (of a journey)** and the **first leg (of the journey)** the first segment of a journey; the first flight of a multi-flight trip. □ The first leg of the journey got me to London.

**first of all** as the very first thing; before anything else. □ First of all, put your name on this piece of paper. □ First of all, we’ll try to find a place to live.

**first off** first; the first thing. (Almost the same as **first of all.**) □ He ordered soup first off. □ First off, we’ll find a place to live.

**first see the light of day** 1. *Fig.* to be born. □ My grandfather has taken care of me since I first saw the light of day. 2. *Fig.* to come into being. □ Bob’s collection of short stories first saw the light of day in a privately printed edition three years ago.

The **first step is always the hardest.** *Prov.* Starting a new endeavor is the hardest part of it. □ Fred. I want to quit smoking, but I can’t convince myself to sign up for the “stop smoking” program. Jill: The first step is always the hardest. □ If I can just start this project, I know the rest will be easy. The first step is always the hardest.

**first thing (in the morning)** before anything else is done in the morning. □ Please call me first thing in the morning. I can’t help you now. □ I’ll do that first thing.

**First things first.** *Prov.* Do things in the proper order; do not skip things that you should do first. □ Jill: Should we go to the museum first, or should we go shopping? Jane: I’m hungry. Let’s eat lunch before we discuss it. First things first. □ First things first: read the directions carefully before you try to assemble the bookcase.

the **first test with the mostest** the earliest in and the largest numbers; the earliest with more of what’s needed. □ Pete got the prize for being the firstest with the mostest. □ I always like to be there early—the firstest with the mostest.

**fish for a compliment** *Fig.* to try to get someone to pay oneself a compliment. □ When she showed me her new dress, I could tell that she was fishing for a compliment. □ Tom was certainly fishing for a compliment when he modeled his fancy haircut for his friends.

**fish for something** 1. *Lit.* to try to catch a particular kind of fish. □ We are fishing for cod today, but we’ll take whatever we get. □ We will fish for perch from the riverbank. 2. *Fig.* to seek some kind of information. □ You could tell the lawyer was fishing for something from the vague way she asked the questions. □ The telephone caller was fishing for too much information, so I hung up.

**fish in troubled waters** *Fig.* to involve oneself in a difficult, confused, or dangerous situation, especially with a view to gaining an advantage. □ Frank is fishing in troubled waters by buying more shares of that company. They are supposed to be in financial difficulties. □ The company could make more money by selling armaments abroad, but they would be fishing in troubled waters.

**fish or cut bait.** *Fig.* Do something or get out of the way. □ Fish or cut bait, Chuck. There’s work to be done here. □ Decide whether you’re going to watch or help. Fish or cut bait.

**fish someone or something out of something** and **fish someone or something out** to pull someone or something out of something or some place. □ She is down at the riverbank, fishing driftwood out of the water. □ She fished out a lot of wood.

**fish something up** □ Go to next.

**fish something up of something** and **fish something up** to pull or hoist something out of something, especially after searching or reaching for it. □ The old shopkeeper fished a huge pickle up out of the barrel. □ He fished up a huge pickle.

**fish story** and **fish tale** *Fig.* a great big lie. (Like a fisherman who exaggerates the size of the fish that got away.) □ That’s just a fish story. Don’t try to fool me. □ He’s a master at the fish tale. Maybe he should be a politician.

**fish tale** Go to previous.

a **fishing expedition** a search for information without knowledge of whether such information exists. (This involves asking questions with no preconceived notion of what the answers might reveal.) □ The lawyer was on a fishing expedition. There was no real wrong committed to justify a lawsuit. □ Your honor, the prosecutor is just on a clumsy fishing expedition. I move for dismissal. □ We are going to have to go on a fishing expedition to try to find the facts.

**fit and trim** slim and in good physical shape. □ Jean tried to keep herself fit and trim at all times. □ For some people, keeping fit and trim requires time, effort, and self-discipline.

**fit around something** to wrap around something. □ This part fits around the top and keeps the water out. □ Will this wrench fit around the bolt?

*fit as a fiddle* *Cliché* in very good health. (*Also: as ~.*) □ You may feel sick now, but after a few days of rest and plenty of liquids, you’ll be fit as a fiddle. □ Grandson: Are you sure you’ll be able to climb all these stairs? Grandmother: Of course! I feel as fit as a fiddle today.

**fit for a king** and **fit for the gods** *Fig.* very nice; luxurious. □ What a delicious meal. It was fit for a king. □ Our room at the hotel was fit for a king.

**fit for the gods** Go to previous.

**fit in (somehow) (with something)** to match up or harmonize with something in some fashion. □ Your itinerary fits in well with my plans. □ This fits in very poorly with what I had planned.
fit in (with someone or something) to be comfortable with someone or something; to be in accord or harmony with someone or something. □ I really feel as if I fit in with that group of people. □ It’s good that you fit in. □ This chair doesn’t fit in with the style of furniture in my house.

fit in (to something) [for something] to be a suitable size to go into something. □ This peg does not fit into this hole. □ That huge sofa simply doesn’t fit in through the door.

fit like a glove Fig. to fit very well; to fit snugly. □ My new shoes fit like a glove. □ My new coat is a little tight. It fits like a glove.

fit someone for something 1. to measure someone for something. □ I have to fit him for his tuxedo. I’ll take his measurements and get to work on it. □ She was fitted for her gown in only one afternoon. 2. to prepare someone for something; to make someone suitable for some purpose or activity. □ His education did not fit him for working with children. □ Her temperament does not fit her for this kind of work.

fit someone or something in (to something) and fit someone or something in to manage to place someone or something into something. □ I think I can fit you into my schedule. □ I have fit in three people already today. □ The shelf is tight, but I think I can fit one more book in.

fit someone or something out (for something) to equip someone or something for something; to outfit someone or something for something. □ We are going to fit our boat out so we can live on it during a long cruise. □ We fit out the children in funny costumes for Halloween.

fit someone or something out with something to provide or furnish someone or something with something. □ They fit out the campers with everything they needed. □ They fit them out for only $140.

fit someone or something up with something to provide someone or something with something for a particular purpose. □ We fit the couple up with fins, masks, and snorkels for diving. □ The clerk fitted up the couple with diving gear for their vacation. □ She fitted them with tanks and weights.

fit something on to something and fit something on to manage to place something onto something. □ See if you can fit this lid onto that jar over there. □ Sorry, I can’t fit this lid on, because it’s too big.

fit something to something to make something suit something else. □ Please try to fit your remarks to the audience. □ Can you fit the main course to the needs of all the people who are coming to dinner?

fit something together to put the parts of something together. □ First you have to fit the pieces together to see if they are all there. □ I think I can fit the parts of the model airplane together. □ Do you think you can fit together all the parts of the puzzle?

fit the bill Go to fill the bill.

fit to be tied angry and agitated. (As if needing to be restrained.) □ Joe was fit to be tied when his wife told him she was leaving. □ I was fit to be tied when Mary tried to be friendly, after three years of not speaking to me.

fit to kill Rur. a great deal; to the highest possible degree. □ We laughed fit to kill when we saw the expression on Jim’s face. □ I had my car gussied up fit to kill.

fit together [for things] to conform in shape to one another. □ All the pieces of the puzzle fit together. They really do. □ This nut and bolt just don’t fit together.

fit with something to harmonize with something; to go well with something. □ Do you think that your behavior fits with the occasion? □ This coat doesn’t fit with these slacks.

*fits and starts with irregular movement; with much stopping and starting. (Typically: by ~; in ~; with ~.) □ Somehow, they got the job done in fits and starts. □ By fits and starts, the old car finally got us to town.

five-finger discount Sl. shoplifting. □ Sam used his five-finger discount to get the kind of ring Jane wanted. □ I got this necklace by five-finger discount.

*a fix 1. Sl. a dose of a drug or narcotic. (Typically: get ~; have ~; need ~.) □ The addict badly needed a fix and was very fidgety. 2. an appropriate repair. □ Do you have a good fix for a leaky faucet?

fix an animal Euph. to remove the uterus or testicles of a pet animal. □ We took Fluffy to the veterinarian to have her fixed. □ The animal shelter fixes all animals that come there, to prevent overpopulation.

*a fix on something 1. the exact location of something distant. (Typically: get ~; have ~; need ~.) □ I can’t get a fix on your location. Where are you? □ We are trying to get a fix on your radio transmission. 2. Fig. an understanding of the direction of a discussion. (Typically: get ~; have ~; need ~.) □ I can’t quite get a fix on what you’re trying to say. □ I can’t get a fix on where you’re going with this argument.

fix someone or something up to rehabilitate someone or something. □ The doctor said he could fix me up with a few pills. □ The doctor fixed up the injured hunter and sent him home.

fix someone’s wagon Fig. to punish someone; to get even with someone; to plot against someone. □ If you ever do that again, I’ll fix your wagon! □ Tommy! You clean up your room this instant, or I’ll fix your wagon! □ He reported me to the boss, but I fixed his wagon. I knocked his lunch on the floor.

fix someone up with something to supply someone with something. □ I will fix you up with some alcohol and bandages. □ They lined John up with my cousin, Jane. □ John didn’t want us to fix him up. □ We fixed up Bob with a date.

fix someone up with something to arrange for someone to have a date or a companion. □ They lined John up with my cousin, Jane. □ John didn’t want us to fix him up. □ We fixed him up with the best.

fix something Sl. to pay money in secret to have something turn out the way you want. □ The Boss fixed all the horse races in the county. □ After the gun-control bill failed to pass, there were rumors that the gun lobby had fixed the legislature.

fix something for (a meal) to prepare something for a specific meal. □ I will fix some chili for lunch. □ Will you fix something good for dinner tonight?
fix something on(to) something to attach something onto something.  □ We fixed a notice onto the broken door so people wouldn’t use it.  □ Please fix a label on this package.

fix something over! to redo something; to do something over; to redecorate something.  □ I want to fix this room over next spring.  □ I really want to fix over this room.

fix something with someone 1. to get someone’s agreement or permission for something.  □ Don’t worry, I’ll fix it with your boss.  □ Can you fix things with my brother? He doesn’t want me to do this.  □ to apologize or make amends to someone for something.  □ She is upset at you, but you can fix it with her. I’m sure.  □ I will fix it with her. Don’t worry.

fix (up)on someone or something to become preoccupied with someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)  □ She seems to have fixed upon becoming a pilot.  □ James is quite fixed on Janet.

fixed up provided with a date.  □ Sam got fixed up with Martha.  □ Okay, Sam is fixed up with a date for Saturday.

fixin(g) to do something Rur. getting ready to do something; getting ready to start something.  □ I’m fixin’ to go to the store. Need anything?

fizz up [for a liquid] to sparkle and bubble with many tiny bubbles; [for a liquid] to effervesce.  □ The cola drink fizzed up and spilled over.  □ As she poured the root beer, it fizzed up over the glass.

fizzle out 1. Lit. [for a liquid] to sparkle and bubble with many tiny bubbles; [for a liquid] to effervesce.  □ The cola drink fizzed up and spilled over.  □ As she poured the root beer, it fizzed up over the glass.

fizzle out 2. [for a liquid] to sparkle and bubble with many tiny bubbles; [for a liquid] to effervesce.  □ The cola drink fizzed up and spilled over.  □ As she poured the root beer, it fizzed up over the glass.

flame up 1. [for something] to catch fire and burst into flames.  □ The trees flamed up one by one in the forest fire.  □ Suddenly the car flamed up and exploded.  □ [for a fire] to expand and send out larger flames.  □ The raging fire flamed up and jumped to even more trees.  □ As firemen opened the door and came in, the fire flamed up and filled the room.

flame up 2. [for a liquid] to sparkle and bubble with many tiny bubbles; [for a liquid] to effervesce.  □ The cola drink fizzed up and spilled over.  □ As she poured the root beer, it fizzed up over the glass.

flame with anger and flame with resentment; flame with lust; flame with vengeance Fig. [for someone’s eyes] to “blaze” or seem to communicate a particular quality or excitement, usually a negative feeling.  □ His eyes flamed with resentment when he heard Sally’s good news.  □ Her eyes flamed with hatred.

flame with lust Go to previous.

flame with resentment Go to flame with anger.

flame with vengeance Go to flame with anger.

flank (up)on someone or something to be at the side of someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)  □ The Victorian mansion flanked on the tall, modern apartment building.  □ It flanked on a broad expanse of fir trees.

flap around [for a sheet of something] to blow, flop, or slap around, perhaps in the wind.  □ The sails flapped around, making a lot of noise.  □ The awning flapped around during the night.

flap one's gums and flap one’s jaws Rur. to talk aimlessly.  □ They’re still out on the porch, flapping their gums.  □ Well, I can’t sit here flapping my jaws all day. Gotta get back to work.

flap one’s jaws Go to previous.

flare out to spread out; to widen. (Said especially of one opening of a tube or round-topped vessel.)  □ The end of the pipe flared out to a larger diameter.  □ The top of the vase flared out, and was decorated with little blobs of colored glass.

flare something out! to spread something out; to make something wider. (Said especially of one end of a tube or round-topped vessel.)  □ Can you flare the end of this pipe out a little?  □ Flare out the end of this pipe.

flare up 1. Lit. [for something] to ignite and burn.  □ The firewood flared up at last—four matches having been used.  □ Lit. [for a fire] to burn brightly again and expand rapidly.  □ After burning quietly for a while, the fire suddenly flared up and made the room very bright.  □ Lit. [for a pain or medical condition] to get worse suddenly.  □ My arthritis flares up during the damp weather.  □ Fig. [for a dispute] to break out or escalate into a battle.  □ A war flared up in the Middle East.  □ We can’t send the whole army every time a dispute flares up.  □ and Flare up at someone or something Fig. to lose one’s temper at someone or something.  □ I could tell by the way he flared up at me that he was not happy with what I had done.  □ I didn’t mean to flare up.

flash a smile (at someone) Fig. to smile quickly and perhaps briefly at someone.  □ She flashed a smile at me as if she recognized me.
flash across something 1. Lit. [for something bright] to move quickly across something. □ The telephone number flashed across the television screen too fast for me to copy it down. □ The spotlight flashed across the audience, blinding me as it went by. 2. Fig. [for an idea or image] to move quickly through one’s mind. □ A solution to the problem suddenly flashed across my mind. □ Thoughts of food flashed across my mind, and I began to be very hungry.

flash back (on someone or something) Fig. to provide a glimpse of someone or something in the past. (In films, literature, and television.) □ The next scene flashed back on Fred’s murder. □ The story then flashed back, giving us information out of the past.

flash back (to someone or something) to return briefly to a view of someone or something in the past. (In films, literature, and television.) □ The story suddenly flashed back to Tom when he was a child. □ The story flashed back to Tom’s childhood.

a flash in the pan Fig. someone or something that draws a lot of attention for a very brief time. □ I’m afraid that my success as a painter was just a flash in the pan. □ Tom had hoped to be a major film star, but his career was only a flash in the pan.

flash into one’s mind Fig. [for an idea or image] to enter one’s mind for an instant. (See also flash through one’s mind.) □ A brilliant idea flashed into her mind, and she wrote it down. □ When the idea flashed into my mind, I closed my eyes and tried to forget it.

flash into view Fig. to move quickly into view. □ Suddenly, a doe and her fawn flashed into view. □ A bright parrot flashed into view and squawked raucously.

flash off [for a light] to go off suddenly. (See also flash on.) □ The light flashed off and it was dark for a few minutes. □ When the lights flashed off, I was setting my watch.

flash on [for a light] to turn on suddenly. □ The light flashed on and woke us up. □ When the light flashed on, I had just been getting to sleep.

flash on someone or something [for a light] to shine on someone or something suddenly or in bursts. □ The orange neon light flashed on John’s face, making him look quite strange. □ The light flashed on the window shade, startling the occupants of the room.

flash on something Sl. to remember something suddenly and vividly. □ Then I flashed on a great idea. □ I was trying to flash on her name, but I couldn’t bring it to mind.

flash out [for a light] to shine out of something suddenly or in bursts. □ The light flashed out, signaling us to stay away from the rocks. □ Under the door, we saw a light flashing out. Someone was watching television in that room.

flash something around1 to display something so everyone can see it. (Usually something one would hold in one’s hand.) □ Don’t flash your money around on the streets. □ She flashed around the pictures of her grandchildren every chance she got.

flash something at someone or something 1. Lit. to shine a light quickly on someone or something. □ Larry flashed a light at Frank to verify his identity. □ We flashed the light at each doorway, looking for the address we had been sent to. 2. Fig. to show something, such as a badge, to someone or a group quickly. □ The cop flashed his badge at the suspect. □ The security officer came in and flashed his badge at the board of directors.

flash something up1 (some place) to shine a light upwards toward something. □ Flash your light up into the tree. □ She flashed up her light at the cat in the tree. □ Gloria flashed the light up.

flash through one’s mind Fig. [for an idea or image] to move quickly through one’s mind. (See also flash into one’s mind.) □ Suddenly, a great idea flashed through my mind. □ The same idea flashed through all of our minds at once.

flash with anger and flash with recognition; flash with eagerness [for someone’s eyes] to “glimmer” or seem to communicate a particular quality or excitement. □ Her green eyes flashed with anger. □ Ellen’s eyes flashed with recognition when she saw me.

flash with recognition Go to previous.

*flat as a board and *flat as a pancake Cliché very flat. (Also used to describe someone’s chest or abdomen, referring to well-developed abdominal muscles or small or nearly absent breasts or pectoral muscles—in either sex. □ Also: as ~.) □ Jane was flat as a board until she was sixteen, when she suddenly blossomed. □ Lucy can mash an aluminum can flat as a pancake with one blow from her heel.

flat as a pancake Go to previous.

flat broke and flat busted Fig. having no money at all. □ Sorry, I’m flat broke. Not a cent on me. □ You may be flat broke, but you will find a way to pay your electricity bill or you will live in the dark. □ Mary was flat busted, and it was two more weeks before she was due to get paid.

flat busted Go to previous.

flat on one’s ass 1. Fig. Inf. completely exhausted. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ I’m just flat on my ass. I need some rest. □ After the day of the marathon, Pete was flat on his ass for a week. 2. Fig. Inf. broke; financially destroyed. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion. An elaboration of flat broke.) □ Sorry, I can’t help you. I’m broke—flat on my ass. □ The guy’s flat on his ass. Can you help him out with a loan?

(flat) on one’s back ill in bed. □ I’ve been on my back with the flu for two weeks. □ She was flat on her back during her illness.

flat out 1. clearly and definitely; holding nothing back. □ I told her flat out that I didn’t like her. □ They reported flat out that the operation was a failure. 2. at top speed. □ How fast will this car go flat out? □ This car will hit about 110 miles per hour flat out.

flatten someone or something out1 to make someone or something flat. □ If you fall under the steamroller, it will flatten you out. □ Flatten out that dough a little more. □ Please flatten it out.

flatter one’s figure Fig. [for clothing] to make one look thin or to make one’s figure look better than it is. □ The lines of this dress really flatter your figure. □ The trousers had a full cut that flattered Maria’s figure.

Flattery will get you nowhere. Flattering me will not increase your chances of success. □ A: Gee, you can do
flavor food with something

almost anything, can’t you? B: Probably, but flattery will get you nowhere.

flavor food with something to season a food with something. a He flavors his gravy with a little sage. a Can you flavor the soup with a little less pepper next time?

fleck something with something to put little specks of something on something. a They flecked the little figures with some kind of powder that made them sparkle. a His hair was flecked with gray.

flee from someone or something to run away from someone or something. a The robber fled from the scene of the crime. a The children fled from the wrath of the old man.

flee to something to escape to something or some place. a We fled to our little place on the coast. They never found us. a The little mouse fled to its hole in the wall when the cat came around.

fleet of foot Fig. able to run fast. a Frederick, who was notably fleet of foot, outran all the other boys and won the prize.

a fleeting glance Fig. a quick glance; a very brief look. a I had a fleeting glance at the car as it sped by, but I couldn’t read the license plate number.

flesh and blood 1. Lit. a living human body, especially with reference to its natural limitations; a human being. a This cold weather is more than flesh and blood can stand. a Carrying 300 pounds is beyond mere flesh and blood. 2. Fig. the quality of being alive. a The paintings of this artist are lifeless. They lack flesh and blood. a This play needs flesh and blood, not the mumbling of intensely dull actors. 3. and own flesh and blood Fig. one’s own relatives; one’s own kin. a That’s no way to treat one’s own flesh and blood. a I want to leave my money to my own flesh and blood.

flesh out to become more fleshy. a She began to flesh out at the age of thirteen. a After his illness, Tom fleshed out and regained his strength.

flesh something out† (with something) Fig. to make something more detailed, bigger, or fuller. a Needs flesh and blood, not the mumbling of intensely dull actors. a You can’t just fling away the things you don’t want!

flexed out of shape Sl. very angry; bent out of shape. a The boss was completely flexed out of shape. a I am truly flexed out of shape.

flick something off* 1. to turn something off, using a toggle switch. a Mary flicked the light off and went out of the room. a Please flick the light off as you go out the door. a Please flick off the light. 2. Go to next.

flick something off† to brush or knock a speck of something off of someone or something with a quick movement. a She flicked a speck of lint off her collar. a She flicked off the lint.

flick something on† to turn something on, using a toggle switch. a Mary came into the room and flicked the light on. a Please flick on the light.

flick something out† [for a reptile] to push out its tongue quickly. a The lizard flicked its tongue out repeatedly. a The lizard kept flicking out its tongue at regular intervals.

flick something with something to brush or knock something with something quickly or lightly. a She flicked her finger at the fly that had lighted nearby. a Tom flicked the vase with his sleeve and knocked it over.

flick through something to turn quickly through the pages of something. a Colleen flicked through the magazine, looking only at the advertisements. a I have only had time to flick through the manuscript, but it looks okay.

flicker out [for a flame] to dwindle, little by little, until it goes out. a The candle flickered out, leaving us in total darkness. a When the last flame flickered out, the room began to get cold.

flight of fancy an idea or suggestion that is out of touch with reality or possibility. a What is the point in indulging in flights of fancy about exotic vacations when you cannot even afford the rent?

flinch from someone or something to move back suddenly from someone or something; to shrink (back) (from someone or something) suddenly. a She struck at him and he flinched from her. a At the last minute the center fielder flinched from the ball.

fling one’s head back† to tilt one’s head back quickly. a She flung her head back and laughed heartily. a She flung back her head and laughed.

fling oneself at someone Go to throw oneself at someone.

fling someone or something around† to sling or throw someone or something around. a Don’t fling your wet clothing around. You are messing up the whole room. a Don’t fling around all your clothes.

fling someone or something aside† to toss or sling someone or something aside or out of the way. a She flung aside the covers and leaped out of bed. a She flung the covers aside.

fling someone or something away† to throw or sling someone or something away or out of the way. a You can’t just fling me away! I am your eldest son! a You can’t just fling away the things you don’t want!

fling someone or something back† 1. to sling or throw someone or something backwards. a I had to fling the child back, away from the fire. a I flung back the door and ran out. a Walt grabbed at the door and flung it back. 2. to return someone or something by slinging or throwing. a She took the little fish and flung it back into the water. a Did you fling back the ball to Roger?

fling someone or something down† to throw or push someone or something down. a He flung the book down in great anger. a He flung down the book and ran from the room.

fling someone or something out of something and fling someone or something out† to sling or throw someone or some-
thing out of something or some place. □ In anger, she flung the cat out of the window. □ She flung out the cat and closed the window.

**fling** something at someone or something to throw something roughly or carelessly at someone or something. □ Don’t fling that towel at me! □ Don’t just fling that paper at the wastebasket, hoping it will get there!

**fling** something in(to) something and **fling** something in† to throw something into something. □ I will fling this thing in the trash. It is junk! □ Liz opened the laundry chute and flung in her clothes. □ She flung them in.

**fling** something off of oneself and **fling** something off† 1. to pull or throw something off of oneself hastily. □ She flung the blanket off herself. □ She flung off the blanket. 2. to pull or take off an article of clothing. □ Larry flung his jacket off and went straight to the kitchen. □ He flung off his jacket.

**fling** something off (of) something and **fling** something off† to yank or pull something off of oneself hastily. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ He flung the bedspread off the bed and dived in. □ He flung off the covers and dived into bed.

**fling** something on oneself and **fling** something on† to put an article of clothing onto oneself hastily. □ She got up and flung on her robe. □ She flung her robe on and went to answer the door.

**fling** something up† in someone’s face Fig. to bring a problem up and confront someone with it. □ Don’t fling it up in my face! It’s not my fault! □ I don’t like anyone to fling up my past in my face.

**fling** something up† (in something) to throw one’s arms or hands up in an expression of some emotion, such as despair, horror, disgust, resignation. □ She flung her hands up in despair. □ She flung up her hands and cried out for help.

**fling** up Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. □ I was afraid I was going to fling up. □ Who flung up on the sidewalk?

**flip** around to turn end for end, all the way around, quickly. □ The alligator flipped around and hissed at us. □ The kitten flipped around and pounced on my hand.

**flip** one’s lid Go to next.

**flip** one’s wig and **flip** one’s lid Sl. to suddenly become angry, crazy, or enthusiastic. □ Whenever anyone mentions taxes, Mr. Jones absolutely flips his wig. □ Stop whistling. You’re going to make me flip my lid.

**flip** out Sl. to lose control of oneself. □ After a sleepless night, Wally simply flipped out. □ I felt like I was going to flip out from the steady dripping of the faucet.

**flip** over to turn over quickly. □ The fish flipped over and flipped back over again. □ The cat flipped over and ran away.

**flip** over some one or something Sl. to become very excited about someone or something; to lose control because of someone or something. □ I flipped over her the first time I ever saw her. □ The guests really flipped over the Beef Wellington!

the **flip side** 1. Lit. the “other” side of a phonograph record. □ On the flip side, we have another version of “Love Me Tender” sung by Sandy Softly. □ You really should listen to the flip side sometime. 2. Fig. another aspect of a situation. □ On the flip side, if we lower the taxes it may stimulate consumer spending.

**flip** someone for something to flip [a coin] with someone to determine the possession of something or the right to do something. □ Maybe it’s yours; maybe it’s mine. I’ll flip for it.

**flip** someone off† and **flip** someone out†; **flip** someone the bird Sl. to give someone the finger, that is raise the middle finger, a rude sign. (The digitus impudicus.) □ The youth flipped the police officer off. Not a good idea. □ He flipped off the cop. □ You better not flip a cop out! □ The little kid flipped the cop the bird and didn’t even know what it meant.

**flip** someone out† Go to previous.

**flip** someone the bird Go to flip someone off.

**flip** someone or something over† to turn someone or something over quickly. □ He flipped over the fish and removed the scales from its other side. □ Billy flipped Bobby over and started hitting him on the other side.

**flip** someone out† Go to flip someone off†.

**flip** through something to go quickly through the leaves of a book, etc., page by page. □ She flipped through the book, looking at the pictures. □ Don’t just flip through it. Read it.

**flirt** with someone to tease or trifle with someone alluringly. □ Are you flirting with me? □ Everyone knows that married men aren’t supposed to flirt with anyone.

**flirt** with the idea of doing something Fig. to think about doing something; to toy with an idea; to consider something, but not too seriously. (See also **flirt** with someone.) □ I flirted with the idea of going to Europe for two weeks. □ Jane flirted with the idea of quitting her job.

**flit** about to move about quickly; to dart about. □ A large number of hummingbirds were flitting about. □ Butterflies and moths flitted about among the trees and flowers.

**flit** from person to person Fig. to move quickly from person to person or thing to thing. (See also **flit** from something to something else.) □ Tom flitted quickly from person to person, handing out snacks and beverages. □ The singer flitted from table to table, working the crowd for tips.

**flit** from something to something else 1. Lit. [for an insect] to fly quickly from one thing to another. □ The butterfly flitted from flower to flower. 2. Fig. [for someone] to go quickly from task to task, spending little time on each one. □ The housekeeper only flits from room to room without ever getting anything completely clean.

**float** a loan Fig. to get a loan of money; to arrange for a loan of money. □ I couldn’t afford to pay cash for the car, so I floated a loan. □ They needed money, so they had to float a loan.

**float** around to float from here to there freely. □ All sorts of paper and trash were floating around on the surface of the pond. □ Water hyacinths floated around, making a very tropical scene.

**float** into something 1. Lit. to move on water or in air into something. □ The huge cruise ship floated majestically into the harbor. □ The kite floated into a tree and was ruined.
float on air

Fig. [for someone] to feel free and euphoric. □ I was so happy, I was floating on air. □ Mary was floating on air after she won first prize.

float through something

1. Lit. to move slowly through water or air, gently. □ The boats floated through the water slowly and gracefully. □ As the clouds floated through the sky, they cast blotchy shadows on the ground. 2. Fig. [for someone] to move aimlessly through something. (As if semiconscious.) □ She has no ambition. She's just floating through life. □ He floated through his work that day. It is probably done all wrong.

float (upon) something
to drift as if on the surface of something; to drift along through the air. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The little tufts of dandelion seeds floated upon the breeze. □ The fluff floated on the breeze.

flock after someone or something
to follow someone or something in a group. □ The children flocked after the man playing the flute. □ Fans flocked after the movie star as he went from his limo into the hotel.

flock around someone or something
to crowd around someone or something. □ All the children will flock around the magician to see how the tricks are performed. □ The guests flocked around the birthday cake.

flock in(to) some place
Fig. [for people] to move into some place in crowds. □ People were flocking into the store where everything was on sale.

flock to someone or something
Fig. [for people] to come to someone or something in great numbers. □ Many people flocked to the shopping mall for the postholiday discounts. □ The kids flocked to the movie theater on Saturday afternoon.

flock together
to gather together in great numbers. (Typically said of birds and sheep.) □ A large number of blackbirds flocked together, making a lot of noise. □ Do sheep really flock together in a storm?

flog a dead horse and beat a dead horse
Fig. to insist on talking about something that no one is interested in, or that has already been thoroughly discussed. □ The history teacher lectured us every day about the importance of studying history, until we begged him to stop flogging a dead horse. □ Jill: I think I’ll write the company president another letter asking him to prohibit smoking. Jane: There’s no use beating a dead horse, Jill; he’s already decided to let people smoke.

flog someone to death
Lit. to beat someone to death with a whip. □ In the movie, the captain ordered the first mate to flog the sailor to death.

flog something to death
Fig. to dwell on something so much that it no longer has any interest. □ Stop talking about this! You’ve flogged it to death. □ Walter almost flogged the whole matter to death before we stopped him.

flood in(to) something
1. Lit. [for a fluid] to flow quickly into something in great volume. □ The water flooded in and soaked the carpets. 2. Fig. [for large amounts or numbers of people or things] to pour or rush into something.
□ The people flooded into the hall. □ We opened the door, and the dogs and cats flooded in.

flood out of something
1. Lit. [for water or something that flows] to rush out of something. □ The water flooded out of the break in the dam. 2. Fig. [for people] to rush out of something or some place. □ The people flooded out of the theater, totally disgusted with the performance.

flood someone or something out of something
and flood someone or something out
[for too much water] to force someone or something to leave something or some place. □ The high waters flooded them out of their home. □ The high waters flooded out a lot of people.

flood someone or something with something
to cover or inundate someone or something with something. □ We flooded them with praise and carried them on our shoulders. □ The rains flooded the fields with standing water.

*the floor
Fig. the exclusive right to address the audience. (Typically: get ~; have ~; hold ~; grant someone ~.) □ When I get the floor, I’ll make a short speech. □ The last time you had the floor, you talked for an hour.

floor it
Fig. to press down hard and fast on the accelerator of a vehicle. □ She floored it and sped off over the hill.

floor someone
to surprise and astound someone. □ His brashness simply floored me!

flop around [for something] to turn around awkwardly; [for a fish out of water] to squirm and flap. □ The horse flopped around, throwing water first this way and then that, knocking over the plants as it flopped. □ A number of fish flopped around in the bottom of the boat.

flop as something
to be a failure in a particular aspect of something in one’s life or career. □ He flopped as an actor. □ I don’t want to flop as a public speaker.

flop down
to sit down heavily or awkwardly. □ Be graceful. Don’t just flop down! □ When I reached the chair, all I could do was flop down.

flop into something [for someone] to fall or drop into something, such as bed, a chair, a bathtub, etc. □ Maggie flopped into the chair and slipped off her shoes. □ Tom flopped into bed and fell fast asleep.

flop someone or something over! to turn someone or something over, awkwardly or carelessly. □ They flopped the unconscious man over, searching for his identification. □ They flopped over the injured man.

flop something down on(to) something and flop something down* to drop or slap something down on something. □ She flopped the liver down on the cutting board. □ She flopped down the raw meat.

flora and fauna
plants and animals. □ The magazine story described the flora and fauna of Panama. □ We went for a hike in the Finnish wilderness hoping to learn all about the local flora and fauna.

floral tribute
Euph. flowers sent to a funeral. □ The church was filled with floral tributes. □ Did you wish to make any arrangements for floral tributes at your grandmother’s funeral?

flotsam and jetsam
1. Lit. the floating wreckage of a ship and its cargo, or floating cargo deliberately cast overboard to stabilize a ship in a rough sea. □ All sorts of flotsam and jetsam washed up on the beach. 2. Fig. worthless
matter; worthless encumbrances. □ His mind is burdened with the flotsam and jetsam of many years of poor instruction and lax study habits. □ Your report would be better if you could get rid of a lot of the flotsam and jetsam and clean up the grammar a bit.

**flounce in(to some place)** to move into a place with exaggerated or jerky motions. □ A couple of teenagers flounced into the store and started examining the most expensive merchandise. □ They flounced in and caught the eye of the security guard.

**flounce out (of some place)** to bounce or bound out of some place. □ She turned up her nose and flounced out of the shop. □ She flounced out in anger.

**flounder around** to struggle or wallow around. □ The whole company is just floundering around and getting nowhere. □ The horse floundered around, trying to get across the soggy pasture.

**flounder through** something 1. Lit. to struggle through something, such as a mire, swamp, etc. □ The Jeep floundered through the swamp without getting stuck. □ The horse floundered through the muddy field. 2. Fig. to struggle awkwardly through a difficult situation. □ We floundered through the performance. □ I don't know how we did it, but we did it. □ We just floundered through our presentation, hoping for a lot of questions.

**flow across** something to stream or glide across something. □ A mass of cold air flowed across the city and froze us all. □ The floodwaters flowed across the fields and ruined the spring planting.

**flow along** to move along evenly, as a liquid flows. □ At the base of the dam, the river began to flow along at a slower pace. □ The project flowed along quite nicely.

**flow away** to course or move away. □ The floodwaters flowed away as fast as they had come. □ All the spilled water flowed away.

**flow from** something to run out from something. □ The blood flowed from the wound on his hand and stained his shirt. □ The oil flowed from the cracked engine and made a mess on the floor.

**flow (from something) to (something)** to course from one thing to another. □ This water flows all the way from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. □ Rain flows to the river from this very drain.

**flow in(to something)** to course into something; to pour into something. □ The words flowed into my head, and I felt like I could write again. □ The water flowed in when I opened the door on the flood.

**flow out (of something)** 1. Lit. to course out of something. □ The apple juice flowed out of the press as we turned the crank. □ It stopped flowing out when we had crushed the apples totally. 2. Fig. [for people] to issue forth from something. □ The people flowed out of the stadium exits. □ At the end of the game, the people flowed out in a steady stream.

**flow over someone or something** 1. Lit. [for a liquid or something that flows] to move over someone or something. □ The water flowed over the land, covering everything. □ She slipped and fell into the icy creek and the water flowed over her, freezing her almost to death. 2. Fig. [for some kind of feeling] to envelop someone. □ A sense of peace flowed over her. □ Patriotic feelings flowed over the crowd as they listened to the national anthem.

**flow with something** to have some liquid coursing on the surface or within someone or something. □ The sewers were flowing with the floodwaters. □ Her veins must flow with ice water. She is so cold.

**flub something up** to mess something up; to ruin something. □ I saw you play in the tournament last Friday. You really flubbed it up, if you don’t mind me saying so. □ You really flubbed up the tournament.

**flub the dub** Inf. to fail to do the right thing. □ Martin is flubbing the dub with the fund-raising campaign. □ Please don’t flub the dub this time.

**flub up** to make an error. □ I flubbed up again!

**fluctuate between someone and someone else** to waver between choosing one person and another. □ I am fluctuating between Sam and Tony as my choice. □ The manager fluctuated between Mary and Sarah as the new assistant.

**fluctuate between something and something else** to move between one thing and another; to change from one thing to another. □ Things seemed to fluctuate between the very good and the very bad. □ The temperature in here fluctuates between too hot and too cold.

**fluctuate with something** to vary in accord with something. □ The tides fluctuate with the phase of the moon. □ Frank’s blood pressure fluctuates with his mood.

**fluff one’s lines** and **blow one’s lines; muff one’s lines** to speak one’s speech badly or forget one’s lines when one is in a play. □ The actress fluffed her lines badly in the last act. □ I was in a play once, and I muffed my lines over and over. □ It’s okay to blow your lines in rehearsal.

**flush with something** to give one a grade that forces one to leave a hiding place. (Originally from hunting.) □ Fred flunked out of school and never tried to go back. □ That’s it. All Fs. I’ve flunked out.

**flush out (of something)** to leave school or a course because of failure. □ Fred flushed out of school and never tried to go back. □ That’s it. All Fs. I’ve flunked out.

**flush someone out** to give one a grade that forces one to leave school or a course. □ The math professor flunked me out. He expects too much. □ She flushed out half the class!

**flush something out** of some place and **flush someone or something out** to cause someone or something to leave a hiding place. (Originally from hunting.) □ The police flushed the gunman out from his hiding place. □ They flushed out the crooks.

**flush something away** to wash something unwanted away. □ Flush all this mess away! □ Fred flushed away all the leaves on the sidewalk.

**flush something out** to clean something out with a flow of liquid. □ Flush the fuel line out to clean it. □ Please flush out the fuel line and clean it.

**flush with something** 1. Lit. even with something; sharing a surface with something. □ The edge of the sink is flush with the counter. □ The wood flooring is flush with the carpet so people won’t trip. 2. Fig. [of a face] red with
flutter about 1. Lit. to fly about with quick, flapping motions of the wings. □ The moths fluttered about aimlessly. □ A few birds fluttered around.
2. Fig. [for someone] to move about quickly and busily. □ Aunt Margaret fluttered about, picking up after everyone. □ Stop fluttering around and sit down!
flutter about something and flutter around something 1. Lit. to fly around something or some place. □ The moths were fluttering about the lighthouse. □ The butterflies fluttered around the bright flowers. 2. Fig. to keep moving busily within a particular place. □ The maid fluttered about the house, dusting and arranging. □ She fluttered around the house from room to room.
flutter down [for flying or falling things] to flap or float downward. □ The butterflies fluttered down onto the flowers. □ The leaves fluttered down from the trees when the breeze blew.
flutter over someone or something to fly or flap above someone or something. (Also said of a person being fussy about someone or something.) □ The little moths fluttered over us while we were in the garden. □ The birds flutter over the fountain, eager for a bath.
fly across something [for a bird or a plane] to move in the air across something. □ A bird flew across the open area in the forest. □ A large jet flew across the clear blue sky.
fly apart to break apart, throwing pieces around. □ Don’t run the engine too fast or it will fly apart! □ Mary’s bicycle wheel flew apart during the race.
fly around to soar or float aloft randomly. □ There were insects flying around everywhere. □ Planes flew around all day and all night, making it hard to sleep.
fly around someone or something to soar or float in the air near someone or something. □ We saw seven helicopters flying around the stadium. □ A bunch of mosquitoes flew around me.
fly at someone or something to attack someone or something suddenly and violently. □ The angry bird flew at its attacker. □ She flew at him, threatening to scratch his eyes out.
fly away to take flight and depart. □ The owl hooted one last hoot and flew away. □ All the birds flew away when the cat came around.
fly by 1. Lit. to soar past, flying. □ Three jet fighters flew by. □ A huge hawk flew by, frightening all the smaller birds. 2. Fig. [for time] to go quickly. □ The hours just flew by, because we were having fun. □ Time flew by so fast that it was dark before we knew it.
fly by the seat of one’s pants Go to by the seat of one’s pants.
fly from someone or something (to something) to escape from someone or some place to a place of safety. □ The family had to fly from their pursuers to a place of safety outside the country. □ They flew from the people chasing them.
fly from something (to something) to go from something or some place to some other place by air. □ We had to fly from Miami to Raleigh to get a flight to Chicago. □ We were able to fly from Miami at the last minute.
fly in Go to fly into something.
fly in the face of someone or something and fly in the teeth of someone or something Fig. to challenge someone or something; to go against someone or something. □ This idea flies in the face of everything we know about matter and energy. □ You had better not fly in the face of the committee.
a fly in the ointment Fig. a small, unpleasant matter that spoils something; a drawback. □ We enjoyed the play, but the fly in the ointment was not being able to find my hat afterward. □ It sounds like a good idea, but there must be a fly in the ointment somewhere.
fly in the teeth of someone or something Go to fly in the face of someone or something.
fly into a rage Fig. to become enraged suddenly. □ When he heard the report, he flew into a rage. □ We were afraid that she would fly into a rage.
fly into something 1. and fly in to go to something or some place by air; to arrive by air. □ When are you going to fly into the airport? □ We will fly into Detroit tomorrow. 2. to crash into something while flying. □ Birds sometimes fly into tall buildings. 3. to pass into something, such as fog, clouds, wind, etc., while flying. □ We flew into some clouds, but the flight was not rough. □ The plane flew into some fog as it was landing.
fly into the face of danger Fig. to take great risks; to threaten or challenge danger, as if danger were a person. (This may refer to flying, as in an airplane, but not necessarily.) □ John plans to go bungee jumping this weekend. He really likes flying into the face of danger. □ Willard was not exactly the type to fly into the face of danger, but tonight was an exception, and he ordered extra-hot enchiladas.
fly off 1. Lit. to take to flight quickly. □ The stork flew off before we got a good look at it. □ The little birds flew off and things were quiet again. 2. Fig. to leave in a hurry. □ Well, it’s late. I must fly off. □ She flew off a while ago.
fly off the handle Fig. to lose one’s temper. □ Every time anyone mentions taxes, Mrs. Brown flies off the handle. □ If she keeps flying off the handle like that, she’ll have a heart attack.
fly off with someone or something 1. Lit. to depart with someone or something by air. □ The eagle flew off with the kitten. □ The pilot flew off with the eight passengers. 2. Fig. to leave in a hurry with someone or something. □ She flew off with her packages before she got her change. □ Dave flew off with his brother because they had to meet a train.
fly out of something 1. Lit. to leave a place by air. □ We are going to fly out of Manaus on a charter. □ We flew out on time. 2. Fig. to leave a place quickly. □ We flew out of there as fast as we could. □ She opened the door and flew out.
fly over someone or something to soar or glide over someone or something. □ We saw an eagle fly over us. □ The plane flew over the desert.
fly past (someone or something) to soar or glide past someone or something. □ The stone flew past Mike’s left ear, and he ducked. □ The plane flew past the cloud bank.
fly someone or something **in** (to some place) (from some place) and fly someone or something **in**¹ to transport someone or something to some place from some place. ¹ We flew the documents into Adamsville from Springfield.

fly someone or something **out of** something and fly someone or something **out** to transport someone or something out of something by air. ² They flew the tourists out of the troubled area on chartered flights. ² The tourists flew out to any destination that was available.

fly the coop Fig. to escape; to get out or get away. (Alludes to a chicken escaping from a chicken coop.) ³ I couldn't stand the party, so I flew the coop. ³ The prisoner flew the coop at the first opportunity.

fly to someone or something to go to someone or something quickly and eagerly; to flee to someone or something. ³ She flew to his arms as he got off the boat. ³ Harry flew to Gloria and hugged her tight.

fly to something to go to something or some place by air. ³ After Miami, we fly to Chicago. ³ Let's fly to Paris for lunch.

fly up to something to go by air to a place at a higher elevation or to a place in the north. ³ We will fly up to St. Paul for the holidays. ³ I want to fly up to Alberta, Canada, for the summer.

fly-by-night Fig. irresponsible; untrustworthy. (Alludes to a person who sneaks away secretly in the night.) ³ The carpenter we hired was a fly-by-night worker who did a very bad job. ³ You shouldn't deal with a fly-by-night merchant.

flying high 1. Fig. very successful in one's ambitions; in an important or powerful position. (Often with the implication that this is not the usual situation or will change.) ³ The government is flying high just now, but wait until the budget is announced. ³ He's flying high these days, but he comes from a very poor family. ². Fig. in a state of euphoria. (From good news, success, or drugs.) ³ Wow! Todd is really flying high. Did he discover a gold mine? ³ Sally is flying high. What's she on?

foam at the mouth 1. Lit. to create froth or foam around the mouth, as with some diseases. ² The poor dog was foaming at the mouth and looked quite dangerous. ² What does it mean when a cow foams at the mouth? ² Fig. to be extraordinarily angry. ² She was almost foaming at the mouth when she heard about the cost of the car repairs. ² Walter was foaming at the mouth with rage.

foam up [for something, such as soap or milk] to make foam or lather. ² Milk will foam up when it is boiled. ² The boiling soup foamed up and slopped over the pot.

fob someone or something off¹ (on (to) someone) to get rid of someone or something by transferring someone or something to someone. ³ Don't try to fob your girlfriend off on me! ³ He also fobbed off a bad car on Jane. ³ Some car dealers are always trying to fob something off.

focus on someone or something 1. Lit. to aim and adjust a lens (including the lens in the eye) onto someone or something. ² I focused on the flower and pressed the shutter release. ² I focused on Fred and snapped just as he moved. ² Fig. to dwell on the subject of someone or something. ² Let's focus on the question of the electric bill, if you don't mind. ² Let us focus on Fred and discuss his progress.

focus something on someone or something 1. Lit. to aim a lens at someone or something and adjust the lens for clarity. ² I focused the binoculars on the bird and stood there in awe at its beauty. ² He focused the camera on Jane and snapped the shutter. ² Fig. to direct attention to someone or something. ³ Could we please focus the discussion on the matter at hand for a few moments? ³ Let's focus our attention on Tom and discuss his achievements so far.

fog over [for something made of glass] to become covered over with water vapor. ² The windshield fogged over because I forgot to turn on the defroster. ² The mirror fogged over, and I couldn't see to shave.

fog something up¹ to make something made of glass become covered with a film of water vapor. ² The moisture fogged the windshields, and we had to stop to clean it off. ² The moisture fogged up the glass.

fog up [for something made of glass] to become partially or completely obscured by a film of water vapor. ² The glass fogged up, and we couldn't see out.

the foggiest idea Fig. (even) a hazy idea. (Usually in the negative.) ³ I'm sorry I don't know. I haven't the foggiest. ³ I don't have the foggiest idea of how to do this.

foist someone or something off¹ (on someone or something) to cast someone or something unwanted off on someone or a group. ³ Please don't try to foist cheap merchandise off on me. ³ Don't foist off your brother on me! ³ You can't foist that stuff off! It's worthless! People won't buy it!

fold back [for a sheet of something] to bend back. ² The cloth folded back, revealing the faded upholstery below. ² The top page folded back, revealing a neatly typed manuscript.

fold one's hands to bring one's hands together, palm to palm, with the fingers interlocking; to grasp one's hands together, palm to palm, perpendicular to one another. ² Please fold your hands and put them on the table while the teacher reads you a story. ² Please fold your hands and be quiet.

fold something away¹ to fold something up and put it away. ² Please fold the maps away. ² Please fold away the maps neatly.

fold something back¹ to bend a sheet or flap of something back. ² She very carefully folded the page back to mark her place in the book. ² She folded back the page to mark her place in the book. ² The surgeon folded the flap of skin back, revealing the torn ligament.

fold something into something 1. and fold something in¹ to blend something, such as eggs, into batter. (See also cut something into something.) ² Carefully, the chef folded the eggs into the other ingredients. ² The chef folded in the eggs. ² to make an object by folding something, such as paper or cloth. ² He folded the paper into a little bird. ² Wally can fold a sheet of paper into an airplane that flies.

fold something over¹ to double something over on itself; to make a fold in something. ² I folded the paper over twice to make something I could fan myself with. ² Fold over each sheet, and then place it on the stack.

fold something up¹ 1. Lit. to double something over into its original folded position. ² Please fold the paper up when you are finished. ² Please fold up the paper. ² Fig. to put an end to something; to close a money-losing enter-
prise. Mr. Jones was going broke, so he held his business up. The producer decided to fold up the play early. It was losing money.

fold, spindle, or mutilate to harm or disfigure. Referring to a one-standard line printed on machine-readable documents, such as computer punch cards. (Such a document, if folded, placed on a bill spike, or otherwise punctured, would no longer be machine-readable.) At the bottom of the bill, it said “do not fold, spindle, or mutilate,” and Jane, in her anger, did all three. Look here, chum, if you don't want to get folded, spindled, or mutilated, you had better do what you are told!

fold up 1. Lit. [for something] to close by folding. The table just folded up with no warning, trapping my leg. 

fold up 2. Fig. [for someone] to faint. She folded up when she heard the news. I was so weak that I was afraid I was going to fold up.

fold up 3. Fig. [for a business] to cease operating. Our shop finally folded up because of the recession. Tom’s little candy shop folded up.

folding money bills of various dollar denominations. I don’t want a check. Give me folding money! You got any folding money with you?

follow after the style of someone or something Go to after the style of someone or something.

follow in someone’s tracks and follow in someone’s footsteps to follow someone’s example; to assume someone else’s role or occupation. The vice president was following in the president’s footsteps when he called for budget cuts. She followed in her father’s footsteps and went into medicine.

follow on (after someone or something) 1. Lit. to depart and arrive after someone or something. I can’t leave now. I will have to follow on after the others. I will follow on later. 

follow on (after someone or something) 2. Fig. to die at a date later than someone or a group. She followed on after her husband a few years later.

follow one’s heart Fig. to act according to one’s feelings; to obey one’s sympathetic or compassionate inclinations. I couldn’t decide what to do, so I just followed my heart.

follow one’s nose 1. Lit. to go straight ahead, the direction that one’s nose is pointing. The town that you want is straight ahead on this highway. Just follow your nose. The chief’s office is right around the corner. Turn left and follow your nose.

follow one’s nose 2. Fig. to follow an odor to its source. The kitchen is at the back of the building. Just follow your nose. There was a bad smell in the basement—probably a dead mouse. I followed my nose until I found it.

follow orders to do as one has been instructed. You have to learn to follow orders if you want to be a Marine. I didn’t do anything wrong. I was only following orders.

follow someone or something about and follow someone or something around to go the same route as someone or something all the time; to trail someone or something. Why are you always following me about? Stop following me around.

follow someone or something out to go out right after someone or something. I followed her out and asked her if I could take her home. The dog followed Billy out and went to school with him.

follow someone’s lead to do as someone else does; to accept someone’s guidance; to follow someone’s direction. Just follow my lead and you will not get lost. John followed his father’s lead and became a lawyer.

follow someone up and follow up (on someone) to check on the work that someone has done. I have to follow Sally up and make sure she did everything right. I follow up Sally, checking on her work. I’ll follow up on her.

follow something through Go to follow through (with something).

follow something up and follow up (on something) 1. to check something out; to find out more about something. Would you please follow this lead up? It might be important. Please follow up this lead. I’ll follow up on it. Yes, please follow up. 2. to make sure that something was done the way it was intended. Please follow this up. I want it done right. Please follow up this business. I’ll follow up on it.

follow suit to follow in the same pattern; to follow someone else’s example. (From card games.) Mary went to work for a bank, and Jane followed suit. Now they are both head cashiers. The Smiths went out to dinner, but the Browns didn’t follow suit. They stayed home.

follow the crowd to do what everyone else is doing. I am an independent thinker. I could never just follow the crowd. When in doubt, I follow the crowd. At least I don’t stand out like a fool.

follow through (on something) and carry through (on something) to complete a task; to see a task through to its completion. You must follow through on the things that you start. Don’t start the job if you can’t follow through. Ask Sally to carry through on her project.

follow through (with something) and follow something through to complete an activity, doing what was promised. I wish you would follow through with the project we talked about. You never follow through!

follow up on someone Go to follow someone up.

follow up (on someone or something) to find out more about someone or something. Please follow up on Mr. Brown and his activities. Bill, Mr. Smith has a complaint. Would you please follow up on it?

follow up (on something) Go to follow something up.

foment trouble to cause trouble. Leave it to Bob to foment trouble. I wasn’t fomenting trouble, just expressing my opinion!

fond of someone or something liking someone or something. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) I’m fond of chocolate. Mary isn’t fond of me, but I’m fond of her.

food for thought Fig. something for someone to think about; issues to be considered. Your essay has provided me with some interesting food for thought. My adviser gave me some food for thought about job opportunities.

A fool and his money are soon parted. Prov. Foolish people spend money, without thinking. (Perceived as a rebuke if you say it about the person you are addressing.) Go ahead and buy a diamond collar for your dog if you really want to. A fool and his money are soon parted. Bill sends a check to every organization that asks him for money. A fool and his money are soon parted.
footloose and fancy-free

fool around  to waste time doing something unnecessary or doing something amateurishly.

fool (around) with someone or something 1. to waste time in the company of someone or a group.
   - Better not fool around with part-time work. Go get a good job if you can.
   - to have dealings with or tamper with someone or something.

fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.
   - Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. Prov.
   - Fig. cheaply. (As if the singing of a song were payment.
   - *for a song Fig. cheaply. (As if the singing of a song were payment.
   - a fool's paradise Fig. a state of being happy for foolish or unfounded reasons.
   - Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.
   - a fool's paradise Fig. a state of being happy for foolish or unfounded reasons.

foot the bill (for something)
   - The shop steward had been promised a promotion and so had a foot in both camps during the strike—workers and management.
   - We fooled the boss into giving us all the day off.

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
   - Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.
   - Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

a fool's paradise Fig. a state of being happy for foolish or unfounded reasons.
   - You had better not fool around with me, if you know what's good for you.
   - Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

fool someone into something to deceive someone or oneself into doing something.
   - You'll never fool me into believing you.

fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
   - We fooled the boss into giving us all the day off.

for a drive Go to for a spin.

for a lark and on a lark for a joke; as something done for fun.
   - John paints houses for a living.
   - What do you do for a living?

for a ride Go to for a spin.

*for a song Fig. cheaply. (As if the singing of a song were payment.
   - *for a song Fig. cheaply. (As if the singing of a song were payment.

for all intents and purposes Cliché seeming as if; looking as if.
   - For all intents and purposes, yes, but I didn't dry it yet.

for all i care I don't care if (something happens).
   - For all I care, the whole city council can go to the devil.

for all I know according to the information I have; I think; probably.
   - For all I know, the mayor has resigned already.

for all it's worth and for what(ever) it's worth if it has any value. (Usually implies lack of confidence.)
   - For all it's worth, the whole city council can go to the devil.

for all practical purposes as might be reasonably expected; essentially.
   - For all practical purposes, this is simply a matter of right and wrong.

for all the world 1. exactly; precisely. (Especially with look.)
   - For all the world like a beautiful day. Then a storm came up.

foot-in-mouth disease the tendency to say the wrong thing at the wrong time.
   - Footloose and fancy-free Fig. without long-term responsibilities or commitments.

footloose and fancy-free Fig. without long-term responsibilities or commitments.
   - All the rest of them have wives, but John is footloose and fancy-free.

footloose and fancy-free Fig. without long-term responsibilities or commitments.
   - For better or for worse under any conditions; no matter what happens.
   - For better or for worse, I'm going to quit my job.
for chicken feed

for peanuts Fig. for nearly nothing; for very little money. (Also used without for.) □ Bob doesn’t get paid much. He works for chicken feed. □ You can buy an old car for chicken feed. □ I won’t do that kind of work for peanuts!

for crying in a bucket! Go to next.

for crying out loud! and for crying in a bucket! Inf. an exclamation of shock, anger, or surprise. □ Fred: For crying out loud! Answer the telephone! Bob: But it’s always for you! □ John: Good grief! What am I going to do? This is the end! Sue: For crying in a bucket! What’s wrong?

for days on end Fig. for many days. □ We kept on traveling for days on end. □ Doctor, I’ve had this pain for days on end.

for fear of something out of fear for something; because of fear of something. □ He doesn’t drive for fear of an accident. □ They lock their car doors for fear of being attacked.

for free for no charge or cost; free of any cost. □ They let us into the movie for free. □ I will let you have a sample of the candy for free.

for giggles Go to for kicks.

for good forever; permanently. □ I finally left home for good. □ They tried to repair it many times before they fixed it for good.

for good measure as extra; (adding) a little more to make sure there is enough. □ When I bought a pound of nails, the clerk threw in a few extra nails for good measure. □ I always put a little extra salt in the soup for good measure.

For goodness sake! Go to For Pete’s sake!

For gosh sake! Go to For Pete’s sake!

For heaven(’s) sake! A mild exclamation of surprise or shock. □ For Pete’s sake! How’ve ya been? □ For pity’s sake! Ask the man in out of the cold!

For Pete’s sake! and For pity’s sake!; For the love of Mike!; For goodness sake!; For gosh sake!; For heaven(’s) sake! a mild exclamation of surprise or shock. □ For Pete’s sake! How’ve ya been? □ For pity’s sake! Ask the man in out of the cold!

For pity’s sake! Go to previous.

for real Inf. genuine; not imaginary. □ Ken is really strange. Is he for real? □ This whole day has been weird, it just isn’t for real.

for safekeeping for the purpose of keeping someone or something safe. □ I put my jewelry in the vault for safekeeping. □ I checked my fur coat at the entrance to the bar for safekeeping.

for sale available for purchase; buyable. □ Is this item for sale? □ How long has this house been for sale? □ My car is for sale. Are you interested?

For shame! That is shameful! □ Sue: Did you hear that Tom was in jail? Fred: For shame! What did he do? Sue: Nobody knows. □ Mary: I’ve decided not to go to the conference. John: For shame! Who will represent us?

for short as an abbreviation. □ The Internal Revenue Service is known as the IRS for short. □ David goes by Dave for short.

for (some) days running and for (some) weeks running; for (some) months running; for (some) years running days in a series; months in a series; etc. (The some can be any number.) □ I had a bad cold for five days running. □ For two years running, I brought work home from the office every night.

for (some) months running Go to previous.

for (some) years running Go to for (some) days running.

for someone or something’s sake and for the sake of something or for the purpose or benefit of something; to satisfy the demands of someone or something. □ I made a meatless dinner for John’s sake; he’s a vegetarian. □ The teacher repeated the assignment for the sake of the slower students.

for starters Go to for openers.

for sure for certain. □ I will be there for sure. □ Sally: Are you ready to go? Bob: For sure. Sally: Then, let’s go.

for that matter besides; in addition. □ If you’re hungry, take one of my doughnuts. For that matter, take two. □ I don’t like this house. The roof leaks. For that matter, the whole place is falling apart. □ Tom is quite arrogant. So is his sister, for that matter.

for the asking if one just asks (for something); simply by asking; on request. □ Do you want to use my car? It’s yours for the asking. □ I have an extra winter coat that’s yours for the asking.

*for the better to be an improvement. (*Typically: be ~; be a change ~.) □ A change of government would
be for the better. ☐ A new winter coat would certainly be for the better.

for the birds worthless; undesirable. ☐ This television program is for the birds. ☐ Winter weather is for the birds.

for the devil of it and for the heck of it; for the hell of it because it is slightly evil; for no good reason. (Use caution with hell.) ☐ The kids broke the window just for the devil of it. ☐ We just drove over for the heck of it.

for the duration for the whole time that something continues; for the entire period of time required for something to be completed; for as long as something takes. ☐ We are in this war for the duration. ☐ However long it takes, we’ll wait. We are here for the duration.

for the fun of it just for the entertainment value of doing it. ☐ We went on a picnic just for the fun of it.

for the good of someone or something for the benefit, profit, or advantage of someone or something. ☐ The president said the strict drug laws were for the good of the country. ☐ David took a second job for the good of his family.

for the heck of it Go to for the devil of it.

for the hell of it Go to for the devil of it.

for the life of me at all; even one little bit. (Used with a negative.) ☐ For the life of me, I can’t figure this out. ☐ I can’t for the life of me climb up a mountain.

For the love of Mike! Go to For Pete’s sake!

for the moment and for the time being for the present; for now; temporarily. ☐ This quick fix will have to do for the moment. ☐ This is all right for the time being. It’ll have to be improved next week, however. ☐ This good feeling will last only for the time being.

for the most part mostly; in general. ☐ For the most part, the class is enjoying geometry. ☐ I like working here for the most part.

for the record so that (one’s own version of) the facts will be known; for open, public knowledge. (This often is said when there are reporters present.) ☐ I’d like to say—for the record—that at no time have I ever accepted a bribe from anyone. ☐ For the record, I’ve never been able to get anything done around city hall without bribing someone.

for the sake of someone or something Go to for someone or something’s sake.

for the sake of someone or something Go to for someone or something’s sake.

for the time being Go to for the moment.

For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost. Prov. Overlooking small details can have disastrous consequences. (You can quote any of the sentences in this proverb by themselves.) ☐ Jill: I don’t think we need to check our bicycle tires before we go for our ride. Jane: I disagree. For want of a nail the shoe was lost. ☐ Before we began the hike into the mountains, we checked our equipment painstakingly, remembering that for want of a horse the man was lost.

for what(ever) it’s worth Go to for all it’s worth.

for your information a phrase that introduces or follows a piece of information. (Can be spoken with considerable impatience.) ☐ Mary: What is this one? Sue: For your information, it is exactly the same as the one you just asked about.

☐ Bob: How long do I have to wait here? Bill: For your information, we will be here until the bus driver feels that it is safe to travel.

forage (around) (for something) to search for something, especially something to eat. ☐ I will go to the kitchen and forage around for some cereal or something. ☐ The rabbits got into the garden and were foraging for a good meal.

forbidden fruit Fig. someone or something that one finds attractive or desirable partly because having the person or thing is immoral or illegal. (Biblical; from the apple in the Garden of Eden that was forbidden to Adam by God.) ☐ Jim flirts with his sister-in-law only because she’s forbidden fruit. ☐ The boy watches that program only when his parents are out. It’s forbidden fruit.

force someone or an animal from something to drive someone or an animal away from something. ☐ We forced the horses from the corral, putting them back into the pasture. ☐ I forced Tom from the room and locked the door.

force someone or something down to press or push someone or something downward. ☐ I forced him down and slipped the handcuffs on him. ☐ The cop forced down the thug and handcuffed him. ☐ I forced the dog down and held it there.

force someone or something down someone’s throat Go to shove someone or something down someone’s throat.

force someone or something in (to) something and force someone or something in! 1. to make someone or something go into something. ☐ Please don’t force me into that little room! ☐ They forced in many people. 2. to make someone or something fit into something. ☐ Don’t try to force the plug into the socket. ☐ Don’t force in the plug. ☐ Sam forced his buddy into the cabinet, and left him well hidden there.

force someone or something off (of) something and force someone or something off! 1. Lit. to get someone, something, or an animal off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) ☐ I had to force the cat off the sofa. She just wouldn’t be coaxed off. ☐ I had to force off the cat. She is so stubborn. 2. Fig. to make someone or a group resign from a board, committee, panel, etc. ☐ They forced her off the board before she could change any of their policies. ☐ They forced off the dissenters as well as the CEO.

force someone or something (off) on someone to make someone take someone or something. ☐ I didn’t want it, but she forced it off on me. ☐ She forced her nephew on me and went out shopping.

force someone or something out of something and force someone or something out! to drive someone or something out of something or some place. ☐ The citizen’s group forced the governor out of office. ☐ They forced out the governor.

force someone or something through something to push someone or something through an opening. ☐ First, you must force the others through the opening and then go through yourself. ☐ We forced the sofa through the door and scarred up the doorjamb.

force someone out of office and drive someone out of office; drive someone out! to drive someone out of an elective office. ☐ The city coun-
force someone's hand  to force a person to reveal plans, strategies, or secrets. (Alludes to a handful of cards in card playing.) □ We didn’t know what she was doing until Tom forced her hand. □ We changed our game plan after we forced the other team’s hand in the first period.

force someone to the wall and drive someone to the wall  Fig. to push someone to an extreme position; to put someone into an awkward position. □ He wouldn’t tell the truth until we forced him to the wall. □ They don’t pay their bills until you drive them to the wall.

force something down  to force oneself to swallow something. □ I can’t stand sweet potatoes, but I manage to force them down just to keep from making a scene. □ She forced down the sweet potatoes.

force something through something  to press or drive something through something that resists. □ They forced the bill through the legislature. □ We were not able to force the matter through the board of directors.

force something up  Go to drive something up.

a force to be reckoned with  Fig. someone or something that is important and powerful and must not be ignored. □ Walter is a force to be reckoned with. Be prepared to deal with him. □ The growing discontent with the political system is a powerful force to be reckoned with.

fore and aft  at the front and the back, usually of a boat or ship. □ They had to attach new lights fore and aft because the old ones were not bright enough to meet the new regulations. □ The captain ordered a watch stationed fore and aft.

foreclose on something  to take the property on which a mortgage is held; to satisfy an unpaid loan by taking ownership of the property put up for security on the loan. □ If you don’t pay, we will be forced to foreclose on your house. □ The bank foreclosed on our property.

a foregone conclusion  Cliché a conclusion already reached; an inevitable result. □ That the company was moving to California was a foregone conclusion. □ That the mayor will win reelection is a foregone conclusion.

forever and a day  Go to next.

forever and ever and forever and a day  forever. □ I will love you forever and ever. □ This car won’t keep running forever and ever. We’ll have to get a new one sometime upcoming. □ We have enough money to last forever and a day.

forewarn someone about something and forewarn someone of something  to warn someone about something or something. □ They forewarned us of your strange behavior. □ Didn’t we forewarn you about Max’s problem?

Forewarned is forearmed.  Prov. If you know about something beforehand, you can prepare for it. □ Before you meet Lily, I should tell you that she’s a little eccentric. Forewarned is forearmed, right? □ Check the temperature before you go outside. Forewarned is forearmed.

Forget (about) it! 1. Inf. Drop the subject! Never mind! □ Don’t bother me with it. □ Jane: Then, there’s this matter of the unpaid bills. Bill: Forget it! You’ll have to pay them all! □ Sally: What’s this I hear about you and Tom? Sue: Forget about it! I don’t want to talk to you about it. 2. Inf. Nothing. □ Sue: What did you say? Mary: Forget it! □ Tom: Now I’m ready to go. Sue: Excuse me! Tom: Oh, nothing. Just forget it. 3. Inf. You’re welcome.; It was nothing. □ John: Thank you so much for helping me! Bill: Oh, forget it! □ Bob: We’re all very grateful to you for coming into work today on your day off. Mary: Forget about it! No problem!

forget about someone or something 1. to put someone or something out of one’s mind. □ Don’t forget about me! □ You ought to forget about all that. 2. to fail to remember something at the appropriate time. □ She forgot about paying the electric bill until the lights were turned off. □ She forgot about the children and they were left standing on the corner.

forget one’s manners  to do something ill-mannered. □ Jimmy! Have we forgotten our manners?

forget oneself to forget one’s manners or training. (Said in formal situations in reference to belching, bad table manners, and, in the case of very young children, pants-wetting.) □ Sorry, Mother, I forgot myself. □ John, we are going out to dinner tonight. Please don’t forget yourself.

Forget you! Sl. Drop dead! Beat it! □ Oh, yeah! Forget you! □ Forget you! Get a life!

Forgive and forget.  Prov. You should not only forgive people for hurting you, you should also forget that they ever hurt you. □ When my sister lost my favorite book, I was angry at her for weeks, but my mother finally convinced me to forgive and forget. □ Jane: Are you going to invite Sam to your party? Sue: No way. Last year he laughed at my new skirt. Jane: Come on, Sue, forgive and forget.

forgive someone for something  to pardon someone for something. □ Please forgive me for being late. □ He never forgave himself for harming her.

fork some money out (for something)  Fig. to pay (perhaps unwillingly) for something. (Often mention is made of the amount of money. See the examples.) □ Do you think I’m going to fork twenty dollars out for that book? □ Forking out lots of money for taxes is part of life.

fork something out (to someone) 1. Inf. Litr. to serve food to someone, using a fork. □ He forked out the chicken to everyone. □ He brought up a big dish of fried chicken and forked it out. 2. Fig. to give out something to someone. □ We forked the coupons out to everyone who asked for them. □ We forked out the coupons.

fork something over (to someone) Inf. to give something to someone. (Usually refers to money.) □ Come on! Fork the money over to me! □ Fork over the cash you owe me!

form an opinion  to think up or decide on an opinion. (Note the variations in the examples.) □ I don’t know enough about the issue to form an opinion. □ Don’t tell me how to think! I can form my own opinion. □ I don’t form opinions without careful consideration.

form and substance  structure and meaningful content. □ The first act of the play was one screaming match after another. It lacked form and substance throughout. □ Jane’s report was good. The teacher commented on the excellent form and substance of the paper.

form from something  [for something] to develop from something; [for something] to assume a shape, using
something else as raw material. □ Suddenly, an idea began to form from the things that you had said. □ It seemed that a figure was forming from the mists arising from the swamps.

form someone or something into something to shape someone or something into something. □ We formed the people into a line. □ Kathy formed the clay into a small elephant.

form something out of something to shape something from something. □ He formed a tiny elephant out of the clay. □ Wally formed a mound out of the sand.

form (up) into something [for a group of people] to assume the shape of something. □ The boys formed up into a jagged line. □ We’ll form into a line.

fortify someone or an animal (against something) (with something) to strengthen someone or an animal against something with something. □ I’ll need a cup of hot chocolate to fortify me against the storm. □ We have to fortify the dogs against the cold with extra food.

Fortune favors the bold. Go to next.

Fortune favors the brave. and Fortune favors the bold. Prov. You will have good luck if you carry out your plans boldly. (Used to encourage people to have the courage to carry out their plans.) □ Fortune favors the bold, Bob. Quit your day job and work on your novel full-time. □ Jill: Let’s wait till next year before trying to start our own business. Jane: No. We’ll do it this year. Fortune favors the brave.

forty winks Fig. a nap; some sleep. □ I could use forty winks before I have to get to work. □ I need forty winks before I get started again.

forward something from some place (to someone or some place) to send something onward to someone from the place it was originally received. □ We forwarded the letter from Chicago to Springfield. □ Kelly forwarded the letter to her brother.

foul one’s own nest Fig. to harm one’s own interests; to bring disadvantage upon oneself. (Alludes to a bird excreting into its own nest. See also It’s an ill bird that fouls its own nest.) □ He tried to discreetly a fellow senator with the president, but just succeeded in fouling his own nest. □ The boss really dislikes Mary. She certainly fouled her own nest when she spread those rumors about him.

foul out (of something) [for a basketball player] to be forced out of a game because of having too many fouls. □ The center fouled out in the first fifteen minutes. □ Two other players fouled out soon after.

foul play illegal activity; bad practices. □ The police investigating the death suspect foul play. □ Each student got an A on the test, and the teacher imagined it was the result of foul play.

foul someone or something up† to cause disorder and confusion for someone or something; to tangle up someone or something; to mess someone or something up. □ Go away! Don’t foul me up any more. □ You’ve fouled up my whole day. □ Watch out! You’re going to foul up my kite strings.

foul up to blunder; to mess up. □ Please don’t foul up this time. □ The quarterback fouled up in the first quarter, and that lost us the game.

fouled up messed up; ruined; tangled up. (Usually as fouled-up when attributive.) □ This is sure a fouled-up mess. □ You are fouled up, you know.

found money money that has come to someone with such ease or surprise that one might have just as well found it by accident. □ The money he got from his uncle’s estate is all found money except for the taxes. He did nothing to earn it.

found something (up)on something to establish something on some kind of basis or justification. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The owners founded this company upon prompt service. □ We founded our business on practically no money.

four sheets in the wind and four sheets (to the wind) intoxicated. (See comments at three sheets in the wind.) □ She’s not just tipsy. She’s four sheets! □ After only three beers, Gary was four sheets to the wind.

‘Fraid not. Go to (I’m) afraid not.

‘Fraid so. Go to (I’m) afraid so.

fraidy cat Fig. a coward; a person who is frightened of everything. (Used in children’s taunts.) □ Don’t be a frighty cat. Go ahead, jump! □ Carl is such a afraidy cat. He runs inside when it starts to rain.

frame something in something 1. Lit. to place a frame of something around something. □ Let us frame the photograph in a wood frame rather than a metal one. □ Alice chose to frame the painting in a simple, unframed frame. 2. Fig. to express something in a particular way. □ He framed his comments in very simple language. □ I hope you frame your remarks more clearly next time.

frame something out† to build the basic wood structure of a building, such as a house. □ The carpenters, working fast, framed the whole house out in a day. □ They framed out the house.

frankly speaking Go to (speaking) (quite) frankly.

fraternize with someone or something to associate with someone or a group; to consort with someone or a group. □ They were instructed not to fraternize with the opposing team before the game. □ Don’t fraternize with Lefty “Fingers” Moran.

fraught with danger Cliche [of something] full of something dangerous or unpleasant. □ The spy’s trip to Russia was fraught with danger. □ My escape from the kidnappers was fraught with danger.

freak out (at someone or something) Go to freak out (over someone or something).

freak out (on something) to lose control of one’s mind because of something, usually a drug. □ She freaked out on the stuff she was smoking. □ She took some funny little pills and freaked out immediately.

freak out (over someone or something) and freak out (at someone or something) to become very angry or lose control of one’s mind because of someone or something that has happened. □ I absolutely freaked out over the whole business! □ Don’t freak out at me!

freak someone out† to shock or disorient someone. □ The whole business freaked me out. □ I didn’t mean to freak out everybody with the bad news.
freaked (out) 1. shocked; disoriented. (Sometimes used of the effects of drugs or alcohol.) □ I was too freaked out to reply. □ Man, was I freaked. 2. tired out; exhausted. □ I'm too freaked out to go on without some rest. □ The chick is really freaked. Let her rest.

free and clear without encumbrance, particularly in regard to the ownership of something. □ After the last payment, Jane owned the car free and clear. □ If you can't prove that you own the house and the land it stands on free and clear, you can't sell it.

free and easy casual. □ John is so free and easy. How can anyone be so relaxed? □ Now, take it easy. Just act free and easy. No one will know you're nervous.

*free as a bird and *free as (the) air Cliché carefree; completely free and unhindered. (*Also: as ~.*) □ Jane is always happy and free as a bird. □ The convict escaped from jail and was as free as a bird for two days. □ No, I'm not married. I don't even have a girlfriend. I'm free as the air.

free as (the) air Go to previous.

free gift something extra given to you when you buy something else. □ When you order your magazine subscription, this book is yours to keep as our free gift. □ This canvas tote is a free gift for everyone who opens an account.

free hand (with something or someone) Fig. freedom to exercise complete control over something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.*) □ I didn't get a free hand with the last project. □ John was in charge then, but he didn't get a free hand either.

free lunch Fig. something of value that is free. (Often negative. See also There's no such thing as a free lunch.) □ There's always somebody who'll do anything to get a free lunch.

a free ride 1. Lit. a ride to somewhere for which no payment is demanded. □ I got a free ride from a truck driver who was headed for town. □ I won't call a taxi when I can get a free ride. 2. Fig. an easy time; participation without contributing anything. □ You've had a free ride long enough. You have to do your share of the work now. □ No more free rides around here. Get off your duff and get a job!

free someone or something from someone or something to release or unburden someone or something from someone or something. □ We freed the raccoon from the trap. □ Max tried to free himself from the police officer. □ The dog tried to free itself from the dogcatcher.

a free translation and a loose translation a translation or restatement that is not completely accurate and not well thought out; a translation or restatement done casually. □ John gave a free translation of what our Japanese client asked for, and we missed the main issue. □ Anne gave a very free translation of the ancient Chinese poem.

a freeze on doing something Fig. a policy that put a temporary end to something. □ The company put a freeze on hiring as soon as they took us over.

freeze one's tail off Fig. Inf. to freeze; to get very cold. □ Don't stand out there in the cold wind! You'll freeze your tail off! □ It's as cold as a well-digger's nose today. I about froze my tail off walking to work.

freeze (on) to something [for something] to touch something very cold and freeze hard and fast to it. □ My hand froze to the railing. □ The branch froze onto the side of the house.

freeze over [for a body of water] to get cold and form a layer of ice on top. □ The pond froze over, so we went skating.

freeze someone or something in one's memory Fig. to preserve the image of someone or something in one's memory. □ I tried to freeze her in my memory so I would have her with me always. □ I froze the scene in my memory.

freeze someone or something to death 1. Lit. [for cold weather] to kill someone or something. □ I was afraid that the cold snap would freeze the dog to death. 2. Fig. to make someone or something very cold. □ This weather is going to freeze us all to death.

freeze someone out! 1. Lit. to make it too cold for someone, usually by opening windows or through the use of air-conditioning. □ Turn up the heat unless you're trying to freeze us out. □ Are you trying to freeze out everybody? Close the door. 2. Fig. to lock someone out socially; to isolate someone from something or a group. □ We didn't want to freeze you out. You failed to pay your dues, however. □ They froze out the newcomers.

freeze someone's wages Fig. to hold someone's pay at its current level. □ The company froze everyone's wages as soon as the economy went sour.

freeze something into something 1. to use cold to solidify something into a different state, usually water into ice. □ The extreme cold froze the water of the river into solid ice. □ The cold snap froze the water in the puddles into hard sheets of ice. 2. to use cold to solidify something into a particular shape. □ We froze the ice cream into the shape of a penguin. □ This ice tray will freeze water into little round balls of ice.

freeze up 1. Lit. [for something] to freeze and stop functioning. □ The joint froze up and wouldn't move anymore. 2. Fig. [for someone] to become frightened and anxious, and be unable to move, speak, or continue with something. □ I froze up and couldn't say anything more.

fresh and sweet 1. very clean and fresh smelling. □ Now the baby is changed and she is all fresh and sweet. 2. Inf. just out of jail. □ Mary is fresh and sweet and back on the street.

*fresh as a daisy Cliché very fresh; of a person always alert and ready to go. (*Also: as ~.*) □ How can you be fresh as a daisy so early in the morning? □ I always feel fresh as a daisy after a shower.

fresh blood Go to (some) new blood.

fresh out of something and clean out of something just now having sold or used up the last of something. □ Sorry, I can't serve you scrambled eggs. We are fresh out of eggs. □ We are fresh out of nails. I sold the last box just ten minutes ago. □ Lettuce? Sorry. I'm clean out.

a fresh pair of eyes Go to another pair of eyes.

* a fresh start a new start; an act of starting over. (*Typically: get ~; get off to ~; give someone ~; have ~; make ~.*) □ After our apologies and a little discussion, we decided to make a fresh start.
*fresh (with someone) overly bold or impertinent with someone. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ When I tried to kiss Mary, she slapped me and shouted, "Don't get fresh with me!" □ I can't stand people who get fresh.

freshen someone or something up\(^1\) to revive or restore the appearance or vitality of someone or something. □ What can we do to freshen this room up? □ A cold shower freshened up the runner.

freshen up to get cleaned up, rested up, or restored. □ I need a few minutes to freshen up before dinner.

fret about someone or something and fret over someone or something to worry about someone or something. □ Please don't fret about being a few minutes late. □ There is no need to fret over Larry.

Fret not! Inf. Don't worry!; Do not fret about it! □ Mary: Oh, look at the clock! I'm going to be late for my appointment! Bob: Fret not! I'll drive you. □ "Fret not!" said Sally. "We're almost there!"

fret over someone or something Go to fret about someone or something.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. A true friend is a person who will help you when you really need help. □ When Bill helped me with geometry, I really learned the meaning of "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

friend or foe a friend or an enemy. □ I can't tell whether Jim is friend or foe. □ “Who goes there? Friend or foe?” asked the sentry.

*friends with someone* a friend of someone. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ Sally is friends with Bill. □ Mary and Bill are friends with one another.

frighten one out of one's wits and scare one out of one's wits; frighten someone out of a year's growth; scare someone out of a year's growth; frighten one out of one's mind; scare one out of one's mind Fig. to frighten one very badly. □ Oh! That loud noise scared me out of my wits. □ I'll give him a good scolding and frighten him out of his wits. □ Oh, you frightened me out of a year's growth! □ You frightened Bob out of his mind.

frighten someone or an animal in\(^1\) Go to frighten someone or an animal into something.

frighten someone or an animal into doing something to threaten someone or an animal into doing something. □ You can't frighten me into leaving! □ Let's try to frighten the coyotes into running away.

frighten someone or an animal into something 1. and frighten someone or an animal in\(^1\) to scare someone or an animal into entering something or some place. □ The trouble in the neighborhood frightened most of the residents into their houses. □ The mouse was out of its hole, but we came in and frightened the little mouse back in. 2. to scare someone or an animal into a particular state. □ They frightened me into a quivering mass. □ The mouse was frightened into a state of confusion.

frighten someone or an animal to death and scare someone or an animal to death 1. Lit. to frighten a living creature badly enough to cause death. □ The roar of the plane engine seems to have frightened the little dog to death. 2. Fig. to frighten someone severely. □ The dentist always frightened me to death. □ She scared me to death when she screamed.

frighten someone or something away\(^1\) and frighten someone or something off\(^1\) to scare someone or something off. □ The noise frightened the burglar away. □ Something frightened away the prowlers. □ The high prices frightened the shoppers off.

frighten someone out of a year's growth Go to frighten one out of one's wits.

frighten the hell out of someone and frighten the pants off someone; frighten the living daylight out of someone; scare the living daylight out of someone; scare the shit out of someone; scare the wits out of someone Go to frighten someone badly, suddenly or both. (Use of hell and shit are crude.) □ These figures frightened the hell out of me. □ The door blew shut and scared the shit out of me. □ It takes a lot to scare the pants off a hardened criminal.

frighten the pants off someone Go to previous.

frightened to death and scared to death 1. Lit. frightened to the point of dying. □ This poor animal has been frightened to death by the attacking dogs. 2. Fig. frightened or anxious. □ I don't want to go to the dentist today. I'm frightened to death. □ I'm frightened to death of spiders.

fritter something away\(^1\) (on someone or something) to waste something, such as money, on someone or something foolishly. □ Did you fritter good money away on that old car? □ You frittered away one hundred dollars on that piece of junk?

a frog in one's throat Fig. a feeling of hoarseness or a lump in one's throat. (Often regarded as a sign of fear. *Typically: get ~; have ~.) □ I feel like I'm getting a frog in my throat when I have to speak in public. □ She says she gets a frog in her throat when she is nervous.

from A to Z Fig. of a complete and wide variety. □ We have just about everything from A to Z. □ She ordered everything on the menu from A to Z.

from all corners of the world and from the four corners of the earth Fig. from all places in the world.
□ People came from all corners of the world to attend the conference.

from dawn to dusk Fig. during the period of the day when there is light; from the rising of the sun to the setting of the sun. □ I have to work from dawn to dusk on the farm. □ The factory runs from dawn to dusk to produce hats and gloves.

from day one Go to day one.

from day to day on a daily basis; one day at a time; occasionally. □ We face this kind of problem from day to day. □ I'll have to check into this matter from day to day.

from door to door moving from one door to another—typically, from one house to another. □ The candidate went from door to door, campaigning for town council. □ The children went from door to door, saying “Trick or treat!” at each one.

from far and near and from near and far from all around, both close by and farther away. (In either order.) □ All the young people from far and near gathered at the high school for the game. □ The eagles gathered from near and far at the river where the salmon were spawning.
from giddy-up to whoa  Rur. all the way from the beginning to the end.  □ The road is paved from giddy-up to whoa.  □ The play stinks. It is dull from giddy-up to whoa.

from hand to hand  Fig. from one person to a series of other persons.  □ The book traveled from hand to hand until it got back to its owner.  □ By the time the baby had been passed from hand to hand, it was crying.

from head to toe  Fig. from the top of one's head to one's feet.  □ She was decked out in flowers from head to toe.  □ The huge parka covered the small child from head to toe, assuring that she would be well-protected against the cold.

from hell to breakfast  Rur. from one end of the earth to the other; all over; everywhere.  (Use with caution.)  □ We searched from hell to breakfast, but never did find the runaway kid.  □ I tracked that deer from hell to breakfast, but never got a shot at it.

from here on (in) and from here on (out) from this point forward.  □ From here on in we do it my way.  □ I want everything clear from here on out.

from here till next Tuesday  Rur. for a great distance; for a long time.  □ If you try that again, I'll knock you from here till next Tuesday.  □ You can lecture him from here till next Tuesday, but he won't listen.

from Missouri requiring proof; needing to be shown something in order to believe it.  (From the nickname for the state of Missouri, the Show Me State.)  □ You'll have to prove it to me.  □ I'm from Missouri.  □ She's from Missouri and has to be shown.

from my perspective and from where I stand; from my point of view; the way I see it  □ Mary: What do you think of all this? Tom: From my perspective, it is just terrible.  □ Bob: From my point of view, this looks like a very good deal. Bill: That's good for you. I stand to lose money on it.  □ Alice: From where I stand, it appears that you're going to have to pay a lot of money to get this matter settled. Sue: I'll pay anything. I just want to get all this behind me.

from near and far  Go to from far and near.

from overseas from a location on the other side of the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, according to the point of view of someone located in the U.S.  □ The latest word from overseas is that the treaty has been signed.  □ Is there any news from overseas about the war?

from pillar to post  Fig. from one place to a series of other places; (figuratively) from person to person, as with gossip.  □ My father was in the army, and we moved from pillar to post year after year.  □ After I told one person my secret, it went quickly from pillar to post.

from rags to riches  Fig. from poverty to wealth; from modesty to elegance.  □ The princess used to be quite poor. She didn't have a ladle, so she went from rags to riches.  □ After I inherited the money, I went from rags to riches.

*from scratch  Fig. [making something] by starting from the beginning with the basic ingredients.  (*Typically: bake something ~; do something ~; make something ~; start (something) ~.)  □ We made the cake from scratch, using no prepared ingredients.  □ I didn't have a ladder, so I made one from scratch.

from sea to shining sea  Fig. from coast to coast.  (Taken from the lyrics of the song America the Beautiful.)  □ The new insect pest spread from sea to shining sea in a matter of months.

from side to side  moving first to one side and then to the other, repeatedly.  □ The pendulum of the clock swings from side to side.  □ The singers swayed from side to side as they sang.

from start to finish  Fig. entirely; throughout.  □ I disliked the whole business from start to finish.  □ Mary caused problems from start to finish.

from stem to stern 1. Lit. from the front of a boat or ship to the back.  □ He inspected the boat from stem to stern and decided he wanted to buy it.  2. Fig. from one end to another.  □ Now, I have to clean the house from stem to stern.  □ I polished my car carefully from stem to stern.

from the bottom of one's heart  Fig. sincerely.  □ When I returned the lost kitten to Mrs. Brown, she thanked me from the bottom of her heart.  □ Oh, thank you! I'm grateful from the bottom of my heart.

from the cradle to the grave  Fig. from birth to death.  □ The government promised to take care of us from the cradle to the grave.  □ You can feel secure and well-protected from the cradle to the grave.

from the four corners of the earth  Go to from all corners of the world.

from (the) git-go  Sl. from the very start.  □ This kind of thing has been a problem from the git-go.  □ I warned you about this from git-go.

from the ground up  Fig. from the very beginning.  □ We must plan our sales campaign carefully from the ground up.  □ Sorry, but you'll have to start all over again from the ground up.

from the heart  Fig. from a deep and sincere emotional source.  □ I know that your kind words come from the heart.  □ We don't want your gift unless it comes from the heart.

from the old school and of the old school  Fig. holding attitudes or ideas that were popular and important in the past, but which are no longer considered relevant or in line with modern trends.  (See also of the old school.)  □ Grammar is not taught much now, but fortunately my son has a teacher from the old school.  □ Aunt Jane is from the old school. She never goes out without wearing a hat and gloves.

from the outset throughout, from the very beginning.  □ I felt from the outset that Lisa was the wrong one for the job.  □ From the outset, I felt unwelcome in the group.

from the sublime to the ridiculous  Fig. from something fine and uplifting to something ridiculous or mundane.  □ After Mr. Jones had introduced my wife to his wife, he jokingly turned to introduce me and said, "From the sublime to the ridiculous."  □ After the opera singer finished, the master of ceremonies introduced the comic juggler saying, "From the sublime to the ridiculous...."

From the sublime to the ridiculous is only a step.  Prov. Something grand can easily become very funny.  □ Bob, I don't think you should include a bowl of breakfast cereal in your still-life painting. From the sublime to the ridiculous is only a step.  □ The production of Macbeth went from the sublime to the ridiculous when Lady Macbeth came onstage in an old army uniform.
from the top Fig. from the beginning of something, such as a song or a script. □ Okay, let's try it again from the top.
□ Play it from the top one more time.

from the word go Cliché from the very beginning. □ I knew about the problem from the word go. □ She was failing the class from the word go.

from this day forward Go to next.

from this day on and from this day forward from today into the future. □ We'll live in love and peace from this day on. □ I'll treasure your gift from this day forward.

from time to time irregularly; now and then; occasionally; sometimes; not predictably. □ From time to time, I like to go fishing instead of going to work. □ Bob visits us at our house from time to time.

from tip to toe Fig. from the top to the bottom. □ She is wearing all new clothes from tip to toe. □ The house needs to be cleaned thoroughly from tip to toe.

from top to bottom Fig. from the highest point to the lowest point; throughout. □ I have to clean the house from top to bottom today. □ We need to replace our elected officials from top to bottom.

from way back from far in the past; from a much earlier time. □ Grandfather comes from way back. □ This antique clock is from way back.

from where I stand Go to from my perspective.

front for someone or something to serve as the public contact or public “face” for someone or something. □ Her publicity agent fronted for her most of the time. □ Max fronted for a gang of thieves.

front off (about something) Sl. to be brash and resentful about something. □ Todd was fronting off about his assignment and got a detention for it. □ You will wish you hadn't fronted off about your supervisor.

front on something [for a building or a piece of land] to face out on something. □ The property fronts on a lovely boulevard that has very little traffic. □ Our house fronts on a lake.

front someone some amount of money to provide an advance payment of some amount to someone. □ The buyer fronted me half the purchase price as a favor.

the front-runner the person or thing thought most likely to win or succeed. □ The press found out some juicy secrets about the front-runner and made them all public. □ Who is the front-runner in the race to be governor?

frost over to become covered with frost. □ The windows had all frosted over in the night. □ The car windows frosted over.

frosted (over) Sl. angry; annoyed. □ The clerk was really frosted over when I asked for a better one. □ Why was he so frosted?

froth something up to whip or aerate something until it is frothy. □ Froth the milk up before you add it to the sauce. □ Froth up the milk before you pour it in.

froth up [for something] to build up a froth when whipped, aerated, or boiled. □ The mixture began to froth up as Dan beat it. □ The milk frothed up as the steam went through it.

frown at someone or something to scowl at someone or something. □ Please don't frown at me. I didn't do anything. □ Frank frowned at the dog and gave it a kick.

frown on someone or something to disapprove of someone or something; to show displeasure or disapproval of someone or something. □ The Internal Revenue Service frowns on tax cheaters. □ Aunt Clara always seemed to frown on my cousin for some reason.

the fruits of one's labor(s) Fig. the results of one's work. □ We displayed the fruits of our labor at the county fair. □ What have you accomplished? Where is the fruit of your labors?

fry something up† to cook something by frying. □ Let's fry some chicken up for dinner. □ We fried up some chicken.

Fuck you! a strong condemnation. (Taboo.) □ Fuck you! Why did you have to do that? □ Fuck you! I don't care any more!

fudge factor Fig. a margin of error. □ I never use a fudge factor. I measure correctly, and I cut the material exactly the way I measured it. □ I built in a fudge factor of three percent.

fuel something (up†) to put fuel into something. □ I have to fuel this car up before I go any farther. □ I need to fuel up the car.

fuel up to fill one's tank with fuel. □ Let's stop here and fuel up. □ I need to fuel up at the next little town.

*full as a tick very full of food or drink. (Alludes to a tick that has filled itself full of blood. See also tight as a tick. *Also: as ~.) □ Little Billy ate and ate until he was as full as a tick. □ Our cat drank the cream until he became full as a tick.

full of beans Go to full of hot air.

full of bull Go to full of hot air.

full of beans; full of full of; full of beans; full of full of; full of beans; full of bull; full of it; full of prunes Fig. full of nonsense; talking nonsense. □ Oh, shut up, Mary. You're full of hot air. □ Don't pay any attention to Bill. He's full of beans. □ My English professor is full of bull. □ You're full of it.

full of Old Nick Go to full of the devil.

*full of oneself Fig. conceited; self-important. (Typically: act ~; be ~.) □ Mary is very unpopular because she's so full of herself. □ She doesn't care about other people's feelings. She's too full of herself.

full of prunes Go to full of hot air.

full of the devil and full of Old Nick always making mischief. □ Little Chuckie is sure full of the devil. □ Toward the end of the school year, the kids are always full of Old Nick.

a full plate Fig. a full schedule; a lot to do. □ I'm very busy at work, and I've got a full plate at home too.

full steam ahead Fig. onward with determination. □ We started moving full steam ahead on the project. □ Full steam ahead! Let's see how fast this will go!
full up  Rur. full. □ I ate till I was full up. □ I can't get any more gas in the tank. It's full up.

fulminate against  someone or something to denounce someone or something. □ The workers were fulminating against their employer. □ They are fulminating against the president of the union.

fumble for something  to try to grasp awkwardly for something. □ He fumbled for his wallet, hoping Wally would pay the bill. □ Tex was shot while fumbling for his gun.

fume about  someone or something and fume over  someone or something to be very angry about someone or something. □ She was just fuming over her broken vase. □ She was still fuming about Larry the next morning.

fume at someone  Fig. to rage at someone. □ She was really fuming at Sam, who had broken her table leg.

fume over  someone or something  Go to fume about  someone or something.

fun and games  Fig. playing around; doing worthless things. □ All right, Bill, the fun and games are over. It's time to get down to work. □ This isn't a serious course. It's not funny but fun and games.

funked out  Sl. intoxicated. □ Do you think you can go through life funked out all the time? □ Are you funked out again?

*funny as a barrel of monkeys  Cliché very funny. (Also: as ~.) □ Ron was as funny as a barrel of monkeys. □ The entire evening was funny as a barrel of monkeys.

*funny as a crutch  not funny at all. (Sarcastic. *Also: as ~.) □ Your trick is about as funny as a crutch. Nobody thought it was funny. □ The lame joke Ron told was as funny as a crutch, and we all yawned.

funny bone and crazy bone  a spot near the elbow bone that is very sensitive to the touch. □ Ouch, I hit my funny bone. □ Effie bumped her crazy bone and made a horrendous face.

funny business  Go to monkey business.

funny ha-ha  amusing; comical. (As opposed to funny peculiar.) □ I didn’t mean that Mrs. Peters is funny ha-ha. She’s weird—funny peculiar in fact. □ Mike thinks his jokes are funny ha-ha, but we laugh because they are so silly.

funny money  1. Sl. counterfeit money. □ The bank teller spotted the funny money in the man’s deposit almost immediately. 2. Fig. temporary or substitute money, good only in certain places. □ What am I going to do with all this funny money when I leave here? It’s no good anywhere else. 3. Fig. foreign currency. (Jocular.) □ We had better buy some gifts and get rid of some of this funny money before our flight.

funny peculiar  odd; eccentric. (As opposed to funny ha-ha.) □ I didn’t mean that Mrs. Peters is funny ha-ha. She’s weird—funny peculiar in fact. □ His face is sort of funny—funny peculiar, that is.

a fur piece  Rur. a long distance. (Fur = far.) □ It’s a fur piece to the library. You’d best take the bus instead of walking. □ It’s a pretty fur piece to the nearest big town.

furnish something  for someone or something  and furnish something  with something  to provide something for someone or a group. □ I would be happy to furnish dinner for the visitors. □ I furnished the board of directors with the information.

furnish something  for something  to provide something to be used as something. □ Could you furnish the salad for our picnic? □ We can't furnish enough glassware for the whole party.

a furtive glance  a secret or quick glance, quickly averted. □ He made a furtive glance in the direction of the closet when the robbers asked where the jewelery was hidden.

fuse something  with something  to bond something together with something. □ You have to fuse the upper layer to the lower layer with heat. □ He used heat and pressure to fuse the patch with the soft rubber of the raft.

fuse with something  to bond with something. □ The metal has fused with the glass coating on the tank. □ I didn’t know that metal could fuse with glass.

fuss about and fuss around  to go about complaining; to move about in a busy manner. □ Don’t fuss about so much. Things will take care of themselves. □ Now, stop fussing around and sit down.

fuss about  someone or something  to complain about someone or something. □ What are you fussing about now? □ Are you still fussing about Tony?

fuss and feathers  Rur. fancy addictions that are overdone or troublesome. □ A truly elegant dress doesn’t have a lot of fuss and feathers. □ They ruined a nice room with all that fuss and feathers.

fuss around  Go to fuss about.

fuss (around)  with  someone or something  to keep bothering with someone or something; to fiddle with something or something. □ Don’t fuss around with it. We’ll have to get a new one. □ Don’t fuss with your children. They will get along just fine without all that attention.

fuss at  someone or something  to complain at someone. □ Stop fussing at me! □ The squirrel is fussing at the dog.

fuss over  someone or something  to go to a lot of bother about someone or something. □ My aunt always fusses over me and my sister. □ You spend a lot of time fussing over your hair.

futz around  Sl. to waste time. □ Stop futzing around and get the job done. □ I wish you would stop futzing around!

futz something  up  Sl. to mess something up. □ Who fuzed the computer up? □ I don’t want to futz up the deal, so I will be quiet.
gab up a storm Go to up a storm.
gad around and gad about to go from place to place, having fun. ☐ I’m too old to gad around like that. ☐ She wasted too much time gadding about with her friends.
gag on something to choke on something; to retch on something. ☐ The dog is gagging on whatever you gave her. ☐ This fish is good, but I hope I don’t gag on a bone.
gain dominion over someone or something to achieve total authority over someone or something. ☐ The dictator sought to gain dominion over the entire country. ☐ Harry was not happy until he had gained dominion over the people who worked for him.
gain from something to benefit from something. ☐ I hope you gain from this experience. ☐ What do you think I will gain from this?
gain ground to make progress; to advance; to become more important or popular. ☐ Our new product is gaining ground against that of our competitor. ☐ Since the government announced its new policies, the opposition has been gaining ground.
gain in something to advance in a particular quality. ☐ Todd grew in stature and gained in wisdom. ☐ Mary gained in experience as the weeks went on.
gain on someone or something to begin to catch up or move ahead of someone or something. ☐ We were gaining on them when they suddenly sped up. ☐ Our horse was gaining on the horse in front.
gain something by doing something to achieve some benefit by doing something. ☐ What did he gain by dropping out of school? ☐ I will gain some degree of security by investing in U.S. Treasury bonds.
gain something from something to earn or achieve something from something. ☐ I hope you gain something worthwhile from all this. ☐ I know I will gain some valuable experience from this job.
gallivant around to travel around aimlessly. ☐ Why don’t you stop gallivanting around and come home for a while? ☐ Mary is off gallivanting around with her boyfriend.
gallop through something 1. Lit. [for a horse] to pass through something at a gallop. ☐ Her horse galloped through the garden and dumped her in the cabbages. ☐ A few horses galloped through the meadow. 2. Fig. to go through something quickly; to do or perform something rapidly and perhaps carelessly. ☐ Mike galloped through his song and left the stage in a hurry. ☐ Don’t just gallop through your homework!
galumph around to move around looking for someone or something or transporting someone or something. ☐ I am so tired of galumphing around, dropping off and picking up kids. ☐ I have to stop galumphing around day after day.
galvanize someone into action Fig. to stimulate someone into some activity. ☐ The explosion galvanized Martha into action. ☐ We were galvanized into action by the storm.
gamble on someone or something 1. Lit. to make a wager on something concerning someone or something. ☐ I wouldn’t gamble on it happening. ☐ Don’t gamble on that horse. You’ll be sorry. 2. Fig. to run a risk by choosing or depending on someone or something. ☐ I wouldn’t gam-
garnish something with something
gather something up1 to put gasoline into a vehicle.  □ I have to gas this car up soon.  □ I will stop and gas up the car at the next little town.
gas something up† to fill up one’s gasoline tank with gasoline.  □ I have to stop at the next service station and gas up.  □ The next time you gas up, try some of the gasoline with alcohol in it.
gasp at someone or something to inhale sharply in surprise (against someone or something).  □ I gasped at the sight that lay before me.  □ I saw how weary Denise looked and I gasped at her.
gasp for breath to inhale sharply in surprise someone or something.  □ She ran and ran until she was gasping for breath.
gas for air† to fight for a breath of air. (After one has been deprived of air.)  □ Walter popped to the surface of the water and gasped for air.  □ The injured dog appeared to be gasping for air.
gasp for breath† to labor for one’s breath. (Usually because of physical exertion.)  □ She ran and ran until she was gasping for breath.  □ The diver finally came to the surface, gasping for breath.
gasp something out† to utter something, gasping.  □ She gasped the words out haltingly.  □ Dan was just able to gasp out the instructions before he passed out.
gassed (up) Sl. intoxicated.  □ Fred is gassed up and very wobbly.  □ He was too gassed up to drive home.
gather a case (against someone) Go to build a case (against someone).
gather around someone or something to collect around someone or something.  □ Let’s all gather around the table for dinner.  □ Please gather around the table for dinner.
gather around someone or something to collect around someone or something.  □ Let’s all gather around her and hear her out.  □ Please gather around the table for dinner.
gather someone into something and gather someone in† to assemble or bring people into something or some place.
□ The hostess gathered the children into the house just as the storm hit.  □ She gathered in the children.  □ Harry gathered them in before the storm.
gather someone or something around oneself to collect people or things around oneself; to draw someone or something to oneself.  □ He gathered a lot ofarty people around himself.  □ She liked to gather exotic plants around herself.  □ Grandpa gathered all the kids around and read them a story.
gather someone or something to oneself to draw someone or something to oneself.  □ The hen gathered her chicks to herself.  □ Harry gathered the poker chips to himself.
gather someone or something together† to assemble people or things together in one place.  □ Gather everyone together in the drawing room for a meeting.  □ Please gather together all the suspects so that they can be questioned again.  □ Would you gather all your papers together and put them away?
gather something from someone to collect something from someone.  □ I will gather the papers from Wally, and you go get those that Ted is working on.  □ Would you gather the pictures from everyone? We have to leave now and take them with us.
gather something from someone or something to learn something from someone or something; to infer something from someone or someone’s remarks. (The something is often a clause shifted to another position in the sentence.)  □ I gather from your brother that you do not approve of her.  □ We gathered that from your remarks.
gather something from something to collect something from something.

1. Lit. to collect something and bring it in; to harvest something.  □ We gathered the pumpkins in just before Halloween.  □ We gathered in the pumpkins just in time. 2. Fig. to fold or bunch cloth together when sewing or fitting clothing.  □ Try gathering it in on each side to make it seem smaller.  □ I will have to gather in this skirt.
gather something up† to collect something; to pick something up.  □ Let’s gather our things up and go.  □ Please gather up your things.
gather together to assemble together.  □ We will gather together on the main deck for a meeting.  □ Let’s all gather together this evening and sing.

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.  Prov. Enjoy yourself while you can, before you lose the opportunity or before you become too old. (From Robert Herrick’s poem, “To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time.”)  □ Sue: Should I go out on a date with Robbie on Saturday, or should I stay home and study? Ellen: Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.  □ You ought to travel abroad now, while you’re young, before you have responsibilities that might keep you from going. Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.

*gaudy as a butterfly fancy; colorful. (*Also: as ~.)  □ Marie looked as gaudy as a butterfly in her new dress.  □ Michael’s scarf is gaudy as a butterfly.
gawk at someone or something to stare at someone or something, obviously and awkwardly.  □ Why are you standing there, gawking at me?  □ The tourists stood at the foot of the mountain and gawked at the top.
gaze around (at someone or something) to look all around at someone or something.  □ The manager gazed around at each of us, and finally spoke.  □ Tourists gazed around at the scenery for a while and got back in the bus.  □ We just stood there, gazing around.
gaze at someone or something to stare at someone or something.  □ I stood for an hour, gazing at the sea.  □ She gazed at me for a moment and then smiled.
gaze on someone or something to look at someone or something; to survey someone or something.  □ She gazed sullenly on the ruin that had been her home.  □ The teacher gazed on the student and frightened her.
gaze out on something to look out on something, such as a lovely view, from inside a building or from a particular spot.  □ She gazed out on the flowering trees and knew that life would go on.  □ Henry sat for hours, gazing out on the lake.
gear someone or something up† (for someone or something) to prepare someone or something for some-
thing. ③ We have to gear up the workers for the arrival of the new manager. ④ We geared ourselves up for Frank, who was coming to lecture to us.

gear something to someone or something to cause something to match something else; to create or adapt something for a specific purpose. ③ Tim geared his speech to his audience. ④ The newspaper geared its language to a fourth-grade reading level.

gear up for someone or something to get ready for something. ③ We are busy gearing up for Joan’s visit next week.

generalize about someone or something and generalize on someone or something to interpret someone or something in very general terms. ③ Sometimes it isn’t wise to generalize about a complicated issue. ④ She is very complex and it is difficult to generalize on her.

generalize from something to assume a general pattern in something from specific observances of something. ③ You can hardly generalize from only two instances. ④ You can’t generalize anything from the testimony of a single witness!

generalize on someone or something Go to generalize about someone or something.

Generation X and Generation X’er people reaching puberty during the 1970s and 1980s. ③ Three or four generation X’ers were in the antique store looking eagerly at some of those horrible old dinette chairs from the 1950s.

generous to a fault Cliché too generous; overly generous. ③ My favorite uncle is generous to a fault. ④ Sally—always generous to a fault—gave away her lunch to a homeless man.

Genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains. ③ Pro. Genius is the quality of being exceedingly careful about everything you do. ③ If genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains, Marilyn certainly has it. She never overlooks a single detail that needs attention.

Genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration. ③ Pro. People get brilliant results primarily by working hard, not because they have special inborn powers. ③ Child: Betty always does the best drawings in art class. She must be a genius. Father: If you worked primarily by working hard, not because they have special inborn powers. ③ Child: Betty always does the best drawings in art class. She must be a genius. Father: If you worked hard, you could do just as well. Remember, genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.

*gentle as a lamb Cliché [of someone] very gentle. (*Also: as ~.) ③ Don’t be afraid of Mr. Schaeffer. He may look fierce, but he’s as gentle as a lamb. ④ Lisa was gentle as a lamb when dealing with children.

the genuine article the real thing rather than a substitute. ③ Is this the genuine article or some cheap imitation substitute? ④ I’ll take the genuine article, thanks.

get a bang out of someone or something Go to get a charge out of someone or something.

get a bead on someone or something Go to draw a bead on someone or something.

get a buzz out of someone or something Fig. to get some humor from someone or something. ③ I thought you’d get a buzz out of that gag. ④ I hope you get a buzz out of Ted. He’s a funny guy.

get a charge out of someone or something and get a bang out of someone or something; get a kick out of someone or something to receive special pleasure from someone or something. ③ I really got a charge out of that comedian’s routine. ④ Tom is really funny. I always get a kick out of his jokes. ④ Bill really got a bang out of the present we gave him.

get a hurry on and get a move on to start to hurry. ③ We are going to leave in five minutes, Jane. Get a hurry on! ④ Mary! Get a move on! We can’t wait all day.

get a kick out of someone or something Go to get a charge out of someone or something.

get a laugh to do something that will create laughter. ③ John will do almost anything to get a laugh.

Get a life! Inf. Change your life radically! Find something interesting to do or say! ③ You are such a twit! Get a life! ④ Get a life, you clown!

get a load of someone or something to get a good look at someone or something. ③ Wow! Get a load of that car! ④ Get a load of Mary!

get a lot of mileage out of something Fig. to get a lot of use from something, as if it were a car. ③ Bob always got a lot of mileage out of one joke. ④ I got a lot of mileage out of my TV before it broke down.

get a move on Go to get a hurry on.

get a rise from someone and get a rise out of someone Fig. to make someone react, usually angrily. ③ Tease Joe about his girlfriend. That generally gets a rise from him. ④ I pestered Mary for half the afternoon, but didn’t get a rise out of her.

get a say (in something) Go to a voice (in something).

get a (sound) grasp of something Go to a (solid) grasp of something.

get a ticket to receive a traffic ticket. ③ If you keep racing along at this speed, you will get a ticket!

get a weight off one’s mind Go to a load off one’s mind.

get a word in edgewise and get a word in edgy ways Fig. to manage to say something when other people are talking and ignoring you. (Often in the negative. Alludes to trying to “squeeze” a word into a running conversation.) ③ It was such an exciting conversation that I could hardly get a word in edgewise. ④ Mary talks so fast that nobody can get a word in edgeways.

get aboard something to get onto a ship, a train, or an airplane. ③ What time should we get aboard the ship? ④ Everyone can get aboard at noon.

get about and get around to manage to move around. ③ I broke my hip last year, but I can still get about. ④ Dad can’t get around too much anymore, so I go over to help him.

get across (something) to manage to cross something. (See also put something across to someone.) ④ We finally got across the river where it was very shallow. ④ Where the water was low, it was easy to get across.

get after someone 1. Lit. to begin to chase someone. ③ The other boys got after him and almost caught him. ③ Henry got after Bill and almost caught up with him. ② Fig. to bother someone about doing something; to scold someone about something. ③ I will get after Fred about his behavior. ④ Please don’t get after me all the time.

get ahead (in something) to advance in one’s employment, school, or life in general. ③ I work hard every day, but I
get ahead of oneself Fig. [for someone] to do or say something sooner than it ought to be done so that the proper explanation or preparations have not been made. Fig. I have to stick to my notes or I will get ahead of myself in my lecture. Fig. When he bought a new little bicycle before the baby was born, he was getting ahead of himself.

get along 1. [for people or animals] to be amiable with one another. Fig. Those two just don’t get along. Fig. They seem to get along just fine. 2. to leave; to be on one’s way. Fig. I’ve got to get along. It’s getting late. Fig. It’s time for me to get along. See you later.

get along (on a shoestring) and get by (on a shoestring) Fig. to be able to afford to live on very little money. Fig. For the last two years, we have had to get along on a shoestring. Fig. With so many expenses, it’s hard to get by on a shoestring.

get along on something Fig. to manage to survive with just something. Fig. I think we can get along on what I earn. Fig. I can’t get along on what they pay me.

Get along with you! Rur. to go on; to depart; to go and “take oneself along.” (Only with you.) Fig. Get along with you, now. Get going! Fig. Get along with you, Sally!

get along without (someone or something) to manage without someone or something; to do without someone or something. Fig. I don’t think I can get along without my secretary. Fig. My secretary just quit, and I don’t think I will be able to get along without.

get an amount of money for something to receive an amount of money in exchange for something; to sell something for a specific price. (See also get something for an amount of money.) Fig. I got nearly two thousand dollars for my car. Fig. How much did they get then for their house?

get around Go to get about.

get around someone or something 1. Lit. to cluster around someone or something. Fig. Tell everyone to get around the cat so she won’t run away. Fig. Let’s get around Mary and sing “Happy Birthday” to her. 2. to manage to go around someone or something. Fig. We couldn’t get around the fallen tree, so we turned back. Fig. Mary couldn’t get around the people standing in the hallway. 3. Fig. to avoid or elude an authority or regulation that constitutes a barrier; to circumvent someone or something in order to get one’s way. Fig. We knew she would oppose us, so we got around her and got it approved by someone else. Fig. I know I can find a way to get around the rule.

get around to doing something to find time to do something; to do something after a long delay. (See also get (around) to something, someone or something.) Fig. I finally got around to buying a new coat. Fig. It took Sally years to get around to visiting her aunt.

get (around) to something to be able to deal with someone or something eventually. (See also get around to doing something.) Fig. I will get around to you in a moment. Please be patient. Fig. The mechanic will get around to your car when possible.

get at someone Fig. to find a way to irritate someone; to manage to wound someone, physically or emotionally. (See also get at someone or an animal.) Fig. Mr. Smith found a way to get at his wife. Fig. John kept trying to get at his teacher.

get at someone or an animal Fig. to attack or strike someone or an animal. Fig. The cat jumped over the wall to get at the mouse. Fig. Ok, you guys. There he is. Get at him!

get at something 1. Fig. to explain or understand something. Fig. We spent a long time trying to get at the answer. Fig. I can’t understand what you’re trying to get at. 2. Fig. begin doing something. (See also Have at it!) Fig. I won’t be able to get at it until the weekend. Fig. I’ll get at it first thing in the morning.

get away to move away. (Often a command.) Fig. Get away! Don’t bother me! Fig. I tried to get away, but he wouldn’t let me.

get away (from someone or something) 1. to escape from someone, something, or some place. Fig. Max got away from the prison guard but was caught soon after. Fig. Mary couldn’t get away from the telephone all morning. 2. Go to away (from someone or something).

get away with murder 1. Lit. to commit murder and not get punished for it. (See also get away with something.) Fig. Don’t kill me! You can’t get away with murder!

get away with something and get by with something to do something and not get punished for it. (See also get away with something and get by with something.) Fig. That guy always gets away with murder—just because he’s cute. Fig. You will spoil your son if you let him get away with murder. You should punish him for his back-talk.

get away with someone or something to escape, taking someone or something with one. Fig. The kidnapper got away with little Brian. Fig. The burglars got away with a lot of cash and some diamonds.

get away with something and get by with something to do something and not get punished for it. (See also get away with something and get by with something.) Fig. You can’t get away with that! Fig. Larry got by with the lie.

get axed Fig. to get fired. Fig. Betty and two of her friends got axed today.

get back (to someone) (on something) Fig. to continue talking with someone (at a later time); to find out information and tell it to a person (at a later time). Fig. I don’t have the answer to that question right now. Let me find out and get back to you. Fig. Okay. Please try to get back early tomorrow.

get back to something to return to dealing with something. Fig. I will have to get back to my work now. Fig. I want to get back to my knitting.

get better to improve. Fig. I had a bad cold, but it’s getting better. Fig. Business was bad last year, but it’s getting better. Fig. I’m sorry you’re ill. I hope you get better.

get between someone or something and someone or something else to position oneself between people and things, in any combination. Fig. She got between Dan and his career. Fig. The dog got between the archer and the target.

get busy to start working; to work or appear to work harder or faster. Fig. The boss is coming. You’d better get busy. Fig. I’ve got to get busy and clean this house up.

get by (on a shoestring) Go to get along (on a shoestring).
get by (on a small amount of money) to survive with only a small amount of money. □ I can't get by on that much money. □ That is a very small amount of money to live on. No one could get by.

get by (someone or something) to move past someone or something. □ I need to get by this intersection, and then I will stop and look at the tires. □ Please let me get by.

get by (with something) 1. to satisfy the minimum requirements. □ I was failing geometry, but managed to get by with a D. □ I took the bar exam and just barely got by. 2. Go to get away with something.

get by (without someone or something) to survive without someone or something. □ I can't get by without you. □ We can probably get by without two cars.

get carried away Fig. to be overcome by emotion or enthusiasm (in one's thinking or actions). □ Calm down, Jane. Don't get carried away. □ Here, Bill. Take this money and go to the candy store, but don't get carried away.

get cracking Rar. to get to work. □ If you want to finish that quilt by Labor Day, you best get cracking. □ Sit down to your homework and get cracking!

get down 1. Sl. to lay one's money on the table. (Gambling.) □ Okay, everybody get down. □ Get down, and let's get going! 2. Sl. to concentrate; to do something well. □ I'm flunking two subjects, man. I gotta get down. □ Come on, Sam, pay attention. Get down and learn this stuff. 3. Sl. to copulate. □ Hey, let's get down! □ All Steve wants to do is get down all the time.

get down (from something) to get off something; to climb down from something. □ Please get down from there this instant! □ Get down before you fall!

get (down) off one's high horse Fig. to become humble; to be less haughty. □ It's about time that you get down off your high horse. □ Would you get off your high horse and talk to me?

get down (on all fours) to position oneself on one's hands and knees. □ He got down on all fours and played with the children. □ Mary got down and walked around like a dog.

get down to brass tacks Fig. to begin to talk about important things; to get down to business. □ Let's get down to brass tacks. We've wasted too much time chatting. □ Don't you think that it's about time to get down to brass tacks?

get down to business and get down to work to begin to get serious; to begin to negotiate or conduct business. □ All right, everyone. Let's get down to business. There has been enough chitchat. □ When the president and vice president arrive, we can get down to business.

get down to cases to begin to discuss specific matters; to get down to business. □ When we've finished the general discussion, we'll get down to cases. □ Now that everyone is here, we can get down to cases.

get down to (doing) something to begin doing some kind of work in earnest. □ I have to get down to my typing. □ John, you get in here this minute and get down to that homework!

get down to the facts to begin to talk about things that matter; to get to the truth. □ The judge told the lawyer that the time had come to get down to the facts. □ Let's get down to the facts, Mrs. Brown. Where were you on the night of January 16?

get down to the nuts and bolts Fig. to get down to the basic facts. (See also nuts and bolts.) □ Stop fooling around. Get down to the nuts and bolts. □ Let's stop wasting time. We have to get down to the nuts and bolts.

get down to work Go to get down to business.

get enough courage up† (to do something) Go to get enough nerve up† (to do something).

get enough guts up† (to do something) Go to next.

get enough nerve up† (to do something) and get enough courage up† (to do something); get enough guts up† (to do something); get enough pluck up† (to do something); get enough spunk up† (to do something); get the nerve up† (to do something); the courage up† (to do something); the guts up† (to do something); the pluck up† (to do something); get the pluck up† (to do something); get the spunk up† (to do something); get the nerve up† (to do something) Fig. to work up enough courage to do something. □ I hope I can get enough nerve up to ask her for her autograph. □ I wanted to do it, but I couldn't get up enough nerve. □ I thought he would never get up the courage to ask me for a date.

get euchred out of something to get cheated out of something. (Alludes to losing in the card game euchre.) □ Joe's dad left him a farm, but he got euchred out of it by some slicker real estate agent. □ I got euchred out of ten bucks by a con artist with a hard-luck story.

get free of someone or something and get free from someone or something 1. to rid oneself of the burden of someone or something. □ Can't I get free of this problem? □ I can't seem to get free of Randy. 2. to liberate oneself from someone or something. □ I tried to get free of Mr. Franklin, but he kept talking and wouldn't let me interrupt. □ Is there any way that somebody can get free of Tom? □ I couldn't get free of the nail that had snagged my sleeve.

get going 1. to start moving. □ Let's get going! We can't stand here all day. 2. to depart. □ What time should we get going in the morning?

get hell (about someone or something) Go to catch hell (about someone or something).

get hip to someone or something Go to hip to someone or something.

get home to someone or something to manage to return home to someone or something there. □ The infantryman wants to get home to his wife. □ I like to get home to a nice warm house.

get in deeper Fig. to get in more and more trouble; to get more deeply involved with someone or something. □ Everytime he opened his mouth to complain, he just got in deeper.

get inside something 1. Lit. to go inside of something or some place. □ Get inside the house and wait for me. □ Get inside the car so you won't get wet. 2. Fig. to learn about the inner workings of something or some organization.
get into a mess 1. Lit. to get some part of one into a sloppy or messy substance. □ Look at your shoes! You really got into a mess. □ Please don’t get into a mess in the park.
2. and get into a jam Fig. to get into difficulty; to get into trouble. □ Now you have really gotten into a mess. □ I got into a real mess at work.

get into an argument (with someone) (about someone or something) and get into an argument (with someone) (over someone or something) to enter a quarrel with someone about someone or something. □ I don’t want to get into an argument with you about Dan. □ Mary got into an argument about money with Fred. □ I really don’t want to get into an argument.

get into bed with someone Fig. to work closely as business partners; to merge businesses. □ Have you heard? The company’s getting into bed with Acme Industries. □ I want you to get into bed with the other department supervisors and sort this problem out.

get into one’s stride 1. Lit. [for a runner] to reach a comfortable and efficient pace. □ I got into my stride right away, and that helped win the race. □ She never got into her stride, and that’s why she lost. 2. Fig. to reach one’s most efficient and productive rate of doing something. □ When I get into my stride, I’ll be more efficient. □ Amy will be more efficient when she gets into her stride.

get into something 1. to tamper with something; to open something and disturb the contents. □ Who got into my desk? □ Someone has been getting into my work after the office closes. 2. to put oneself into clothing. □ As soon as I get into this coat, I will help you load the car. □ Let me get into my boots, and then I’ll be with you. 3. to enter something or some place. □ I got into the theater just before the rain started. □ Let’s get into the car and go. 4. Sl. to become involved in something; to develop an interest in something. □ I can really get into sailing, I think. □ No matter how hard I try, I can’t get into basketball. 5. to enter a particular type of business; to deal in a particular product in business. □ Yes, I used to work for the government, but now have gotten into private industry.

get in(to) the act Fig. to participate in something; to try to be part of whatever is going on. (As if someone were trying to get on stage and participate in a performance.) □ Everybody wants to get into the act! There is no room here for everyone. □ I want to get in the act.

get in(to) the swing of things Fig. to join in with people and their activities; to become more social and up-to-date. □ Come on, Bill. Try to get into the swing of things. □ John just couldn’t seem to get in the swing of things.

get it Go to get something.

get it (all) together Fig. to become fit or organized; to organize one’s thinking; to become relaxed and rational. □ Bill seems to be acting more normal now. I think he’s getting it all together. □ I hope he gets it together soon. His life is a mess.

get it in the neck Sl. to receive trouble or punishment. □ You are going to get it in the neck if you are not home on time. □ I got it in the neck for being late.

get it off Sl. to achieve sexual release; to copulate. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion. Compare this with get it off with someone.) □ Harry kept saying he had to get it off or die. What’s wrong with Harry? □ The entire crew of the yacht came ashore to get it off.

get it off with someone Sl. to have sexual intercourse with someone. □ She said she wanted to get it off with him. □ She said all he wanted was to get it off with just anybody.

get it on 1. Sl. to begin something. □ Time to go back to work. Let’s get it on! □ Get it on, you guys! Time to start your engines. 2. Sl. to begin dancing. □ Let’s get out there and get it on! □ He wanted to get it on, but my feet hurt. 3. Sl. [for people] to copulate. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ Come on, baby, let’s get it on. □ I don’t want to get it on with you or any other creep. 4. Sl. to undertake to enjoy oneself. □ I can really get it on with that slow jazz. □ Let’s go listen to some new age and get it on.

get it out Fig. to tell someone about a problem; to pour out one’s grief. (Fixed order.) □ Come on, get it out. You’ll feel better. □ He would feel better if he could get it out.

get it wrong to misunderstand someone or something. □ Oh, Otto, you’ve got it wrong again! □ Why do you have to get it wrong every time?

get laid to have sexual intercourse. (Use caution.) □ Tommy wanted nothing more out of life than to get laid.

get lost 1. to become lost; to lose one’s way. □ We got lost on the way home. □ Follow the path, or you might get lost. 2. Inf. Go away! Stop being an annoyance! (Always a command.) □ Stop bothering me. Get lost! □ Get lost! I don’t need your help.

geneva married to become united as husband and wife. □ Bill and Sally got married when they were in college. □ We got married in Texas just after we graduated from college.

geneva moving to get busy; to get started; to work harder or faster. □ Come on, everybody. Get moving! □ The director is coming. You had better get moving.

geneva nowhere fast Fig. not to make progress; to get nowhere. □ I can’t seem to make any progress. No matter what I do, I’m just getting nowhere fast. □ Come on. Speed up this car. We’re getting nowhere fast.

geneva off 1. to start off (on a friendship). □ Tom and Bill had never met before. They seemed to get off all right, though. □ I’m glad they got off so well. 2. to leave; to depart. □ What time did they get off? □ We have to get off early in the morning before the traffic gets heavy. 3. Go to get off (easy); get off (of) someone or something; get off (of) something; get off something; get off to something; get off with something.

geneva a few good ones Fig. to tell a few good jokes; to land a few good punches; to manage to make a few strong criticisms. □ The comedian managed to get off a few good ones, but most of his material was old or obscene.

geneva off (easy) and get off (lightly) to receive very little punishment (for doing something wrong). □ It was a seri-
get off to sleep

get off (with something) to receive only a light punishment for something. □ Let’s hope John gets off with a light sentence. □ Max got off with only a few years in prison.

get on 1. to get along; to thrive. □ Well, how are you two getting on? □ We are getting on okay. 2. Go to get on something and get on (with someone).

get on (in years) to grow older; to be aged. □ Aunt Mat tie is getting on in years. □ They were both getting on in years.

get on one’s horse Sl. to prepare to leave. (Usually fig., with no horse present.) □ It’s time to get on my horse and get out of here. □ I’ve got to get on my horse and go.

get on someone Fig. to pester someone (about something); to pressure someone. □ John is supposed to empty the trash every day. He didn’t do it, so I will have to get on him. □ It’s time to get on Bill about his homework. He’s falling behind.

get on (something) to enter a conveyance; to get aboard something; to climb onto something. □ They just announced that it’s time to get on the airplane. □ The bus stopped, and I got on. □ The child was afraid to get on the train. □ Where did you get on?

get on the phone Go to on the telephone.

get on the track of someone or something Go to on the trail of someone or something.

get on (with someone) and get along (with someone) to be friends with someone; to have a good relationship with someone. (The friendship is always assumed to be good unless it is stated to be otherwise.) □ How do you get on with John? □ I get along with John just fine. □ We get along.

get on with something to continue doing something. □ Let’s get on with the game! □ We need to get on with our lives.

get on (without someone or something) to survive and carry on without someone or something. □ I think we can get on without bread for a day or two. □ Can you get on without your secretary for a while?

get on one’s feet and put one on one’s feet 1. Lit. to help someone stand up after a fall or prolonged bed rest. □ We had to get him on his feet, but he was able to walk without much help. □ We put the child on his feet and he took off running again. 2. Fig. to get someone back to normal, financially, medically, mentally, etc. □ When he gets himself on his feet, Tom will buy a new car. □ We will put him on his feet and help him along. □ When I get myself on my feet, things will be better.

get one right here Fig. to affect one deeply in a specific way. (Usually accompanied with a hand gesture showing exactly where one is affected: the heart = lovingly, the stomach or bowels = sickeningly.) □ That sort of thing gets me right here. □ Pete clasped his hand to his chest and said, “That sort of thing gets me right here.”

get one’s act together to get oneself organized and on schedule. □ I’ve got to get my act together and start getting my work done. □ When I have my act together, I’ll get a job.

get one’s ass to get moving; to get organized and get started. (Use cau-
get one's bowels in an uproar  Sl. to get oneself anxious or excited. (Normally fig.) □ Cool it! Don't get your bowels in an uproar. □ Fred's always getting his bowels in an uproar about nothing.

get one's comeuppance to get a deserved punishment.
□ I can't wait till that snobbish girl gets her comeuppance.
□ Joe got his comeuppance when the teacher caught him making fun of her.

get one's ducks in a row Fig. to get one's affairs in order or organized. □ Jane is organized. She really gets all her ducks in a row right away. □ You can't hope to go into a company and sell something until you get your ducks in a row.

get one's ears pinned back Fig. to experience a severe scolding. □ Jimmy was ordered to report to the principal's office and get his ears pinned back.

get one's ears set out and get one's ears lowered Fig. to get one's ears made more visible by getting a haircut.
□ Well, I see you got your ears set out! □ Better get my ears lowered because I'm getting a little shaggier.

get one's feet wet Fig. to get a little first-time experience with something. (Obvious literal possibilities.) □ Of course he can't do the job right. He's hardly got his feet wet yet. □ I'm looking forward to learning to drive. I can't wait to get behind the steering wheel and get my feet wet.

get one's fingers burned Fig. to receive harm or punishment for one's actions. (Normally fig.) □ I had my fingers burned the last time I questioned the company policy.
□ I tried that once before and got my fingers burned. I won't try it again.

get one's foot in the door Fig. to complete the first step in a process. (Alludes to people selling things from door-to-door and blocking the door with a foot so it cannot be closed on them.) □ I think I could get the job if I could only get my foot in the door. □ It pays to get your foot in the door. Try to get an appointment with the boss.

get one's hands dirty and dirty one's hands; soil one's hands 1. Fig. to get closely involved in a difficult task.
□ You have to get your hands dirty if you expect to get the gutters cleaned out. 2. Fig. to become involved with something illegal; to do a shameful thing; to do something that is beneath one. □ The mayor would never get his hands dirty by giving away political favors. □ I will not dirty my hands by breaking the law.

get one's head above water and have one's head above water 1. Lit. to get one's head above the surface of the water while swimming. (See also keep one's head above water.) □ He finally got his head above water and was able to get a good breath. 2. Fig. to manage to get one- self caught up with one's work or responsibilities. □ I can't seem to get my head above water. Work just keeps piling up. □ I'll be glad when I have my head above water.

get one's head together to get one's thoughts or attitude properly organized. □ I've got to get my head together and get going. □ I need to take some time off and get my head together.

get one's hooks in(to) someone or something and get one's hooks in! Fig. to obtain a strong and possessive hold on someone or something. □ She just can't wait to get her hooks into him. □ He finally got in his hooks and guarded her jealousy.

get one's just deserts and get one's just reward(s); get one's [specified by context] to get what one deserves.
□ I feel better now that Jane got her just deserts. She really insulted me. □ The criminal who was sent to prison got his just rewards. □ You'll get yours!

get one's just reward(s) Go to previous.

get one's kicks (from someone or something) Fig. Inf. to get pleasure from someone or something. □ Do you get your kicks from this sort of thing? □ I get my kicks from Billy Simpson. What a great entertainer!

get one's knuckles rapped 1. Lit. to get one's knuckles struck with a ruler as a punishment. □ I got my knuckles rapped for whispering too much. □ You will have your knuckles rapped if you are not careful. 2. Fig. to receive a minor punishment. □ The lawyer got his knuckles rapped for talking back to the judge. □ Better watch your tongue if you don't want to get your knuckles rapped.

get one's lumps Inf. to get the result or punishment one deserves. (See also take one's lumps.) □ If she keeps acting that way, she'll get her lumps. □ We will see that Dave gets his lumps.

get one's nose out of joint and have one's nose out of joint; put one's nose out of joint Fig. to resent that one has been slighted, neglected, or insulted. □ You get your nose out of joint too easily about stuff like that. □ Now, don't get your nose out of joint. She didn't mean it.

get one's nose out of someone's business Fig. to stop interfering in someone else's business; to mind one's own business. □ Go away! Get your nose out of my business! □ Bob just can't seem to get his nose out of other people's business.

get one's rocks off (on something) 1. Sl. [for a male] to ejaculate. (Considered coarse.) Boys normally don't talk about getting their rocks off. 2. Sl. to enjoy something. (Fixed order.) □ I really get my rocks off on heavy metal. □ I've listened to the stuff, but I sure don't get my rocks off on it.

get one's shit together and get one's stuff together 1. Fig. to get one's possessions organized. (Shit is usually taboo.) □ Let me get my shit together, and I'll be right with you. □ I'll get my shit together and be right with you. □ Will you all please get your stuff together so we can get going? 2. Fig. to get oneself mentally organized. (Shit is usually taboo.) □ As soon as I get my shit together, I can be of more help. □ When you have your shit together you can start living independently again.

get one's stuff together Go to previous.

get one's tail in gear Go to get one's ass in gear.

get one's teeth into something and sink one's teeth into something; get one's teeth in; sink one's teeth in! Fig. to begin to do something; to get completely involved in something. □ I can't wait to get my teeth into that Wallace job. □ Here, sink your teeth into this and see if you can't manage this project. □ He'll find it easier when he sinks in his teeth.

get one's ticket punched Sl. to die; to be killed. (Literally, to be cancelled.) □ Poor Chuck got his ticket punched
get one’s wits about one and have one’s wits about one
Fig. to keep one’s thinking in order or make one’s mind work smoothly, especially in a time of stress. (See also keep one’s wits about one.) □ Let me get my wits about me so I can figure this out. □ I don’t have my wits about me at this time of the morning.

get (oneself) into a stew (over someone or something) Fig. to be worried or upset about someone or something. □ Please don’t get yourself into a stew over Walter. □ Liz is the kind of person who gets into a stew over little problems.

get oneself up 1. to arise from bed; to rise to one’s feet. □ I’ve got to get myself up and get going. □ Get yourself up and get going. 2. Rur. to dress oneself up. □ I got myself up in my Sunday best. □ Jane got herself up as if she were a movie star.

get on(to) the (tele)phone
to pick up a telephone receiver to talk to someone or make a telephone call. □ I’ll get onto the extension and talk with Fred. □ I’ll get on the phone and call Fran right away.

get out 1. [for someone or an animal] to depart to the outside or to escape. □ When did your dog get out and run away? □ When did he get out of jail? 2. [for information or a secret] to become publicly known. □ We don’t want the secret to get out. □ The word soon got out that he had a prison record.

get out of a jam Fig. to get free from a problem or a bad situation. □ Would you lend me five hundred dollars? I need it to get out of a jam. □ I need some help getting out of a jam.

get out of a mess Fig. to get free of a bad situation. (Also with this, such a, etc.) □ How can anyone get out of a mess like this? □ Please help me get out of this mess!

get out of (doing) something to manage not to have to do something. □ I was supposed to go to a wedding, but I got out of it. □ Jane had an appointment, but she got out of it.

Get out of here! Go away! Leave this place! □ John: I’ve heard enough of this! Get out of here! Bill: I’m going! I’m going! □ Where have you been? You smell like a sewer! Get out of here!

Get out of my sight! Go away immediately! (Usually said in anger.) □ Get out of my sight! □ Please get out of my sight forever!

get out of one’s face Lit. Inf. to stop bothering or intimidating someone. □ Look, get out of my face, or I’ll poke you in yours! □ He told you to get out of his face, you creep!

get out of someone’s hair Fig. Inf. to stop annoying someone. □ Will you get out of my hair? You are a real pain!

get out of the road Go to out of the way.

get out of time (with someone or something) Go to out of step (with someone or something).

Get out of town! Beat it!; Get out of here! □ Go away, you bother me! Get out of town! □ You’d better get out of town, my friend. You are a pest.

get out of wind Go to out of breath.

get (out) while the getting(g)’s good and get (out) while the goin(g)’s good to leave while it is still safe or possible to do so. □ I could tell that it was time for me to get while the getting’s good. □ I told her she should get out while the goin’s good.

Get out with it! Get it said! □ Stop stuttering around! Get out with it! □ Get out with it! I don’t have all day to wait for you!

get out with one’s life Fig. to survive a serious or life-threatening incident or an accident without dying. □ We were lucky to get out with our lives.

Get over it! Forget about it and be done with it! (Said to someone who is fretting and stewing over some kind of problem.) □ Forget about her. She’s gone. Get over it!

get over someone or something 1. Lit. to move or climb over someone or something. □ I managed to get over the sand dunes and moved on toward the shoreline. □ I couldn’t get over the huge rock in the path, so I went around it. 2. Fig. to recover from difficulties regarding someone or something. (See also Get over it!) □ I almost never got over the shock. □ Sharon finally got over Tom. He had been such a pest.

get over something to recover from a disease. (See also get over someone or something.) □ It took a long time to get over the flu. □ I thought I would never get over the mumps.

get over (to some place) 1. to go to some place. □ I have to get over to Molly’s place and pick up some papers. □ Go ahead and start without me. I’ll get over as soon as I can. 2. to cross over something to get somewhere. □ I want to get over to the other side. □ I can’t find a way to get over!

get past (someone or something) 1. to move around or ahead of someone or something that is in the way. □ We have to get past the cart that is blocking the hallway. □ We just couldn’t get past. 2. to pass ahead of someone or something that is moving. □ I want to get past this truck, then we can get into the right lane. □ When we get past, I’ll stop and let you drive.

Get real! Inf. Start acting realistically! □ Hey, chum! You are way off base! Get real! □ Get real! Wake up to reality!

get religion Fig. to become serious (about something), usually after a powerful experience. (Sometimes literal.) □ When I had an automobile accident, I really got religion. Now I’m a very safe driver.

get right on something to do something immediately. □ I know it has to be done today. I’ll get right on it. □ Please get right on these reports as soon as possible.

get rolling Fig. to get started. □ Come on. It’s time to leave. Let’s get rolling! □ Bill, it’s 6:30. Time to get up and get rolling!

get screwed 1. SL. to have sexual intercourse. (Considered a crude usage.) □ A lot of the college kids on spring break in Florida do nothing but get drunk and get screwed. 2. SL. to get cheated. □ I really got screwed on that last deal.

Get serious! Inf. Get realistic!; Stop horsing around! □ Oh, come on! Get serious! You don’t really mean that!
get shed of someone or something
Go to next.

get shut of someone or something and get shed of someone or something; get shut of someone or something
Rur.
to get rid of someone or something. □ I can’t wait to get shut of that old refrigerator. □ Tom followed me around for months, but I finally got shed of him.

get smart (with someone) Fig. to become fresh with someone; to talk back to someone. □ Don’t you get smart with me! □ If you get smart again, I’ll hop you.

get some kind of mileage out of something 1. Lit. to achieve some level of efficiency with a vehicle. (Some kind of typically includes more, better, good, etc.) □ Do you get good mileage out of a vehicle like this? 2. Fig. to get [sufficient] use or service from something. □ I wish I could get better mileage out of this car. □ He knows how to get a lot of mileage out of a pair of shoes.

get (some) steam up† 1. Lit. [for a steam engine] to build up steam pressure and become more powerful. □ As the engine got up steam, it began to move faster. 2. Fig. to begin to be stronger and more powerful. □ The movement to cut taxes is getting up some steam. □ Our little organization just couldn’t get up enough steam to become effective.

get some weight off one’s feet Fig. to sit down. □ Come in and get some weight off your feet. □ I need to sit down and get some weight off my feet.

get someone across (in a good way) Go to put someone across (in a good way).

get someone (all) wrong to misunderstand someone’s intentions or character. □ I think you’ve got me all wrong. I want to be your friend, not your enemy.

get someone around the table Fig. to collect people together for discussion or bargaining. □ We have to get everyone around the table on this matter. □ If I can get them around the table, I’m sure I can make them agree.

get someone down to depress a person; to make a person very sad. □ My dog ran away, and it really got me down. □ Oh, that’s too bad. Don’t let it get you down.

get someone going to get someone excited; to get someone talking excitedly. □ I guess I really got him going on the subject of politics. □ The whole business really makes me mad. Don’t get me going.

get someone in a family way Go to in a family way.

get someone in(to) something 1. Lit. to manage to put someone into a confining area or into clothing. □ I couldn’t get Billy into his boots! 2. Fig. to manage to get someone enrolled into a school, club, organization, class, etc.; to manage to get someone accepted into something. □ Somehow, we managed to get Jody into a fine private school. □ We got her in the group at last! □ Well, I managed to get myself into the class I wanted.

get someone off 1. to get someone cleared of a criminal charge. □ Ted’s lawyer got him off, although we all knew he was guilty. □ I hope someone can get her off. She is innocent no matter how it looks. 2. to get someone freed from a responsibility. (See also get off the hook.) □ I think I can get you off. □ What do I need to do to get myself off?

get someone on(to) someone or something to assign someone to attend to someone or something. □ Get someone onto the injured man in the hall right now. □ Get someone on the telephone switchboard at once!

get someone or something across something and get someone or something across to transport someone or something across something. □ We have to get everyone across the bridge before the floodwaters rise any more. □ Let’s get the truck across also. □ It’s foolhardy to try to get your car across the desert without a few gallons of water with you.

get someone or something away from someone or something to take someone or something away from someone or something, in any combination. □ Please get that cigar away from me! □ See if you can get Timmy away from the horse.

get someone or something back† to receive someone or something back; to recover someone who had been taken away; to recover something that had been taken away. □ Beth finally got her car back from the service station. □ She got back her car.

get someone or something by someone or something and get someone or something by to get someone or something past an inspection. □ Do you think I can get my cousin by the border guards? □ I don’t think I can get this sausage by the customs desk.

get someone or something down† (from something) to bring someone or something down from a higher place. □ See if you can get my cat down from the tree. □ Please get down the sugar from the top shelf.

get someone or something down something and get someone or something down to manage to put or force something downward. □ We finally got her down the stairs, but it was a struggle. □ Don had to push and push to get his laundry down the chute.

get someone or something free (from someone or something) to liberate someone or something from someone or something. □ We finally got cousin George freed from the talkative old man. □ We managed to get the animal’s paw free from the trap.

get someone or something in(to) something and get someone or something in† to manage to fit someone or something into something. □ I will try to get you into the beginning of the line. □ The key is bent, but I think I can get it in. □ He struggled to get in the key.

get someone or something off someone or something and get someone or something off to remove someone or something from someone, oneself, or something. □ Come in and get those wet clothes off. □ Get him off of me!

get someone or something out of one’s mind and get someone or something out of one’s head to manage to forget someone or something; to stop thinking about or wanting someone or something. (Almost the same as put someone or something out of one’s mind.) □ I can’t get him out of my mind. □ Mary couldn’t get the song out of her mind.

get someone or something out of one’s sight Fig. to remove someone or something from one’s presence. (Often said in anger.) □ Get that child out of my sight! □ Please get that cake out of my sight.

get someone or something out of someone or something and get someone or something out† to release or extricate someone or something from someone, something, or some place. □ See if you can get the cat out of this cabinet.
get something in(to) someone

1. To make something enter someone or something. I got my car for only $1500.
2. To receive punishment. John got broken from the window, and he's really going to get it.
3. To receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
4. To cause something to become untidy or disordered. Todd got something going with Amy, and they both look pretty happy.
5. To cause something to become unmanageable. When he made the spaghetti sauce, he got the kitchen into a real mess.
6. To make something enter someone or something. I have to get this pizza home to my parents before it gets cold.
7. To cause something to become unmanly. I got my cold from walking in the rain.
8. To make something enter someone or something. I got that morphine into her for arriving late at school.
9. To make something enter someone or something. I got my dinner for a song.
10. To cause something to enter someone or something. I got a letter from the bank about the loan we applied for.
11. To cause something to enter someone or something. I got chicken pox from my son.
12. To cause something to enter someone or something. I probably got my cold from walking in the rain.
13. To cause something to enter someone or something. I got chicken pox from my son.
14. To cause something to enter someone or something. I got the morphine into her before she goes into shock.

get something across (to someone) Go to put something across (to someone).

get something down 1. to manage to swallow something, especially something large or unpleasant. The pill was huge, but I got it down.
2. to receive punishment. John got it for arriving late at school.
3. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
4. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
5. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
6. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
7. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
8. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
9. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
10. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
11. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
12. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
13. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
14. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand a joke. John told a joke, but I didn't get it.
get something **into** someone's thick head
Go to get something through someone's thick skull.

get something **in(to)** something
to manage to put something into something. □ I got the notice into tomorrow's newspaper. □ I will get the replacement battery into the car right away.

get something **off**
Go to get something off (to someone or something).

get something **off** one's chest
to unburden oneself; to confess something; to criticize or make a personal complaint to someone. □ You will feel better if you get it off your chest. □ I have to get this off my chest. I'm tired of your rudeness to me!

get something **off the ground**
1. Lit. to get something into the air. □ I'll announce the weather to the passengers as soon as we get the plane off the ground. □ I hope they get this plane off the ground soon. 2. Fig. to get something started. (Alludes to an airplane beginning a flight.) □ When we get this event off the ground we can relax. □ It is my job to get the celebration plans off the ground.

get something **off (to someone or something)** and get something **off†**
to send something to someone or something.

get something **out of** someone or something
1. Lit. to remove or extricate something.
□ Please help me get this splinter out. □ Would you help me get out this splinter? □ The tooth was gotten out without much difficulty. □ Fig. to manage to get something said. □ He tried to say it before he died, but he couldn't get it out. □ I had my mouth full and couldn't get the words out.

get something **out of one's system**
1. Lit. to get something like food or medicine out of one's body, usually through natural elimination. □ He'll be more active once he gets the medicine out of his system. □ My baby, Mary, ate applesauce and has been crying for three hours. She'll stop when she gets the applesauce out of her system. 2. Fig. to be rid of the desire to do something; to do something that you have been wanting to do so that you aren't bothered by wanting to do it anymore. □ I bought a new car. I've been wanting to for a long time. I'm glad I finally got that out of my system. □ I can't get it out of my system! I want to go back to school and earn a degree. 3. Fig. to do so much of something that one does not want or need to do it anymore. □ I got riding roller coasters out of my system when I was young.

get something **out of someone**
to cause or force someone to give specific information. □ We will get the truth out of her yet. □ The detective couldn't get anything out of the suspect. □ They got a confession out of him by beating him.

get something **out of (of someone or something)**
to remove something from someone or something. (See also get something **out of someone**; get something **out of something**.) □ He probably will be okay when they get the tumor out of him. □ Please get that dog out of the living room.

get something **out of something**
to get some kind of benefit from something. □ I didn't get anything out of the lecture. □ I'm always able to get something helpful out of our conversations.

get something **over (to someone)**
1. to deliver something to someone. □ Get these papers over to Mr. Wilson's office right away. □ He needs it now, so try to get it over as soon as you can. 2. to make someone understand something; to succeed in explaining something to someone. □ I finally got the basic concepts of trigonometry over to him. □ He tries to understand what I'm talking about, but I can't get it over.

get something **past**
1. Lit. to move something around or ahead of someone or something that is in the way. □ Let's get the piano past the bump in the floor, then we'll figure out how to move it farther. □ See if you can get the ball past their goalie by shooting high. 2. Fig. to get someone or a group to approve something; to work something through a bureaucracy. □ Do you think we can get this past the censors? □ I will never get this size increase past the board.

get something **straight**
Fig. to understand something clearly. □ Now get this straight. You're going to fail history. □ Let me get this straight. I'm supposed to go there in the morning.

get something **straight from the horse's mouth**
Prov. to get information from the person most directly involved or best informed. □ fill: Sue is going to have a baby. Jane: Who told you that? Jill: I got it straight from the horse's mouth. □ There's a rumor that Randolph is moving to Alaska, but I won't believe it until I get it straight from the horse's mouth.

get something **through someone's thick skull**
and get something **into someone's thick head**
Fig. to manage to get something delivered or transported to someone. □ Will you please get this to Joe Wilson today? □ I'll try to get it to you by the end of the day.

get something **together**
(for a particular time)
to arrange a party or other gathering for a certain time. (Fixed order.) □ I'll try to get a meeting together for Friday afternoon. □ I'm sure we can get something together.

get something **up†**
to organize, plan, and assemble something. □ Let's get a team up and enter the tournament. □ I think we can get a team quite easily.

get something **wrapped up**
Go to sewed up.

get started on something
to begin doing something; to take the first steps to do something. □ When do we get started on this project? □ I want to get started on this right away.

get the ball **rolling**
and **set the ball rolling; start the ball rolling**
Fig. to get a process started. (See also keep the ball rolling.) □ If I could just get the ball rolling, then other people would help. □ Who else would start the ball rolling? □ I had the ball rolling, but no one helped me with the project.

get the courage **up†**
to do something
Go to get enough nerve **up†** (to do something).

get the draw on someone
Fig. to be faster than one's opponent in a fight. (Alludes originally to an Old West gunfight.) □ The sheriff got the draw on Arizona Slim and shot him in the arm. □ Bill's competitor got the draw on
him. She was the first one in town to start selling those popular new shoes.

**get the drift of** Fig. to understand the general idea of something. □ I knew enough German to get the drift of this article. □ I don't get the drift of what you're trying to tell me.

**get the drop on** 1. Sl. [for person A] to manage to get a gun aimed at person B before person B can aim back at person A. (The gun is then “dropped” by person B.) □ Fred got the drop on Wilbur in a flash. □ Wilbur was too stoned to get the drop on Fred. 2. Sl. to succeed in getting an advantage over someone. □ I guess I got the drop on you because I was early. □ I got the drop on almost everybody by sending in my registration by e-mail.

**get the facts straight** and **have the facts straight** Fig. to have an understanding of the real facts. □ Ask a lot of questions and get all of your facts straight. □ Please be sure you have the facts straight before you make a decision.

**get the final word** Go to the last word.

**get the gate** Inf. to be sent away; to be rejected. □ I thought he liked me, but I got the gate. □ I was afraid I'd get the gate, and I was right.

**get the go-by** Inf. to be ignored or passed by. □ It was my turn, but I got the go-by. □ Tom stood on the road for fifteen minutes trying to get a ride, but all he could get was the go-by.

**get the hell out** (of here) Inf. to depart as rapidly as possible. □ Time for us all to get the hell out of here, I think. The cafe is closing now. □ He got the hell out before he was fired.

**get the kinks (ironed) out** Fig. to fix a problem associated with something. □ The actors had to get the kinks out before they were ready to present the play to an audience. □ That'll be a right nice car, when you get the kinks ironed out in the engine.

**get the lead out** and **Shake the lead out** Inf. to hurry; to move faster. (This originally refers to getting lead weights [used in exercise] off so you can move faster.) □ Come on, you guys. Get the lead out! □ If you’re going to sell cars, you’re going to have to shake the lead out.

**Get the message?** and **Get the picture?** Inf. Do you understand? Are you able to figure out what is meant? (See also **Do you get my drift?**) □ Things are tough around here, and we need everyone’s cooperation. Get the picture? □ We don’t need lazy people around here. Get the message?

**get the most out of** someone or something to achieve the greatest output of work, effort, production, etc., out of someone or something. □ I do what I can to get the most out of life. □ I try to get the most out of my employees.

**Get the picture?** Go to Get the message?

**get the point (of something)** to understand the purpose, intention, or central idea of something. □ I wish he would stop telling jokes and get to the point of his speech.

**get the shaft** Sl. to be cheated; to be taken advantage of; to be mistreated. (See also **give someone the shaft**.) □ Why do I get the shaft when I did nothing wrong?

**get the show on the road** and **get this show on the road** Fig. to get (something) started. □ Let’s get started! Get the show on the road! □ Get this show on the road. We don’t have all day.

**get the spank up!** (to do something) Go to get enough nerve up! (to do something).

**get the word** Fig. to receive an explanation; to receive the final and authoritative explanation. □ I'm sorry, I didn't get the word. I didn't know the matter had been settled. □ Now that I have gotten the word, I can be more effective in answering questions.

**get the wrinkles out** (of something) 1. Lit. to remove the wrinkles from fabric by ironing or flattening in some way. □ This has been packed in my suitcase for a week, and I know I'll never be able to get the wrinkles out of it. 2. Fig. to eliminate some initial, minor problems with an invention, a procedure, a computer program, or a mechanical device. □ I need more time working with this system to get the wrinkles out.

**get through** (something) 1. Lit. to penetrate something. □ We couldn’t get through the hard concrete with a drill, so we will have to blast. □ The hardest drill bit we have couldn't get through. 2. Fig. to complete something; to manage to finish something. □ I can't wait till I get through school. □ I’ll get through college in five years instead of four. 3. Fig. to survive something; to go through something. □ This is a busy day. I don’t know how I’ll get through it. □ Sally hopes to get through college while still working full-time and being a mother.

**get through (to someone)** 1. Lit. to reach someone; to manage to communicate to someone. □ I called her on the telephone time after time, but I couldn’t get through to her. □ I tried every kind of communication, but I couldn’t get through. 2. Lit. to pass through (something) to reach someone. □ The crowd was so thick that I couldn’t get through to him. □ I couldn’t get through security without taking off my shoes and being searched. 3. Fig. to make someone understand something; to get something through someone’s thick skull. □ Why don’t you try to understand me? What do I have to do to get through to you? □ Can anybody get through, or are you just stubborn?

**get through (to something)** to make contact by radio or telephone with a company, organization, or group. □ I could not get through to the police because the telephone line was down. □ Harry couldn’t get through to his office.

**get through (with someone or something)** 1. to manage to transport someone or something through difficulties or barriers. □ Customs was a mess, but we got through with all our baggage in only twenty minutes. □ I got through with my aged father without any trouble. 2. Go to get through with someone or something.

**get to first base** (with someone or something) and **reach first base** (with someone or something) Fig. to make a major advance with someone or something. □ I wish I could get to first base with this business deal. □ John adores Sally, but he can’t even reach first base with her. She won’t even speak to him.

**get to one’s feet** Fig. to stand up. □ On a signal from the teacher, the students got to their feet. □ I was so weak, I could hardly get to my feet.

**get to someone** 1. Lit. to manage to locate and meet someone; to manage to communicate with someone. (See also
get to something] Lit. to reach something physically. (See also get to.) □ I couldn’t get to the telephone in time. □ I got him just in time to help him. Fig. to arrive at a topic of discussion. □ Money? We will get to that in a minute. □ We will get to the question of where your office will be after we discuss whether you are hired or not. □ Fig. to start on [doing] something; to begin doing something. □ I’ll get to it as soon as possible. □ Have you managed to get to my repair job yet? □ Your complaining is getting to bother me.

get to the bottom of something] Fig. to get an understanding of the causes of something. □ We must get to the bottom of this problem immediately. □ There is clearly something wrong here, and I want to get to the bottom of it.

get to the point (of something] Fig. to arrive at a discussion or explanation of the purpose of something. □ Please get to the point of all this. □ Will you kindly get to the point?

get to the top (of something] 1. Lit. to get to the highest point of something. □ We finally got to the top of the mountain and planted the flag. □ We had tried twice before to get to the top. 2. Fig. to work up to the highest status in something. □ She got to the top of her field in a very short time. □ It takes hard work to get to the top.

get together (with someone] (on someone or something] 1. and get together (with someone] (about someone or something] Lit. to meet with someone about something or something. □ I would like to get together with you on this Wilson matter. What would be a good time for you? □ Let’s get together on Fred and his department at our next meeting. □ Fig. to agree with someone about something or something. □ I would like to get together with you on this, but we are still nowhere near agreement. □ I want to get together on price with the suppliers.

get tough (with someone] to become firm with someone; to use physical force against someone. □ The teacher had to get tough with the class because the students were acting badly. □ I’ve tried nicely to get you to behave, but it looks like I’ll have to get tough and really punish you.

get under someone’s skin] Fig. to bother or irritate someone. □ John is so annoying. He really gets under my skin. □ I know he’s bothersome, but don’t let him get under your skin.

get under something] to get beneath something. □ The cat came in and got under the sofa where she couldn’t be seen. □ Why don’t you get under the table where Billy won’t find you?

get up] to wake up and get out of bed. □ What time do you usually get up? □ I get up when I have to.

get up a (full) head of steam] 1. Lit. [for a steam engine] to build steam pressure in order to start operating. □ It took nearly thirty minutes to get up a full head of steam so that the locomotive could start moving. 2. Fig. to develop sufficient energy, enthusiasm, commitment, or determination to undertake something. □ It’s nearly noon before I can get up a full head of steam and accomplish something.

get up a thirst] and work up a thirst] Fig. to do something that will make one thirsty. (Fixed order.) □ Jogging makes me work up a thirst. □ Doing this kind of work always gets up a thirst with me.

get up against something or someone] to press close against something or someone. □ I got up against the wall, out of the way. □ The child got up against his father to stay warm.

get up an appetite] Fig. to do something to make one very hungry. (Usually in this order.) □ He can’t seem to get up an appetite these days. □ Whenever I jog, I really get up an appetite.

get up (from something] to go to a standing position from a lower position. □ She got up from the chair and walked to the door. □ I don’t want to get up from this hammock unless I just have to.

get up (off of something] to rise up and get off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Please get up off the sofa. I have to turn the cushions over. □ Get off up of it!

get up on one’s hind legs] Fig. to get angry and assertive. (Alludes to the action of a horse when it is excited or frightened.) □ She got up on her hind legs and told them all to go to blazes. □ She has a tendency to get up on her hind legs and tell people off.

get up on the wrong side of bed] and get out of the wrong side of bed] Fig. to seem grouchy on a particular day. □ Did you get out of the wrong side of bed this morning? You are a real grouch.

get up something] to manage to climb something. □ I was so tired I couldn’t get up the stairs. □ The entire group was able to get up the side of the mountain.

get up to something] 1. Lit. to climb up to something, at a certain height or level. □ We finally got up to the top. □ How long will it take to get up to the tenth floor? 2. Fig. to arrive as far as something. □ We got up to the halfway point and stopped. □ Will I ever get up to the finish line? I’m so tired of running!

get well] to become healthy again. □ Ann had a cold for a week, and then she got well. □ Hurry up and get well!

get wet] to become moist or soaked with water. □ Get out of the rain or you’ll get wet. □ Don’t get wet, or you’ll catch a cold.

get wind of something] and catch wind of something] Fig. to learn of something; to hear about something. □ The police got wind of the illegal drug deal. □ John caught wind of the gossip being spread about him.

get with it] 1. Inf. to modernize one’s attitudes and behavior. □ Get with it, Martin. Go out and buy some new clothes! □ You really have to get with it, Ernie. 2. Inf. to hurry up and get busy; to be more industrious with something. □ Get with it; we’ve got a lot to do. □ Let’s get with it. There’s a lot of work to be done.

get with something] to become alert. (Often with it.) □ Hey, stupid. Get with it! □ Wake up, Bill. Get with what’s going on!
**get with the program** Fig. follow the rules; do what you are supposed to do. (Implies that there is a clearly known method or “program” that is usually followed.) □ Come on, Mark. Get with the program. Do what you are told. □ Jane just can’t seem to get with the program. She has to do everything her way, right or wrong.

**Get your ass over here!** and **Get your buns over here!** Get your butt over here! Sl. Get yourself over here, now! □ Get your butt over here and help me move this trunk.

**Get your buns over here!** Go to previous.

**Get your head out of the clouds!** Inf. Stop daydreaming! □ Get your head out of the clouds and watch where you are driving! You’re going to kill us all.

**Get your nose out of my business.** Go to Mind your own business.

**a ghost of a chance** even the slightest chance. (Usually negative.) □ She can’t do it. She doesn’t have a ghost of a chance. □ There is just a ghost of a chance that I’ll be there on time.

**giggle at someone or something** to snicker or chuckle at someone or something. □ Are you giggling at me? □ Fran giggled at the antics of the clown.

**gild the lily** Fig. to add ornament or decoration to something that is pleasing in its original state; to attempt to improve something that is already fine the way it is. (Often refers to flattery or exaggeration.) □ Your house has lovely brickwork. Don’t paint it. That would be gilding the lily. □ Oh, Sally. You’re beautiful the way you are. You don’t need makeup. You would be gilding the lily.

**Gimme a break!** Go to Give me a break!

**gird up one’s loins** Fig. to get ready, especially for hard work; to prepare oneself (for something). □ Well, I guess I had better gird up my loins and go to work. □ Somebody has to do something about the problem. Why don’t you gird up your loins and do something?

**give a good account of oneself** Fig. to do (something) well or thoroughly. □ John gave a good account of himself when he gave his speech last night. □ Mary was not feeling well, and she didn’t give a good account of herself in last night’s game.

**give a little** 1. Lit. to give a small amount of something, probably money. □ If everyone will just give a little, we can have enough money to provide a nice Thanksgiving dinner for the needy. 2. Fig. to move a slight amount. □ When he pressed on the wall, it gave a little where the water had soaked in. 3. Fig. to yield a little bit on a point to someone. □ She is so stubborn. If she would just give a little, she could get more cooperation from other people.

**give an account of someone or something (to someone) and give someone an account of something** to tell a narrative about someone or something to someone. □ You are going to have to give an account of yourself to your parole officer. □ Please give an account of your day to my secretary. □ Give me an account of every minute.

**give (an) ear to someone or something and give one’s ear to someone or something** Fig. to listen to someone or to what someone is saying. (Compare this with get someone’s ear.) □ I gave an ear to Mary so she could tell me her problems. □ She wouldn’t give her ear to my story. □ He gave ear to the man’s request.

**give as good as one gets** Fig. to give as much as one receives; to pay someone back in kind. (Usually in the present tense.) □ John can take care of himself in a fight. He can give as good as he gets. □ Sally usually wins a formal debate. She gives as good as she gets.

**give birth to someone or something** 1. Lit. to have a child; [for an animal] to bring forth young. □ She gave birth to a baby girl. □ The cat gave birth to a large number of adorable kittens. 2. Fig. to bring forth a new idea, an invention, a nation, etc. □ The company gave birth to a new technology. □ The basic idea of participatory democracy gave birth to a new nation.

**give cause for something** to serve as a just cause for something; to warrant something. □ Your comments give cause for further investigation. □ I didn’t give cause for you to worry so much.

**give chase (to someone or something)** to chase someone or something. □ The dogs gave chase to the fox. □ A mouse ran by, but the cat was too tired to give chase.

**give credence to someone or something** to consider someone or something as believable or trustworthy. □ How can you give credence to a person like Henry? □ I can’t give any credence to Donald. □ He tells lies. Don’t give credence to what he says. □ Please don’t give credence to that newspaper article.

**Give credit where credit is due.** Prov. Acknowledge someone’s contribution or ability. □ Jill; Jane, that was a wonderful meal. Jane: I must give credit where credit is due; Alan helped with all of the cooking. □ Ellen: Roger is pompous, petty, and immature. I think he’s completely worthless. Jane: Now, Ellen, give credit where credit is due; he’s also extremely smart.

**give currency to something** to spread a story around. (With a negative if there is doubt about what is said.) □ I can’t give any currency to anything Ralph Jones says. □ We give no currency to those stories. □ His actions gave currency to the rumor that he was about to leave.

**give evidence of something** to show signs of something; to give proof of something. □ You are going to have to give evidence of your good faith in this matter. A nominal deposit would be fine. □ She gave evidence of being prepared to go to trial, so we settled the case.

**give forth with something and give out with something** to say or shout something. □ The kids in the street gave forth with cries of excitement. □ Walter gave out with a loud whoop when he heard the good news.

**give free rein to someone and give someone free rein** Fig. to allow someone to be completely in charge (of something). (Alludes to loosening the reins of a horse and therefore control.) □ The boss gave the manager free rein with the new project. □ The principal gave free rein to Mrs. Brown in her classes.

**give ground** 1. Lit. to retreat, yielding land or territory. □ I approached the barking dog, but it wouldn’t give ground. 2. Fig. to “retreat” from an idea or assertion that one has made. □ When I argue with Mary, she never gives ground.

**Give her the gun.** Go to Give it the gun.
**give in** cave in; to push in. □ The rotting door gave in when we pushed, and we went inside. □ The wall gave in where I kicked it.

**give in (to someone or something)** to yield to someone or something; to give up to someone or something. □ He argued and argued and finally gave in to my demands. □ I thought he’d never give in.

**Give it a rest!** Inf. Stop talking so much. Give your mouth a rest. (Familiar or rude. Compare this with **Give me a rest!**) □ Mary: So, I really think we need to discuss things more and go over all our differences in detail. Bill: Stop! I’ve heard enough. Give it a rest! Mary: Oh, am I disturbing you? □ Tom: Now, I would also like to say something else. Alice: Give it a rest, Tom. We’re tired of listening to you.

**Give it all you’ve got!** Inf. Do your very best! □ Go out there and try. Give it all you’ve got!

**Give it the gun.** and **Give her the gun.** Fig. to make a motor or engine run faster; to rev up an engine. (The her is often pronounced “er.”) □ Bill: How fast will this thing go? Bob: I’ll give it the gun and see. □ Hurry up, driver. Give ‘er the gun. I’ve got to get there immediately.

**Give it time.** Be patient.; In time, things will change. (Usually said to encourage someone to wait or be patient.) □ Things will get better. Don’t worry. Give it time. □ Of course, things will improve. Give it time.

**give it to someone (straight)** to tell something to someone clearly and directly. □ Come on, give it to me straight. I want to know exactly what happened. □ Quit wasting time, and tell me. Give it to me straight.

**Give it up!** Inf. Stop trying! You are wasting your time! (Fixed order.) □ Bob: I just can’t understand calculus! Bill: Give it up! Get out of that course and get into something less cruel. □ Tom: I’m just not a very good singer, I guess. Sue: It’s no good, Tom, Give it up! Tom: Don’t you think I’m doing better, though? Sue: Give it up, Tom!

**Give me a break!** and **Gimme a break!** 1. Inf. Don’t be so harsh to me!; Give me another chance! □ I’m sorry! I’ll do better! Give me a break! □ I was only late once! Give me a break! 2. Inf. That is enough, you’re bothering me!; Stop it! □ Do you have to go on and on? Give me a break! □ Give me a break, you guys! That’s enough of your bickering! 3. Inf. I don’t believe you!; You don’t expect anyone to believe that! □ You say a gorilla is loose in the city? Gimme a break! □ Tom said he was late again because the back stairs caved in. His boss said, “Gimme a break!”

**Give me a call.** and **Give me a ring.** Please call me (later) on the telephone. □ Mary: See you later, Fred. Fred: Give me a call if you get a chance. □ “When you’re in town again, Sue, give me a call,” said John. □ Bob: When should we talk about this again? Bill: Next week is soon enough. Give me a ring.

**Give me a chance!** 1. Please give me an opportunity to do something! □ Mary: I just know I can do it. Oh, please give me a chance! Sue: All right. Just one more chance. □ Bob: Do you think you can do it? Jane: Oh, I know I can. Just give me a chance! 2. Please give me a fair chance and enough time to complete the task. □ Alice: Come on! I need more time to finish the test. Give me a chance! Teacher: Would another ten minutes help? □ Bob: You missed that one! Bill: You moved it! There was no way I could hit it. Give me a chance! Hold it still!

**Give me a rest!** Inf. Stop being such a pest!; Stop bothering me with this problem! (Compare this with **Give it a rest!**) □ “Go away and stop bothering me!” moaned Bob. “Give me a rest!” □ Bob: I need an answer to this right away! Bill: I just gave you an answer! Bob: That was something different. This is a new question. Bill: Give me a rest! Can’t it wait?

**Give me a ring.** Go to **Give me a call.**

**Give me five!** and **Give me (some) skin!**; **Skin me!**; **Slip me five!**; **Slip me some skin!** Slap my hand! (As a greeting or to show joy, etc.) □ “Yo, Tom! Give me five!” shouted Henry, raising his hand. □ Bob: Hey, man! Skin me! Bill: How you doing, Bob?

**Give my best to someone.** and **All the best to someone.** Please convey my good wishes to a particular person. (The someone can be a person’s name or a pronoun. See also **Say hello to someone (for me).**) □ Alice: Good-bye, Fred. Give my best to your mother. Fred: Sure, Alice. Good-bye. □ Tom: See you, Bob. Bob: Give my best to Jane. Tom: I sure will. Bye. □ Bill: Bye, Rachel. All the best to your family. Rachel: Thanks. Bye.

**give of oneself** to be generous with one’s time and concern. □ Tom is very good with children because he gives of himself. □ If you want to have more friends, you have to learn to give of yourself.

**give one’s freedom** to set someone free; to divorce someone. □ Mrs. Brown wanted to give her husband his freedom. □ Well, Tom, I hate to break it to you this way, but I have decided to give you your freedom.

**give one’s best** Go to **give something one’s best shot.**

**give one’s eyeteeth (for someone or something)** Go to **give one’s right arm (for someone or something).**

**give (one’s) notice** to formally tell one’s employer that one is quitting one’s job. □ Did you hear that James is leaving? He gave his notice yesterday. □ Lisa gave notice today. She got a job offer from another company.

**give one’s right arm (for someone or something) and give one’s eyeteeth (for someone or something)** Fig. to be willing to give something of great value for someone or something. □ I’d give my right arm for a nice cool drink. □ I’d give my eyeteeth to be there.

**give oneself airs** Go to **put on airs.**

**give oneself over to someone or something** 1. Lit. to surrender to someone or something. □ He went to the station and gave himself over to the police. □ Max gave himself over to the officer. 2. Fig. to devote oneself to someone or something. □ Laurie gave herself over to her work and soon forgot her pain. □ David gave himself over to the religious order.

**give oneself up (to someone or something)** 1. Lit. to surrender to someone or something. □ Fran gave herself up to the disease. □ Walter gave himself up to the police. 2. Fig. to devote oneself to someone or something: to give oneself over to someone or something. □ She gave herself up to her children and their care. □ Fran gave herself up to tennis. □ Jane refused to give herself up to weight lifting, which is a full-time hobby.
give out 1. to wear out and stop; to quit operating. □ My old bicycle finally gave out. □ I think that your shoes are about ready to give out. 2. to be depleted. □ The paper napkins gave out, and we had to use paper towels. □ The eggs gave out, and we had to eat cereal for breakfast for the rest of the camping trip.

give (out) with something 1. Inf. to give out information. □ Come on, give out with the facts, man. □ Give with the info. We're in a hurry. 2. Go to give forth with something.

give rise to something to cause something; to instigate something. □ The attack gave rise to endless arguments. □ Her ludicrous living gave rise to further speculation as to the source of her money.

give some thought to something; to devote some time to thinking about something. □ After I have had time to give some thought to the matter, I will call you.

give someone a bang and give someone a charge; give someone a kick Fig. Inf. to give someone a bit of excitement. □ John always gives me a bang. □ The whole afternoon, with all its silliness, gave me a charge anyway.

give someone a blank check and give a blank check to someone 1. Lit. to give someone a signed check that lacks only the amount or payment which can be filled in by anyone. □ Sally sent a blank check to school with Billy to pay for his books. 2. Fig. to give someone freedom or permission to act as one wishes or thinks necessary. (See also carte blanche.) □ He's been given a blank check with regard to reorganizing the workforce. □ The manager has been given no instructions about how to train the staff. The owner just gave him a blank check. □ Jean gave the decorator a blank check and said she wanted the whole house done.

give someone a blank look and give someone a blank stare to look back at someone with a neutral look on one's face. □ After I told her to stop smoking, she just gave me a blank look and kept puffing.

give someone a blank stare Go to previous.

give someone a buzz Go to give someone a ring.

give someone a call Go to give someone a ring.

give someone a charge Go to give someone a bang.

give someone a crack at something Go to a try at something.

give someone a dig Sl. to insult someone; to say something which will irritate a person. □ Jane gave Bob a dig about his carelessness with money. □ The headmaster's daughter gets tired of people giving her digs about favoritism.

give someone a (good) bawling out to bawl someone out; to chastise someone. □ When the teacher caught Billie, he gave him a good bawling out.

give someone a kick Go to give someone a bang.

give someone a lift 1. and give someone a ride Fig. to provide transportation for someone. □ I've got to get into town. Can you give me a lift? 2. Fig. to raise someone's spirits; to make a person feel better. □ It was a good conversation, and her kind words really gave me a lift.

give someone a line and feed someone a line to lead someone on; to deceive someone with false talk. □ Don't pay any attention to John. He gives everybody a line. □ He's always feeding us a line.

give someone a pain Fig. to annoy or bother someone. □ Please don't give me a pain. I've had a hard day. □ You give me a pain! □ She's such a pest. She really gives me a pain.

give someone a pat on the back Go to pat someone on the back.

give someone a piece of one's mind Fig. to bawl someone out; to tell someone off. □ I've had enough from John. I'm going to give him a piece of my mind. □ Sally, stop it, or I'll give you a piece of my mind.

give someone a red face Fig. to make someone visibly embarrassed. □ We really gave him a red face when we caught him eavesdropping. □ His error gave him a very red face.

give someone a ride Go to give someone a lift.

give someone a ring and give someone a buzz; give someone a call Fig. to call someone on the telephone. □ Nice talking to you. Give me a ring sometime. □ Give me a buzz when you're in town.

give someone a whack at something Go to a try at something.

Give someone an inch and he'll take a mile. and Give someone an inch and he'll take a yard. Prov. Be generous to someone and the person will demand even more. (Describes someone who will take advantage of you if you are even a little kind to him or her.) □ If you let Mark borrow your tools for this weekend, he'll wind up keeping them for years. Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.

Give someone an inch and he'll take a yard. Go to previous.

give someone away (to someone) 1. Fig. [for the bride's father] to give the bride away to the groom. (Customarily done just prior to the actual marriage ceremony.) □ Mr. Franklin gave Amy away to Terry just as he had done in the rehearsal. □ He was reluctant to give his daughter away. 2. Fig. to reveal something secret about someone to someone else. □ Please don't give me away. I don't want anyone to know my plans. □ Alice did everything she could to keep from giving herself away.

Give someone enough rope and he'll hang himself. Prov. If you give someone that you suspect of bad behavior the freedom to behave badly, eventually he or she will be caught and punished. □ Jill: I think Matilda's been stealing things out of my desk. Should I tell the boss? Jane: No; give her enough rope and she'll hang herself. One of these days she'll steal something important, the boss will find out for himself, and he'll fire her.

give someone Hail Columbia Inf. to scold someone severely. □ The teacher gave her students Hail Columbia over their poor test scores. □ If Miss Ellen finds out I broke her window, she'll give me Hail Columbia for sure!

give someone no quarter Go to grant someone no quarter.

give someone odds that... to propose a sham bet to someone, the implication being that even at favorable odds the outcome will defy the odds. (Often with a negative.) □ I'll give you odds that you won't be able to order a decent steak at this restaurant.
give someone or something a wide berth
Fig. to keep a reasonable distance from someone or something; to steer clear of someone or something. □ The dog we are approaching is very mean. Better give it a wide berth. □ Give Mary a wide berth. She’s in a very bad mood.

give someone or something away† to reveal a secret about someone or something. □ I thought no one knew where I was, but my loud breathing gave me away. □ We know that Billy ate the cherry pie. The cherry juice on his shirt gave him away. □ I had planned a surprise, but John gave away my secret.

give someone or something back† (to someone or something) to return someone or something to someone or something. □ Please give it back to me. □ You took my lunch away from me. You had better give it back. □ Give back the book right now!

give someone or something up† (for lost) to abandon someone or something as being lost; to quit looking for someone or something that is lost. □ After a week we had given the cat up for lost when suddenly she appeared. □ We gave up the cat for lost.

give someone or something up† (to someone) to hand someone or something over to someone; to relinquish claims on someone or something in favor of someone else. □ We had to give the money we found up to the police. □ We gave up the money to the police.

give someone pause (for thought) Fig. to cause someone to stop and think. □ When I see a golden sunrise, it gives me pause for thought. □ Witnessing an accident is likely to give all of us pause.

give someone some lip Inf. to speak rudely or disrespectfully to someone; to sass someone. □ Billy gave me some lip, so I whupped him. □ Jane is always giving the teacher some lip.

give someone some skin Sl. [for two people] to touch two hands together in a special greeting, like a handshake. (One hand may be slapped down on top of the other, or they may be slapped together palm to palm with the arms held vertically. Usually said as a command.) □ Hey, Bob, give me some skin! □ Come over here, you guys. I want you to meet my brother and give him some skin!

give someone some sugar Rur. to give someone a kiss. □ Come here, honey, and give me some sugar. □ “Give me some sugar!” Grandma said when she saw me.

give someone static Fig. to argue with someone; to give someone back talk. □ I want you to do it and do it now! Don’t give me any static!

give someone the eye Fig. to look at someone in a way that communicates romantic interest. □ Ann gave John the eye. It really surprised him. □ Tom kept giving Sally the eye. She finally got disgusted and left.

give someone the finger 1. Fig. to display the middle finger upright as a sign of derision. (The gesture is derisive and offensive. See also flip someone off, flip someone the bird.) □ Did one of you guys give Ted the finger? □ Somebody gave the cop the finger. 2. Fig. Inf. to mistreat someone; to insult someone. □ You’ve been giving me the finger ever since I started working here. What’s wrong? □ I’m tired of everybody giving me the finger around here just because I’m new.

give someone the gate Sl. to get rid of someone. □ The chick was a pest, so I gave her the gate. □ He threatened to give me the gate, so I left.

give someone the go-by to bypass someone; to ignore someone. □ Gert gave us all the go-by when she took up with that rich boyfriend. □ I didn’t mean to give you the go-by. I’m preoccupied, that’s all.

give someone the raspberry Inf. to make a rude noise with the lips at someone. □ The audience gave him the raspberry, which gave him some second thoughts about his choice of career. □ Even after his grandstand play, they gave him the raspberry.

give someone the shaft Sl. to cheat or deceive someone; to mistreat someone. (See also get the shaft.) □ The boss really gave Wally the shaft. □ Somebody always gives me the shaft.

give someone the shirt off one’s back Fig. to give anything that is asked for, no matter the sacrifice required. □ Tom would give any of his old army buddies the shirt off his back. □ You can always count on Mark when you’re in trouble; he’d give you the shirt off his back.

give someone the slip Sl. to escape from a pursuer. □ We were on his tail until he gave us the slip. □ I can give her the slip in no time at all.

give someone tit for tat Fig. to give someone something equal to what was given you; to exchange a series of very similar things, one by one, with someone. □ They gave me the same kind of difficulty that I gave them. They gave me tit for tat. □ He punched me, so I punched him. Every time he hit me, I hit him. I just gave him tit for tat.

give someone to understand something to explain something to someone; to imply something to someone. (Possibly misleading someone, accidentally or intentionally. See also given to understand.) □ Mr. Smith gave Sally to understand that she should be home by midnight. □ The mayor gave the citizens to understand that there would be no tax increase. He didn’t promise, though.

give someone up† for dead 1. Lit. to give up hope for someone who is dying; to abandon a dying person as already dead. □ The cowboys gave up their comrade for dead and rode off. □ We gave up the poor old man for dead and went to telephone the police. 2. Fig. to abandon hope for someone to appear or arrive. □ We were delighted to see you. We had almost given you up for dead. □ After an hour, they gave up their quest for dead.

give something a go Go to give something a try.

give something a shot Go to next.

give something a try and give something a go; give something a whirl; give something a shot to make a try at something. □ Why don’t you give it a go and see if you like it?

give something a whirl Go to previous.

give something away† (to someone) 1. to donate to, or bestow something upon, someone. □ I gave the old clothing away to Tom. □ I gave away my coat to Tom. 2. to tell a secret to someone. □ Please don’t give the surprise away to anyone. □ Don’t give away my secret. 3. to reveal a secret.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>give</strong></td>
<td><strong>to</strong> exchange something for something. (This usually refers to a person who has been evil—like the devil.) <strong>She's very messy in the kitchen, but I have to give the devil her due.</strong> She bakes a terrific cherry pie. <strong>John is a bit too nosy, but he keeps his yard clean and is a kind neighbor. I'll give the devil his due.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something away</strong></td>
<td>Fig. to reveal a plan or strategy. <strong>Now, all of you have to keep quiet. Please don't give the game away.</strong> <strong>If you keep giving out hints, you'll give the game away.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give</strong></td>
<td><strong>something</strong> <strong>back</strong> (with interest) 1. Lit. to return money to someone with an additional amount for interest. <strong>You are going to have to give that money back to me with interest.</strong> <strong>Please give back the proper amount...with interest!</strong> 2. Fig. to return something to someone in excess of what was received. <strong>We will give back all your kindness to you with interest.</strong> <strong>We will give it all back with interest.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something for</strong></td>
<td>to exchange something for something. <strong>I will give two bunnies for that piece of cake in your lunch box.</strong> <strong>Jed gave two pigs for an old motorcycle.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something off</strong></td>
<td>to release something, such as smoke, a noise, an odor, fragrance, etc. <strong>The little animal gave a foul smell off.</strong> <strong>The flower gave off its heavy perfume at dusk.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something one's best shot</strong></td>
<td>and <strong>give</strong> one's <strong>best</strong> Fig. to give a task one's best effort. <strong>I gave the project my best shot.</strong> <strong>Sure, try it. Give it your best!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something out</strong></td>
<td>1. Lit. to distribute something; to pass something out. <strong>The teacher gave the test papers out.</strong> <strong>The teacher gave out the papers.</strong> 2. Fig. to make something known to the public. <strong>When will you give the announcement out?</strong> <strong>The president gave out the news that the hostages had been released.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something over</strong></td>
<td>(to someone or something) to hand something over to someone or something. <strong>Please give the money over to Sherri, who handles the accounts.</strong> <strong>She is waiting at the front office. Just go there and give it over.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something to</strong></td>
<td>someone to bestow something, such as a gift, on someone. <strong>Please give this to Sally Wilson.</strong> <strong>Who gave this book to me? I want to thank whoever it was.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something under (the) threat of</strong></td>
<td>something to give something only because one is threatened. <strong>He gave the money under threat of exposure. I think that is blackmail.</strong> <strong>You are asked to give your testimony under the threat of being jailed if you don't.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give something up</strong></td>
<td>1. to forsake something; to stop using or eating something. <strong>I gave coffee up because of the caffeine.</strong> <strong>They advised me to give up sugar in all forms.</strong> 2. to quit doing something. <strong>Oh, give it up! You're not getting anywhere.</strong> <strong>You should give up smoking.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give teeth to</strong></td>
<td>something and <strong>put teeth in(to) something</strong> Fig. to make something powerful; to give something a real effect. <strong>The severe penalty really gives teeth to the law.</strong> <strong>Strong enforcement puts teeth in the regulation.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give the bride away</strong></td>
<td>Go to give someone away (to someone). <strong>Please give this to Sally Wilson.</strong> <strong>Who gave this book to me? I want to thank whoever it was.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>give the devil her due</strong></td>
<td>Go to next. <strong>She's very messy in the kitchen, but I have to give the devil her due. She bakes a terrific cherry pie.</strong> <strong>John is a bit too nosy, but he keeps his yard clean and is a kind neighbor. I'll give the devil his due.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **give the devil his due**    | **and** **give the devil her due** Fig. to give your foe proper credit (for something). (This usually refers to a person who has been evil—like the devil.) **She's very messy in the kitchen, but I have to give the devil her due. She bakes a terrific cherry pie.** **John is a bit too nosy, but he keeps his yard clean and is a kind neighbor. I'll give the devil his due.**
increase, but after the election taxes went up. She was
given to understand that she had to be home by midnight.

*the glad hand Fig. an overly friendly welcome; a symbol
of insincere attention. (*Typically: get ~; give someone
~ .) Whenever I go into that store, I get the glad hand.
I hate to go to a party and get the glad hand.

glance around (some place) to look quickly around some
place. He glanced around the room, looking for his
favorite cap. Mary glanced around, looking for her friend.

glance at someone or something to look quickly at someone
or something. Sharon glanced at Todd to see if he looked
as if he was ready to go. I glanced at my watch and real-
ized how long all this had taken.

glance back (at someone) 1. to look quickly at someone
who is looking at you. He glanced back at Mary, so he
could remember her smile. She hoped he would notice her
but he never even glanced back. 2. to look quickly at some-
one who is behind you. Dan glanced back at the man
chasing him and ran on even faster. He glanced back and
ran faster.

glance down (at something) to look quickly downward
at something. Sherri glanced down at her watch and then
pressed on the accelerator. She glanced down and hurried
off.

glance off (someone or something) to bounce off someone
or something. The bullet glanced off the huge boulder.
The baseball glanced off of Tom and left a bruise on his
side where it had touched.

glance over someone or something to examine someone
or something very quickly. I only glanced over the papers.
They look okay to me. The doctor glanced over the injured
woman and called for an ambulance.

glance through something to look quickly at the contents
of something. I glanced through the manuscript, and I
don’t think it is ready yet. Would you glance through this
report when you have a moment?

glare at someone or something to scowl at someone or some-
thing. Don’t glare at me! I glared at the cat and thought
mean thoughts.

glare down on someone or something 1. [for someone] to
scowl down at someone or something. The judge glared
down on the accused. I glared down on the cat, which
ignored me, as usual. [for the sun] to burn down
brightly on someone or something. The sun glared down
on the beach and made the sand hot to the touch. The
bright sun glared down on the desert rocks.

glass something in! to enclose something, such as a porch,
in glass. I want to glass this porch in, so we can use it in the
winter. We glassed in our porch last year.

glaze over 1. Lit. [for something] to be covered over with
a coat of something cloudy or ice. The roads glazed over
and became very dangerous. 2. Fig. [for one’s eyes] to assume a dull, bored
appearance, signifying an inability to concentrate or a lack
of sleep. My eyes glaze over when I hear all those statis-
tics.

gleam with something to sparkle or shine with something.
The crystal goblets gleamed with the sparkling candle-
light. The glass gleamed with a bright reflection.

glisten with something to sparkle or shimmer with some-
thing. The trees glistened with a thin coating of ice from
the freezing rain. Fran’s eyes glistened with a few tears.

glitter with something 1. to sparkle with something.
Her earrings glittered with many tiny diamonds. The tree
glomerated with tiny ice crystals. 2. [for eyes] to shine with
a strong emotion. Her eyes glittered with anger. The
eyes of the great beast glittered with ravenous hunger.

gloat over something to rejoice smugly over something;
to be glad that something unfortunate has happened to
someone else. He gloated over his good luck in a way that
made all of us angry. Please don’t gloat over my misfor-
tune.

Glory be! Inf. an exclamation expressing surprise or shock.
(A bit old-fashioned.) Mary: Glory be! Is that what I
think it is? Sue: Well, it’s a kitten, if that’s what you thought.
Sally: First a car just missed hitting her, then she fell down
on the ice. Mary: Glory be!

glory in something Fig. to take great pleasure in something;
to revel in something. He just glories in all the attention
he is getting. Martha tends to glory in doing things just
exactly right.

gloss over something to cover up, minimize, or play down
something bad. Don’t gloss over your own role in this
fiasco! I don’t want to gloss this matter over, but it really
isn’t very important, is it?

The gloves are off. Fig. There is going to be a serious dis-
pute. (As if boxers had removed their gloves in order to
inflict more damage. See also take the gloves off.) Bob
got mad and yelled, “Ok, the gloves are off!” and started
bussing and pounding the table.

glow with something 1. Lit. [for something] to put out
light, usually because of high heat. The embers glowed
with the remains of the fire. The last of the coals still
glowed with fire. 2. Fig. [for someone’s face, eyes, etc.] to
display some quality, such as pride, pleasure, rage, health.
Her healthy face glowed with pride. Her eyes glowed
with a towering rage.

glower at someone or something to scowl intently at some-
one or something. The judge glowered at the irate wit-
ness until order was restored. ❏ Fred glowered at the painting of his uncle, hating the subject of the picture.

**glue** something down 1 to fix something down onto something with cement. ❏ Glue the edge of the rug down before someone trips over it. ❏ You should glue down the rug.

**glue** something on(to) something and **glue** something to something; **glue** something on 1 to attach something to something else with cement. ❏ Please glue the binding onto this book. Someone pulled it off. ❏ Please glue on the binding.

**glue** something together 1 to attach the pieces of something together with glue. ❏ She glued the pieces of the model plane together. ❏ She glued together all the loose pieces.

**glued** to someone or something Fig. following someone everywhere; very close to or touching something. ❏ His little sister was glued to him all afternoon. Finally he sent her home.

**a glut on the market** Go to a drug on the market.

**glut** someone or something with something to overfill someone or something else with something. ❏ The hungry lions glutted themselves with the meat of their recent kill. ❏ Sally would glut herself with doughnuts, given the chance.

**a gluton for punishment** Fig. someone who is eager for a burden or some sort of difficulty; someone willing to accept a difficult task. ❏ Tom works too hard. He is a gluton for punishment. ❏ I enjoy managing difficult projects, but I am a glutton for punishment.

**gnash** one’s teeth Fig. to grind or bite noisily with one’s teeth. ❏ Bill clenched his fists and gnashed his teeth in anger. ❏ The wolf gnashed its teeth and chased after the man.

**a gnashing of teeth** Fig. a show of anger or dismay. (Biblical: “weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth.”) ❏ After a little gnashing of teeth and a few threats, the boss calmed down and became almost reasonable.

**gnaw** (away) at someone Fig. to worry someone; to create constant anxiety in someone. ❏ The thought of catching someone who is breaking his arm gnawed away at her. ❏ A lot of guilt gnawed at him day and night.

**gnaw** (away) at someone or something Lit. to chew at someone or something. ❏ I hear a mouse gnawing away at the wall. ❏ The mosquitoes are gnawing at me something awful.

**gnaw** on something to chew on something. (Usually said of an animal.) ❏ The puppy has been gnawing on my slippers! ❏ This slipper has been gnawed on!

**go a long way toward** doing something and **go a long way in** doing something Fig. almost to satisfy specific conditions; to be almost right. ❏ This machine goes a long way toward meeting our needs. ❏ Your plan went a long way in helping us with our problem.

**go a mile a minute** Go to a mile a minute.

**go aboard** Go to come aboard.

**go about** and **go around** 1. [for a rumor] to go from person to person. ❏ What is this story about you that I heard going about? ❏ There was a nasty rumor about Gerald going around. 2. [for a disease] to spread. ❏ There is a lot of this flu going about these days. ❏ There is a bad cough going around. 3. Go to go around someone or something.

**go about** one’s business Go to about one’s business.

**go about** something to approach the doing of something in a particular way. ❏ How should I go about researching this topic? ❏ Would you tell me how to go about it?

**go about with** someone or something and **go around** with someone or something to go around in the company of someone or something. ❏ I always go about with my friends. ❏ Fran has been going around with James.

**go above and beyond** one’s duty and **go above and beyond the call of duty** Fig. to exceed what is required of one. ❏ Doing what you ask goes above and beyond my duty. ❏ My job requires me to go above and beyond the call of duty almost every day.

**go above and beyond** (something) Go to above and beyond (something).

**go above and beyond the call of duty** Go to go above and beyond one’s duty.

**go above** someone Go to above someone.

**go above someone** or something to travel over someone or something. ❏ The model airplane swooped low right at us but went above us at the last minute.

**go absent without leave** Go to absent without leave.

**go across** (something) to cross something, such as water, a bridge, land, the ocean, etc. ❏ We went across the ocean in just three hours. ❏ How long did it take you to go across?

**go across** something to someone or something to cross something to someone, something, or some place on the other side. ❏ We went across the bridge to the island. ❏ We came upon a little footbridge and went across to the other side. ❏ Timmy went across the street to his mother.

**go after** someone to investigate someone or something for possible criminal prosecution. ❏ The prosecutor went after Max first, knowing that Max was the gang leader. ❏ The police detectives went after the whole gang.

**go after** someone, something, or an animal 1. Lit. to pursue someone, something, or an animal. (See also **go after someone.**) ❏ The dogs went after the burglar. ❏ I went after the gang that took my wallet. 2. Fig. to charge or attack someone or an animal. ❏ The bear went after the hunters and scared them off. ❏ Then the bear went after the hunting dogs and killed two.

**go against** someone or something Go to against someone or something.

**go against the grain** Go to against the grain.

**Go ahead.** Please do it; You have my permission and encouragement to do it. ❏ Alice: I’m leaving. John: Go ahead. See if I care. Jane: Can I put this one in the refrigerator? Sue: Sure. Go ahead.

**Go ahead,** **make my day!** 1. Just try to do me harm or disobey me. I will enjoy punishing you. (From a phrase said in a movie where the person saying the phrase is holding a gun on a villain and would really like the villain to do something that would justify firing the gun. Compare this with **Keep it up!**) ❏ The crook reached into his jacket for his wallet. The cop, thinking the crook was about to draw a gun, said, “Go ahead, make my day!” ❏ As Bill pulled back
go ahead (of someone or something) to get in front of and proceed someone or something. □ Please let me go ahead of you. □ The car carrying the parade marshall went ahead of the others.

go ahead (with something) 1. to continue with something; to continue with plans to do something. □ Can we go ahead with our party plans? □ Let’s go ahead with it. 2. to carry something ahead. □ Please go ahead with the baggage. I will meet you at the ticket counter. □ Will you please go ahead with the cake? I will bring the ice cream in a minute.

go all out (for someone or something) to do everything possible for someone or something. □ We went all out for George and threw a big party on his return. □ We went all out and it was not appreciated at all.

go all the way (with someone) and go to bed (with someone) Euph. to have sexual intercourse with someone. □ If you go all the way, you stand a chance of getting pregnant. □ I’ve heard that they go to bed all the time.

go along 1. to continue; to progress. □ Things are going along quite nicely in my new job. □ I hope everything is going along well. 2. to accompany [someone]. □ Can I go along? □ If you’re going to the party, can I go along?

go along (with someone) for the ride 1. Lit. to accompany someone just to be taking a ride. □ Why don’t you go along with us for the ride? □ I am going to the store. Do you want to go along for the ride? 2. Fig. to accompany someone, whether or not riding. □ I’ll just go along for the ride to the beach. I don’t want to bask in the sun all day. □ He wasn’t actually invited to the party. He just went along for the ride.

go along with someone or something 1. Lit. to travel along with someone or something. □ Dorothy went along with the scarecrow for a while until they met a lion. 2. Fig. to agree with someone or agree to something. □ I will go along with you on that matter. □ I will go along with Sharon’s decision, of course. 3. Fig. to consent on the choice of someone or something. □ I go along with Jane. Tom would be a good treasurer. □ Sharon will probably go along with chocolate. Everyone likes chocolate! 4. Fig. to play along with someone or something; to pretend that you are party to someone’s scheme. □ I went along with the gag for a while.

go ape (over someone or something) Sl. to become very excited over something. □ I just go ape over chocolate. □ Sam went ape over Mary.

go arm in arm Go to arm in arm.

go around Go to go around.

go around doing something to move around doing something. □ She keeps going around telling lies about me. □ Please stop going around knocking things over. □ She goes around helping whomever she can.

go (a)round in circles 1. Lit. to move over and over on a circular path. □ The model plane went around in circles until it ran out of fuel. □ The oxen went around in circles, pulling along a beam that was connected to the millstone. 2. Fig. to act in a confused and disoriented manner. □ I’ve been going around in circles all day. □ The children have been going around in circles, waiting for you to arrive. 3. Fig. to keep going over the same ideas or repeating the same actions, often resulting in confusion, without reaching a satisfactory decision or conclusion. □ We’re just going around in circles discussing the problem. We need to consult someone else to get a new point of view. □ Fred’s trying to find out what’s happened but he’s going round in circles. No one will tell him anything useful.

go around someone 1. Lit. to walk or travel in such a way as to avoid hitting or touching someone. □ I can’t move from this place right now. You’ll have to go around me. 2. Idiomatic to avoid dealing with someone. □ I try to go around Steve. He can be very difficult. □ We will want to go around the boss. He will say no if asked.

go (a)round the bend Go to (a)round the bend.

go around (with someone) Go to hang around (with someone).

go around with someone or something Go to go about with someone or something.

go as someone or something to pretend to be someone or a type of person. □ There’s a costume party this weekend. I’m going as Santa Claus. □ My husband and I are going as a king and queen.

go astray 1. Lit. to wander off the road or path. □ Stick to the path and try not to go astray. □ I couldn’t see the trail and I almost went astray. 2. Fig. [for something] to get lost or misplaced. □ My glasses have gone astray again. □ Mary’s book went astray or maybe it was stolen. 3. Fig. to turn bad or wander from the way of goodness; to make an error. □ I’m afraid your son has gone astray and gotten into a bit of trouble. □ I went astray with the computer program at this point.

go at a fast clip Go to at a fast clip.

go at a good clip Go to at a good clip.

go at hammer and tongs Go to hammer and tongs.

go at tooth and nail Go to fight someone or something hammer and tongs.

go at one another tooth and nail Fig. to fight one another like animals. (One another can also be each other.) □ The man and his wife went at one another tooth and nail. □ The children would go at one another tooth and nail almost every evening.

a go at someone Go to a try at someone.

go at someone or something to attack someone or something; to move or lunge toward someone or something. □ The dog went at the visitor and almost bit him. □ He went at the door and tried to break it down.

a go at something Go to a try at something.

go at something like a boy killing snakes Rur. to do something with a great deal of energy. □ Once Mary decided to take that test, she went at her books like a boy killing snakes. □ I hired Joe to weed my garden, and he went at it like a boy killing snakes.
Go away! Leave me!; Get away from me! □ Mary: You’re such a pest, Sue. Go away! Sue: I was just trying to help. □ “Go away!” yelled the child at the bee.

go ballistic Fig. to depart with nothing. □ I hate for you to go away empty-handed, but I cannot afford to contribute any money. □ They came hoping for some food, but they had to go away empty-handed.

go back to (for something) 1. to leave for a period of time. □ I have to go back away for a week or two. □ Sharon went away for a few days. 2. to leave in order to get something and bring it back. □ Excuse me. I have to go back away for a soft drink. □ He went away away for a pizza. He’ll be right back.

go back to with someone or something 1. to leave in the company of someone or something. □ I saw him go away with Margie. □ She went away with the others. 2. to take someone or a group away with one. □ He went away with the baby in his arms.

go back 1 to return to the place of origin. □ That’s where I came from, and I’ll never go back. □ I don’t want to go back.

go back on one’s promise Go to next.

go back on one’s word and go back on one’s promise; go back on one’s pledge to break a promise that one has made. □ I hate to go back on my word, but I won’t pay you $100 after all. □ Going back on your promise makes you a liar.

go back to someone or something to return to someone, something, or some place. □ She went back to her husband after a few months. □ Sharon had to go back to her office for a few minutes.

go back to square one Fig. to return to the starting point. (Alludes to the squares of a board game.) □ It’s back to square one. We have to start over. □ It looks like it’s back to square one for you.

go back to the drawing board Fig. to return to the planning stage, so that a failed project can be planned again. □ These plans have to go back to the drawing board. □ I thought these problems went back to the drawing board once already.

go back to the salt mines Fig. to return to one’s work. (Jocular; fig. on the image of menial labor working in salt mines.) □ It’s late. I have to go back to the salt mines. □ What time do you have to go back to the salt mines Monday morning?

go bad to become rotten, undesirable, evil, etc. □ I’m afraid that this milk has gone bad. □ Life used to be wonderful. Now it has gone bad.

go badly with someone or something [for something] to proceed badly for someone or something. □ I hope that things are not still going badly with you. □ Things are going very badly with the project.

go ballistic and go postal Fig. to become irrationally enraged. (Ballistic refers to a missile launching; postal refers to an enrag ed post office employee attacking those at his place of work. See also go into orbit.) □ The boss went ballistic when he saw my expense report. □ She was so mad, I thought she was going to go postal.

go bananas sl. to go mildly crazy. □ Sorry, I just went bananas for a minute. □ I thought he was going to go bananas.

go before someone Go to before someone.

go before someone or something 1. to precede someone or something. □ Do you wish to go before me? □ I will go before the other waiters and clear the tables. 2. to appear before someone or something. □ Sharon went before a magistrate and laid out her complaint. □ Mary went before the entire board of directors with her proposal.

go begging Fig. to be left over, unwanted, or unused. (As if a thing were begging for an owner or a user.) □ There is still food left. A whole lobster is going begging. Please eat some more. □ There are many excellent books in the library just going begging because people don’t know they are there.

go behind someone’s back 1. Lit. to move behind someone; to locate oneself at someone’s back. □ The mugger went behind my back and put a gun to my spine. □ Bob went behind my back and pushed me through the opening. 2. Fig. to do something that is kept a secret from someone affected by it. □ I hate to go behind her back, but she makes so much trouble about things like this. □ Please don’t try to go behind my back again!

go belly up Go to turn belly up.

go below to go beneath the main deck of a ship. (Nautical.) □ I will have to go below and fiddle with the engine. □ The captain went below to escape the worst of the storm.

go berserk to go crazy. □ She went berserk and strangled her cat.

go between someone or something and someone or something else to get in between people or things, in any combination. □ The dog went between Mr. Franklin and the wall. □ The arrow went between Jed and Tex, injuring neither of them.

go beyond someone or something to pass ahead of someone or something. □ I went beyond the place where I should have turned off. □ Fred went beyond me a half block before he remembered who I was. Then he came back and said hello.

go beyond something 1. Lit. to do more of something than the expected amount; to go further with something than was required. □ You clearly went beyond what was required of you. □ Sharon went beyond the basic requirements. 2. Fig. to go past something or some place. □ We went beyond the town and lost our way. □ They went beyond the turnoff.

go broke to completely run out of money and other assets. □ This company is going to go broke if you don’t stop spending money foolishly. □ I made some bad investments last year, and it looks as if I may go broke this year.

go by (someone or something) to pass by someone or something. □ We went by Alice without even noticing her. □ We went by because we were in a hurry.

go by the board Fig. to get ruined or lost. (This is originally a nautical expression meaning “to fall or be washed overboard.”) □ I hate to see good food go by the board.
go by the book
Go to by the book.

go by the name of something to be known by a specific name. □ She goes by the name of Gladys George. □ I used to go by the name of George.


go cold turkey Inf. to stop (doing something) without tapering off. (Originally drug slang. Now concerned with breaking any habit.) □ I had to stop smoking, so I went cold turkey. It’s awful! □ When heroin addicts go cold turkey, they get terribly sick.

go crazy and go nuts to become crazy, disoriented, or frustrated. □ It is so busy here that I think I will go crazy. □ Bob went nuts because his car got a flat tire.

go down 1. to sink below a normal or expected level or height. □ The plane went down in flames. □ The ship went down with all hands aboard. 2. to descend to a lower measurement. □ Her fever went down. □ The price of the stock went down yesterday. 3. to be swallowed. □ The medicine went down without any trouble at all. □ The pill I took simply would not go down. 4. to fall or drop down, as when struck or injured. □ Sam went down when he was struck on the chin. □ The deer went down when it was hit with the arrow. 5. Sl. to slip. □ Hey, man! What’s going down? □ Something strange is going down around here. 6. Sl. to be accepted. □ We’ll just have to wait awhile to see how all this goes down. □ The proposal didn’t go down very well. □ The plane went down in flames.

go down to defeat Fig. to be just on the verge of failing. (From the notion that a boxer who is knocked down for the third time goes down for the count. Go to go down for the third time when I thought of a plan that would save my job.

go down in defeat and go down to defeat Fig. to submit to defeat; to be defeated. □ The team went down in defeat again. □ She fears going down in defeat.

go down in flames 1. Lit. [for a plane] to crash. □ The enemy fighter planes went down in flames, ending the battle. 2. The pilot and crew went down in flames near the airport. 3. Fig. to fail spectacularly. □ The whole project went down in flames. □ Todd went down in flames in his efforts to win the heart of Marsha.

go down (in history) (as someone or something) to be recorded for history as a significant person or event. □ You will go down in history as the most stubborn woman who ever lived. □ She will go down as a very famous woman.

go down on one’s knees to kneel down. □ The people went down on their knees and prayed. □ Larry went down on his knees and asked for forgiveness.

go down something to descend; to fall down something. □ She went down the ladder very carefully. □ I did not want to go down those steep stairs.

go down the chute and go down the drain; go down the tube(s) Sl. to fail; to be thrown away or wasted. □ Everything we have accomplished has gone down the chute. □ The whole project went down the drain.

go down the drain Go to previous.

go down the line to go from person to person or thing to thing in a line of people or things. □ She went down the line, asking everyone for a dollar for a cup of coffee. □ Sam went down the line, passing out tickets.

go down the tube(s) Go to go down the chute.

go down to defeat Go to go down in defeat.

go down to someone or something to travel to someone, something, or some place that is downtown, at a lower level, or in the South. □ We went down to Amy’s aunt in Memphis. □ Fran went down to Tiffany’s place on the first floor.

go down to something [for something] to decline or diminish to some level. □ His temperature has gone down to normal. □ Will the temperature go down to freezing tonight?

go down with something Fig. to be stricken with a disease. □ Beth went down with the flu. □ She went down with a high fever.

go downhill [for something] to decline and grow worse and worse. □ This industry is going downhill. We lose money every year. □ As one gets older, one’s health tends to go downhill.

go Dutch [for each person in a pair or a group] to pay for himself or herself. □ I don’t want you to pay for my ticket. Let’s go Dutch. □ Is it still considered a date if you go Dutch?

go easy on someone or something to be gentle on someone or something; not to be too critical of someone or something; to take it easy on someone or something. (See also go easy on something.) □ Go easy on Sherri. She’s my friend. □ Try to go easy on criticizing their report. They did the best they could in the time allotted.

go easy on something to use something sparingly. (See also take it easy on something; go easy on someone or something.) □ Go easy on the mustard. That’s all there is. □ Please go easy on the onions. I don’t like them very much.

go fifty-fifty (on something) to divide the cost of something in half with someone. □ Todd and Jean decided to go fifty-fifty on dinner. □ The two brothers went fifty-fifty on a replacement for the broken lamp.

Go figure. It’s really strange.; Just try to figure it out. □ She says she wants to have a conversation, but when I try, she does all the talking. Go figure.

Go fly a kite! Go to Go chase yourself!

go for broke to risk everything; to try as hard as possible. □ Okay, this is my last chance. I’m going for broke.
Look at Mary starting to move in the final hundred yards of the race! She is really going for broke.

**Go for it!** Inf. Go ahead! Give it a good try! 0 Sally: I’m going to try out for the basketball team. Do you think I’m tall enough? Bob: Sure you are! Go for it! 0 Bob: Mary can’t quit now! She’s almost at the finish line! Bill: Go for it, Mary!

**go for nothing** 1. Lit. [for something] to be done for no purpose. 0 All our work went for nothing. 0 Our efforts at helping out went for nothing. 2. Fig. [for something] to be sold for a very low price. 0 This merchandise can go for nothing; let’s just clear it out at 90 percent off. 0 I don’t want this good stuff to just go for nothing.

**go for someone or something** 1. Lit. to go out for someone or something; to go fetch someone or something. 0 I am going for bread—do we need anything else from the store? 0 Roger went for his aunt, who had arrived at the station. 2. Fig. to find someone or something interesting or desirable. 0 I really go for chocolate in any form. 0 Tom really goes for Gloria in a big way. 3. Fig. to believe or accept something or something that someone says. 0 It sounds pretty strange. Do you think they’ll go for it?

**go forward with something** Fig. to continue with something; to do something that is planned. 0 We will go forward with our plans. 0 Let’s go forward with the plan.

**go from bad to worse** to progress from a bad situation to one that is worse. 0 Things went from bad to worse in a matter of days. 0 I’m afraid that things are going from bad to worse.

**go from one extreme to the other** to change from one thing to its opposite. 0 You go from one extreme to another about Tom—one day angry, the next day perfectly happy.

**Go fry an egg!** Go away and stop bothering me! 0 Go away and stop bothering me. Go fry an egg! 0 Get out of my way! Go fry an egg!

**go hand in hand** Go to hand in hand.

**go haywire** Rur. to go wrong; to malfunction; to break down. 0 I was talking to Mary when suddenly the telephone went haywire. I hadn’t heard from her since. 0 There we were, driving along, when the engine went haywire. It was two hours before the tow truck came.

**go hog wild** Rur. to behave wildly. 0 The small plane took a nosedive. The pilot was not able to bring it out at the last minute, so the plane nosedive, and he never recovered.

**go home in a box** Sl. to be shipped home dead. (Often said in exaggeration.) 0 Hey, I’m too young to go home in a box. 0 You had better be careful on this camping trip, or you’ll go home in a box.

**go home to mama** to give up something—such as a marriage—and return to one’s mother’s home. 0 I’ve had it. I’m going home to mama. 0 Mary left him and went home to mama.

**go hungry** to miss a meal and end up hungry. 0 The kids were late for dinner so they had to go hungry.

**go in** Go to go into something.

**go in a body** Go to in a body.

**go in and out (of something)** to pass in and out of something or some place. 0 The nervous little mouse kept going in and out of its hole.

**go in for something** to take part in something; to enjoy (doing) something. 0 John doesn’t go in for sports. 0 None of them seems to go in for swimming.

**go in one ear and out the other** Cliché Fig. [for something] to be heard and then soon ignored or forgotten. 0 Everything I say to you seems to go in one ear and out the other. Why don’t you pay attention? 0 I can’t concentrate. Things people say to me just go in one ear and out the other.

**go in someone’s favor** [for something] to change to someone’s benefit. (Alludes to very changeable things like game scores, wind direction, or chance in general.) 0 Things appear to be going in our favor—finally. 0 The game was going in our favor during the first half.

**go in the hole** Go to in the hole.

**go in the right direction** 1. Lit. to head or travel in the right direction. 0 Are you sure we are going in the right direction? 0 We were supposed to turn back there. We are not going in the right direction. 2. Fig. [for plans or intentions] to be progressing sensibly. 0 Well, everything seems to be going in the right direction—for now anyway. 0 Do you feel that this project is going in the right direction?

**go in with someone (on something)** Fig. to join together with someone to work on a project; to pool financial resources with someone to buy something. 0 I would be happy to go in with you on the charity ball. I’ll find a hall. 0 Yes, we can pool our money. I’ll go in with you.

**go into a huddle** 1. Lit. [for team members] to get into a small circle and plan what they are going to do next. 0 They went into a huddle to plan their strategy. 0 The players will go into a huddle and decide what to do. 2. Fig. [for people] to group together to talk and decide what to do. 0 We went into a huddle to plan our sales strategy. 0 Top-level management needs to go into a huddle and come up with a good plan.

**go into a nosedive** and **take a nosedive** 1. Lit. [for an airplane] suddenly to dive toward the ground, nose first. 0 It was a bad day for flying, and I was afraid we’d go into a nosedive. 0 The small plane took a nosedive. The pilot was able to bring it out at the last minute, so the plane didn’t crash. 2. Fig. [for someone] to fall to the ground face first. 0 She took a nosedive and injured her face. 3. Fig. to go into a rapid emotional or financial decline, or a decline in health. 0 Our profits took a nosedive last year. 0 After he broke his hip, Mr. Brown’s health went into a nosedive, and he never recovered.

**go into a song and dance (about something)** and **go into the same old song and dance about something** Fig. to start repeating excuses or stories about something. (See also **go into one’s act**.) 0 Please don’t go into your song and dance about how you always tried to do what was right. 0 John went into his song and dance about how he won the war all by himself. 0 He always goes into the same old song and dance every time he makes a mistake.

**go into a tailspin** 1. Lit. [for an airplane] to lose control and spin to the earth, nose first. 0 The plane shook and then suddenly went into a tailspin. 0 The pilot was not able to bring the plane out of the tailspin, and it crashed into the sea. 2. Fig. [for someone] to become disoriented or pan-
icked; [for someone’s life] to fall apart. □ Although John achieved great success, his life went into a tailspin. It took him a year to get straightened out. □ After her father died, Mary’s world fell apart, and she went into a tailspin.

**go into action** and **swing into action** to start doing something. □ I usually get to work at 7:45, get some coffee, and I go into action at 8:00. □ When the ball is hit in my direction, you should see me swing into action.

**go into detail(s)** to give all the details; to present and discuss the details. □ The clerk went into detail about the product with the customer. □ I just want a simple answer. Don’t go into details.

**go into effect** and **take effect** [for a law or a rule] to become effective. □ When does this new law go into effect? □ The new tax laws won’t go into effect until next year.

**go into heat** to give all the details; to present and discuss something. □ She went into the service when she got out of high school.

**go into hiding** to conceal oneself in a hidden place for a period of time. □ After robbing the bank, the bandits went into hiding for months.

**go into hock** to approach someone or something to approach someone or something. □ She went off by herself where no one could find her. □ I have to go off and think about this.

**go into orbit** 1. Lit. [for a rocket, satellite, etc.] to rotate around a heavenly body in a fixed path. □ The satellite went into orbit just as planned. □ When did the moon go into orbit? 2. Fig. [for someone] to get very excited. (See also **go ballistic**.) □ She was so upset, she went into orbit. □ Todd went into orbit when he heard the price.

**go into service** to start operating. □ When will the new elevator go into service? □ It has already gone into service.

**go into something** and **go in** Lit. to enter something; to penetrate something. □ The needle went into the vein smoothly and painlessly. □ It went in with no trouble. 2. Fig. to enter some line of business or a profession. □ He went into accounting when he got out of college. □ I want to prepare to go into law enforcement. 3. Fig. to examine or study something; to discuss and explain something. (See also **go there**.) □ I need to go into this more. □ When we have time, we need to go into this question more thoroughly.

**go into the bull pen** Go to in the bull pen.

**go into the red** Go to in the red.

**go into the same old song and dance about something** Go to into a song and dance (about something).

**go into the service** to enter one of the military services. □ She went into the service when she got out of high school. □ I chose not to go into the service.

**go it alone** to do something by oneself. □ Do you need help, or will you go it alone? □ I think I need a little more experience before I go it alone.

**Go jump in the lake!** Go to Go chase yourself!

**go like clockwork** Fig. to progress with regularity and dependability. □ The building project is progressing nicely. Everything is going like clockwork. □ The elaborate pageant was a great success. It went like clockwork from start to finish.

**go like stink** Go to like stink.

**go like the wind** Go to like the wind.

**go near (to) someone or something** to approach someone or something. □ Don’t go near Sue. She’s got chicken pox. □ Now, don’t go near the water!

**go nuts** Go to go crazy.

**go off 1.** Lit. [for an explosive device] to explode. □ The fireworks all went off as scheduled. □ The bomb went off and did a lot of damage. 2. Lit. [for a sound-creating device] to make its noise. □ The alarm went off at six o’clock. □ The siren goes off at noon every day.

**go off (by oneself)** to go into seclusion; to isolate oneself. □ She went off by herself where no one could find her. □ I have to go off and think about this.

**go off half-cocked** Fig. to go into action too early or without thinking. (Originally refers to a flintlock or matchlock gun firing prematurely, before the trigger was pulled.) □ Don’t go off half-cocked. Plan out what you’re going to do. □ Bill went off half-cocked and told everybody he was running for the state legislature.

**go off (into something)** to go away to something; to depart and go into something. □ He went off into the army. □ Do you expect me just to go off into the world and make a living?

**go off kilter** Go to out of kilter.

**go off on a tangent** Fig. to pursue a somewhat related or irrelevant course while neglecting the main subject. □ Don’t go off on a tangent. Stick to your job. □ Just as we started talking, Henry went off on a tangent about the high cost of living.

**go off on someone** Sl. to berate someone. □ Don’t go off on me! I’m not the cause of your problems! □ The teacher went off on poor little Harry.

**go off the deep end** 1. Lit. to jump into a swimming pool where the water is over one’s head and one needs to be able to swim □ You are still only learning to swim. Are you ready to go off the deep end? □ He jumped off the deep end where he would make a bigger splash. 2. Fig. to become deeply involved (with someone or something) before one is ready. (Applies especially to falling in love.) □ Look at the way Bill is looking at Sally. I think he’s about to go off the deep end. □ Fig. to act irrationally, following one’s emotions or fantasies. □ Now, John, I know you really want to go to Australia, but don’t go jumping off the deep end. It isn’t all perfect there.

**go off (to the side) with someone** Go to off (to the side) with someone.

**go off (with someone)** to go away with someone. □ Tom just now went off with Maggie. □ I think that Maria went off with Fred somewhere.

**Go on.** 1. Lit. Please continue. □ Alice: I guess I should stop here. Tom: No. Don’t stop talking. I’m very interested. Go on. □ Bill: Don’t turn here. Go on. It’s the next corner. Bob: Thanks. I didn’t think that was where we should turn. 2. Lit.
to happen. □ What went on here last night? □ The teacher asked what was going on. 3. Fig. That’s silly! You don’t mean that! (Usually Go on!) □ John: Go on! You’re making that up! Bill: I am not. It’s the truth! □ Bill: Gee, that looks like a snake there in the path. Bob: Go on! That isn’t a snake. No snake that’s big.

go on to a better land Euph. to die. □ After a long illness, Reggie went on to a better land. □ When I finally go on to a better land, I hope there is enough money for a proper funeral.

go on to something to advance to something or to doing something. □ After a few years she went on to even greater heights. □ Larry went on to found his own company.

go on tour [for a performing group] to go from place to place, performing. □ Our play went on tour across the state. □ If we make the play a success, we will go on tour.

go on with something and go on doing something to continue with something. □ I can’t go on with this. I have to rest. □ You simply cannot go on behaving like this!

Go on (with you)! Inf. Go away! (Always a command. No tenses.) □ It’s time you left. Go on with you! □ Go on. Get yourself home.

go out 1. to leave one’s house. □ Call me later. I’m going out now. □ Sally told her father that she was going out. 2. to become extinguished. □ The fire finally went out. □ The lights went out and left us in the dark. 3. Go to go out of fashion.

go out for someone or something to leave in order to bring back someone or something. □ Albert just went out for a newspaper. □ Fran went out for Bob, who was on the back porch, smoking a cigarette.

go out (for something) 1. Lit. to go outside to get something or to do something. □ Jill just went out for a breath of fresh air. □ He just went out, and should be back any minute. 2. Fig. to try out for something. (Usually refers to a sport.) □ Mary went out for the soccer team. □ Tom went out for baseball.

go out for the count Go to go out for the count.

go out from something Go to go out from something.

go out in force Go to go out in force.

go out in search of someone or something to leave to find someone or something. □ I went out in search of someone to help me. □ Mary went out in search of Gloria.

go out of bounds Go to go out of bounds.

go out of business to stop doing commerce or business. □ The new shop will probably go out of business if sales don’t get better. □ I have to work hard to keep from going out of business.

go out of control Go to go out of control.

go out of fashion and go out of style; go out to become unfashionable; to become obsolete. □ That kind of furniture went out of style years ago. □ I hope this kind of thing never goes out of fashion. □ It went out years ago.

go out of favor (with someone) Go to go out of favor (with someone).

go out of focus Go to go out of focus.

go out of kilter Go to go out of kilter.

go out of one’s head Go to go out of one’s mind.

go out of one’s mind Go to go out of one’s mind.

go out of one’s senses Go to go out of one’s mind.

go out of one’s skull Go to go out of one’s skull.

go out of one’s way (to do something) 1. Lit. to travel an indirect route or an extra distance in order to do something. □ I’ll have to go out of my way to give you a ride home. □ I’ll give you a ride even though I have to go out of my way. 2. Fig. to make an effort to do something; to accept the bother of doing something. □ We went out of
go out of practice Go to out of practice.

go out of service [for something] to stop working; [for something] to have been turned off so it cannot be used. □ This elevator went out of service last week. □ How long has it been since this thing went out of service?

go out of sight Go to out of sight.

go out (of something) to leave something or some place. □ I went out of there feeling sorry for myself. □ I went out with a smile on my face.

go out of style Go to out of fashion.

go out of the frying pan into the fire Go to out of the frying pan into the fire.

go out on a limb Go to out on a limb.

go (out) on strike and go out (on strike) [for a group of people] to quit working at their jobs until certain demands are met. □ If we don’t have a contract by noon tomorrow, we’ll go out on strike. □ The entire workforce went on strike at noon today.

go out to someone [for one’s sympathy, heart, etc.] to be aimed toward someone. □ All of my sympathy went out to her. I knew just how she felt. □ My thanks go out to you all.

go out (with someone) 1. Lit. to go out with someone for entertainment. □ The Smiths went out with the Franklins to a movie. □ Those guys don’t have much time to go out. 2. Fig. to go on a date with someone; to date someone regularly. □ Is Bob still going out with Sally? □ No, they’ve stopped going out.

go out with something to go out of fashion at the same time as something else went out of fashion. □ That style of dress went out with the burgundy.

go over Euph. to leave one’s country and go to ideologically opposed or enemy country; to defect. □ When the ballet company visited New York, two of the dancers went over. □ He had been spying for the Americans for many years, and he finally went over.

go over big (with someone) to be very much appreciated by someone. □ Your jokes did not exactly go over big with my parents. □ We hope that the musical will go over big with the audience.

go over like a lead balloon Fig. to fail completely; to go over badly. □ Your joke went over like a lead balloon. □ If that play was supposed to be a comedy, it went over like a lead balloon. □ Her suggestion went over like a lead balloon.

go over someone Go to over someone.

go over someone or something to examine someone or something. □ The doctor will go over you very carefully, I’m sure. □ I went over the papers and found nothing wrong.

go over someone’s head Go to over someone’s head.

go over something with a fine-tooth comb and search something with a fine-tooth comb; go through something with a fine-tooth comb Fig. to search through something very carefully. □ I can’t find my calculus book. I went over the whole place with a fine-tooth comb. □ I searched this place with a fine-tooth comb and didn’t find my ring.

go over something (with someone) to review or explain something. □ The teacher went over the lesson with the class. □ Can you please go over it again, more slowly?

go over the hill Go to over the hill.

go over the wall Go to over the wall.

go over to some place to travel some distance or cross water to get to some place. □ We went over to Cedar Point and spent the day having fun. □ John went over to the other side of the stadium for the rest of the tournament.

go over (well) [for something or someone] to be accepted or well received. □ The party went over very well. □ The play really went over with the audience.

go over with a bang 1. Fig. [for something] to be funny or entertaining. □ Our presentation was a success. It really went over with a bang. □ That’s a great joke. It went over with a bang. 2. Fig. to succeed spectacularly. □ The play was a success. It really went over with a bang. □ That’s a great joke. It went over with a bang.

go overboard 1. Fig. to fall out of a boat or off of a ship; to fall overboard. □ Be careful or you will go overboard. □ Someone went overboard in the fog. 2. Fig. to do too much; to be extravagant. □ Look, Sally, let’s have a nice party, but don’t go overboard. It doesn’t need to be fancy. □ Okay, you can buy a big comfortable car, but don’t go overboard on price.

go past someone or something to pass by someone or something. □ You went right past Tom. Did you mean to? □ Did I go past it?

go past something Go to past something.

go places to become very successful. □ I knew that Sally, with all her talent, would go places. □ I really want to go places in life.

Go play in the traffic. Go to Take a long walk off a short pier.

go postal Go to go ballistic; go into orbit.

go public (with something) 1. to sell to the public shares of a privately owned company. (Securities markets.) □ The company decided not to go public because the economy was so bad at the time. □ We’ll go public at a later time. 2. to reveal something to the public. □ It’s too early to go public with the story. □ Just let me know when we can go public with this press release.

go (right) through someone and go through someone like a dose of the salts Fig. [for something] to be excreted very soon after being eaten; [for something] to go immediately through the alimentary canal of a person. (Use with discretion.) □ No, thanks. This stuff just goes right through me. □ The coffee went through me like a dose of salts.

go scot-free and get off scot-free to go unpunished; to be acquitted of a crime. (This scot is an old word meaning “tax” or “tax burden.”) □ The thief went scot-free. □ Jane cheated on the test and got caught, but she got off scot-free.

go sky-high Fig. to go very high. □ Prices go sky-high whenever there is inflation. □ Oh, it’s so hot. The temperature went sky-high about noon.
go so far as to say something to put something into words; to risk saying something. □ I think that Bob is dishonest, but I wouldn’t go so far as to say he’s a thief. □ Red meat may be harmful, but I can’t go so far as to say it causes cancer.

go (someone) one better and do someone one better to do something superior to what someone else has done; to top someone. □ That was a great joke, but I can go you one better. □ Your last song was beautifully sung, but Mary can do you one better.

go (somewhere) by shank’s mare Go to by shank’s mare.

go sour Fig. to turn bad or unpleasant. □ It looks like all my plans are going sour. □ My whole life is going sour right now.

go South and head South 1. Sl. to make an escape; to disappear. (Not necessarily in a southerly direction.) □ Lefty went South the minute he got out of the pen. □ The mugger headed South just after the crime. 2. Sl. to fall; to go down. (Securities markets.) □ All the stock market indexes went South today. □ The market headed South today at the opening bell. 3. Sl. to quit; to drop out of sight. □ Fred got discouraged and went South. I think he gave up football permanently. □ After pulling the bank job, Wilbur went South for a few months.

go stag to go to an event (which is meant for couples) without a member of the opposite sex. (Originally referred only to males.) □ Is Tom going to take you, or are you going stag? □ Bob didn’t want to go stag, so he took his sister to the party.

go steady with someone Go to go with someone.

go stir-crazy Go to stir-crazy.

go straight to stop breaking the law and lead a lawful life instead. □ The judge encouraged the thief to go straight. □ After Bob was arrested, he promised his mother he would go straight.

go (straight) to the top Fig. to attempt to confer with the person at the top of the chain of command, bypassing the intermediate people. □ When I want something, I always go straight to the top. I don’t have time for a lot of bureaucracy.

go the distance Fig. to do the whole amount; to play the entire game; to run the whole race. (Originally sports use.) □ That horse runs fast. I hope it can go the distance. □ This is going to be a long, hard project. I hope I can go the distance.

go the extra mile to try harder to please someone or to get the task done correctly; to do more than one is required to do to reach a goal. □ I like doing business with that company. They always go the extra mile. □ My teacher goes the extra mile to help us.

go the limit Fig. to do as much as possible; to get as much as possible. □ Let’s plan to do everything we can. Let’s go the limit. □ We’ll go the limit. To heck with the cost.

go the way of the dodo and go the way of the horse and buggy Fig. to become extinct; to become obsolete. □ The floppy disc has gone the way of the horse and buggy.

go the way of the horse and buggy Go to previous.

go there to begin a discussion of something; to take up a certain topic. (Similar to go into something. Often in the negative. This has nothing to do with traveling or going to a place.) □ A: How are things going at your place of business? B: Please! I don’t want to go there. □ We don’t have time to discuss your health problems, so let’s not go there.

go through to be approved; to succeed in getting through the approval process. □ I sent the board of directors a proposal. I hope it goes through. □ We all hope that the new law goes through.

go through channels Go to go through (the proper) channels.

go through someone 1. Lit. to travel through someone’s body; to go (right) through someone. □ That medicine went right through me. 2. Fig. to work through someone; to use someone as an intermediary. □ I can’t give you the permission you seek. You will have to go through our main office. □ I have to go through the treasurer for all expenditures.

go through someone like a dose of the salts Go to go (right) through someone.

go through something or something [for something sharp] to penetrate someone or something. □ The sword went through the knight cleanly and quickly. □ The nail went through all three boards.

go through something 1. to search through something. □ She went through his pockets, looking for his wallet. □ He spent quite a while going through his desk, looking for the papers. 2. to use up all of something rapidly. □ We have gone through all the aspirin again! □ How can you go through your allowance so fast? 3. [for something] to pass through an opening. □ The piano wouldn’t go through the door. □ Do you think that such a big truck can go through the tunnel under the river? 4. to pass through various stages or processes. □ The pickles went through a number of processes before they were packed. □ Johnny is going through a phase where he wants everything his way. 5. to work through something, such as an explanation or story. □ I went through my story again, carefully and in great detail. □ I would like to go through it again, so I can be sure to understand it. 6. to experience or endure something. □ You can’t believe what I’ve gone through. □ Mary has gone through a lot lately. 7. to rehearse something; to practice something for performance. □ They went through the second act a number of times. □ We need to go through the whole play a few more times.

go through something with a fine-tooth comb Go to go over something with a fine-tooth comb.

go through the changes Fig. to experience life’s changes. □ A good day, a bad day—it’s all part of going through the changes. □ Nothing new with me, just going through the changes.

go through the cracks Go to through the cracks.

go through the mill Go to through the mill.

go through the motions Fig. to make a feeble effort to do something; to do something insincerely or in cursory fashion. □ Jane isn’t doing her best. She’s just going through the motions. □ Bill was supposed to be raking the yard, but he was just going through the motions.
go through (the proper) channels to use the proper procedure, working through the correct people and offices to get something done; to cooperate with a bureaucracy. □ I’m sorry. I can’t help you. You’ll have to go through the proper channels. □ I didn’t get what I wanted because I didn’t go through channels.

go through the roof 1. Fig. Inf. to become very angry. □ She saw what had happened and went through the roof. □ My father went through the roof when he saw what I did to the car. 2. Fig. Inf. [for prices] to become very high. □ These days, prices for gasoline are going through the roof. □ The cost of coffee is going through the roof.

go through with something to complete something the outcome of which is troubling or doubtful; to do something in spite of problems and drawbacks. □ I have to go through with it, no matter what. □ I just couldn’t go through with it.

Go to! Inf. Go to hell! □ Oh, you’re terrible. Just go to! □ Go to, you creep!

go to any length Fig. to do whatever is necessary. (See also go to great lengths to do something.) □ I’ll go to any length to secure this contract. □ I want to get a college degree, but I won’t go to any length to get one.

go to bat against someone Fig. to aid someone against someone else. □ I would be happy to go to bat against Dan. □ We refused to go to bat against one of our friends.

go to bat for someone Fig. to support or help someone. □ I tried to go to bat for Bill, but he said he didn’t want any help. □ I heard them gossiping about Sally, so I went to bat for her.

go to bed to go to where one’s bed is, get into it, and go to sleep. □ It’s time for me to go to bed. □ I want to go to bed, but there is too much work to do.

go to bed (with someone) Go to all the way (with someone).

go to bed with the chickens Fig. to go to bed at sundown—at the same time that chickens go to sleep. □ They say that farmers go to bed with the chickens. □ We always go to bed with the chickens and get up early too.

go to bed with the sun Fig. to go to bed early, at sunset. □ The campers went to bed with the sun. □ The children had to go to bed with the sun. The grown-ups stayed up a little later.

Go to blazing! Inf. Go to hell! □ Go to blazing! Stop pester ing me! □ I’m sick of your complaining. Go to blazing!

go to Davy Jones’s locker Go to Davy Jones’s locker.

go to extremes (to do something) to be excessive in one’s efforts to do something. □ Auntie Jane will go to extremes to make us all comfortable. □ Let’s not go to extremes! We’ve already spent enough on gifts for the kids.

go to great lengths (to do something) and go to any lengths (to do something) to work very hard to accomplish something; to expend great efforts in trying to do something. (See also go to any length.) □ I went to great lengths to explain to him that he was not in any trouble.

go to hell and go to (the devil) 1. Inf. to go to hell and suffer the agonies therein. (Often a command. Caution with hell.) □ Oh, go to hell! □ Go to hell, you creep! 2. Inf. to become ruined; to go away and stop bothering someone. (Use hell with caution.) □ This old house is just going to hell. It’s falling apart everywhere. □ Leave me alone! Go to the devil! □ Oh, go to, yourself!

go to hell in a bucket and go to hell in a handbasket Fig. to get rapidly worse and worse. □ The school system in this district is going to hell in a bucket, and no mistake. □ His health is going to hell in a handbasket ever since he started drinking again.

go to it 1. Lit. to start something actively; to do something with vigor. □ Time to play ball. Go to it! □ Let’s go to it, you guys! 2. Inf. to fight. □ Come on, let’s go to it! I’m gonna beat the daylight’s out of you!

go to one’s (just) reward Euph. to die. □ Let us pray for our departed sister, who has gone to her just reward. □ Bill: How’s your grandma these days? Tom: She went to her reward last winter, may she rest in peace.

go to pieces 1. Lit. [for something] to fall apart into many pieces. □ The vase—which had been repaired many times—just went to pieces when I put it down. □ When the window was hit by the ball, it went to pieces. 2. Fig. [for something] to become nonfunctional. □ His plan went to pieces. □ All her hopes and ideas went to pieces in that one meeting. 3. Fig. [for someone] to have a mental collapse. □ Poor Jane went to pieces after her divorce. □ Fred went to pieces during the trial.

go to pot and go to the dogs Fig. to go to ruin; to deteriorate. □ My whole life seems to be going to pot. □ My lawn is going to pot. I had better weed it.

go to press [for a publication] to be sent to the printing presses. □ The book went to press last week. We expect finished books by the first of the month. □ The book you want to order hasn’t even gone to press yet.

go to press with something [for someone] to cause something to be printed. □ The columnist went to press with the rumor without checking any of her usual sources. □ We are going to press with a series of books on textiles.

go to rack and ruin and go to wrack and ruin to become ruined. (The words rack and ruin mean “wreckage” and are found only in this expression.) □ That lovely old house on the corner is going to rack and ruin. □ My lawn is going to wrack and ruin.

go to sea to become a sailor. □ I went to sea at an early age. □ When I get older, I’m going to go to sea too.

go to seed 1. and run to seed Lit. [for a plant] to grow long enough to produce seed; [for a plant] to spend its energy going to seed. □ The lettuce went to seed and we couldn’t eat it. □ Plants like that ought not to be allowed to go to seed. 2. and run to seed Fig. [for a lawn or a plant] to produce seeds because it has not had proper care. □ You’ve got to mow the grass. It’s going to seed. □ Don’t let the lawn go to seed. It looks so—seedy! 3. Fig. [for something] to decline in looks, status, or utility due to lack of care. (The same as run to seed.) □ This old coat is going to seed. Have to get a new one. □ The front of the house is going to seed. Let’s get it painted.

go to someone (about someone or something) to discuss one’s problems with someone or something with someone else. □ I went to the boss about the new secretary. □ This is a real problem. I’ll have to go to the manager.
go to someone or something: to travel to or toward someone or something. O We went to her as soon as she called saying she needed us. O Are you going to the bank?

go to someone's head 1. Fig. [for something, such as fame or success] to make someone conceited. O Don't let all this praise go to your head. O Too much success will go to her head. 2. Fig. [for alcohol] to affect someone's brain. O That last glass of champagne went right to her head. O Any kind of liquor goes to my head.

go to the bathroom 1. Fig. Euph. to go into and use a restroom, bathroom, or toilet. O Bill: Where is Bob? Jane: He went to the bathroom. O John went to the bathroom to brush his teeth. 2. Fig. Euph. to eliminate bodily wastes. O Mommy! The dog went to the bathroom on the carpet! O Billy's in there going to the bathroom. Don't disturb him.

go to the bother (of doing something) Go to the trouble (of doing something).

go to the crux of the matter Go to the crux of the matter.

go to (the devil) Go to go to hell.

go to the dogs Go to go to pot.

go to the expense (of doing something) to pay the (large) cost of doing something. O I hate to have to go to the expense of painting the house. O It needs to be done, so you'll have to go to the expense.

go to the heart of the matter Go to the crux of the matter.

go to the lavatory Euph. to go into a restroom and use a toilet. O Bob requested to leave the room to go to the lavatory. O Please stop the car. I have to go to the lavatory.

go to the limit to do as much as is possible to do. O Okay, we can't afford it, but we'll go to the limit. O How far shall I go? Shall I go to the limit?

go to the polls to go to a place to vote; to vote. O What day do we go to the polls? O Our community goes to the polls in November.

go to the root of the matter Go to the crux of the matter.

go to the toilet Fig. Euph. to use a toilet for defecation or urination. O Jimmy washed his hands after he went to the toilet. O Excuse me, I have to go to the toilet.

go to the trouble (of doing something) and go to the trouble (to do something); go to the bother (of doing something); go to the bother (to do something) to endure the effort or bother of doing something. O I really don't want to go to the trouble to cook. O Should I go to the bother of cooking something for her to eat? O Don't go to the trouble. She can eat a sandwich.

go to the wall (on something) to take on great risk or to hold out to the very last on some issue. (See also push someone to the wall.) O I will go to the wall on this point. O This is a very important matter and I will go to the wall if necessary.

go to town 1. Lit. to travel into a town or a city. O I have to go to town today. 2. Fig. to work hard or very effectively. O Look at all those ants working. They are really going to town. O Come on, you guys. Let's go to town. We have to finish this job before noon.

go to trial [for a case] to go into court to be tried. O When will this case go to trial? O We go to trial next Monday.

go to war (over someone or something) to wage a war over someone or something. (Often an exaggeration.) O We aren't going to go to war over this, are we? O Do you want to go to war over Sarah? Is she that important to you?

go to waste [for something] to be wasted; to be unused (and therefore thrown away). O Eat your potatoes! Don't let them go to waste. O We shouldn't let all these nice herbs go to waste. Let's pick some before the first hard frost.

go to work (on someone or something) to begin working on someone or something. O The masons went to work on repairing the wall. O The surgeons went to work on the patient. O Come on! Let's go to work!

go to wrack and ruin Go to go to rack and ruin.

go to your room! Go to On your bike!

go together 1. Lit. [for two or more things] to look, sound, or taste good together. O Do you think that this pink one and this purple one go together? O Milk and grapefruit don't go together. 2. Fig. [for two people] to date each other regularly. O Bob and Ann have been going together for months. O Tom and Jane want to go together, but they live too far apart.

go too far to do more than is acceptable. O I didn't mind at first, but now you've gone too far. O If you go too far, I'll slap you.

go toward someone or something to move toward someone or something. O The child went toward the open door. O The dog went toward the cat and the cat ran away.

go under 1. to sink beneath the surface of the water. O After capsizing, the ship went under very slowly. O I was afraid that our canoe would go under in the rapidly moving water. 2. Fig. [for something] to fail. O The company went under exactly one year after it opened. O We tried to keep it from going under. 3. Fig. to become unconscious from anesthesia. O After a few minutes, she went under and the surgeon began to work. O Tom went under and the operation began.

go under (someone or something) 1. to pass beneath someone or something. O The dog went under the bridge. O The boats went under us as we stood on the bridge. O The boat went under the bridge. 2. to belong beneath someone or something. O That box goes under the bed. O All the Christmas presents go under the tree after the children are asleep.

go under the hammer Go to come under the hammer.

go under the knife Fig. to submit to surgery; to have surgery done on oneself. O She goes under the knife tomorrow for her gallbladder. O Frank lives in constant fear of having to go under the knife.

go under the name of something [for someone or something] to be known under a particular name. O Now she goes under the name of Suzanne. O The man you just met goes under the name of Walter Sampson.

go under the wrecking ball Fig. to be wrecked or torn down. O That lovely old building finally went under the wrecking ball. O I hate to see good architecture go under the wrecking ball.
go up [for something] to go higher. □ Gasoline prices are still going up. □ Prices keep going up and up, no matter what.

go up a blind alley Go to up a blind alley.

go up against someone to compete with someone; to face someone in competition. □ She is going up against Rodney in the spelling bee. □ The champ went up against the challenger in a match last Friday.

go up against someone or something Go to up against someone or something.

go up for auction Go to up for auction.

**go up in flames** and **go up in smoke 1. Lit.** to burn up completely. □ The entire forest went up in flames! □ The expensive house went up in smoke. □ Fig. [for value or investment] to be lost suddenly and totally. □ Everything we own has gone up in flames with the stock crash. □ The entire investment went up in smoke.

**go up in smoke** Go to previous.

**go up something** to climb up something. □ The monkey went up the tree in no time. □ How fast can you go up this rope?

**go up the wall** 1. Lit. to climb or run up the wall. □ Look at that silly cat go up the wall! How can its claws hold onto the brick? 2. Fig. to exhibit great frustration, as if trying to climb up a wall. □ I was so upset, I almost went up the wall. □ We went up the wall waiting for you.

**go up to someone or something** to approach someone or something. □ The project failed. I don’t know what went wrong. □ I need a doctor now. I simply can’t go without. □ We can go without food for only so long.

**go wrong** to fail; [for something bad] to happen. □ The entire forest went up in flames! □ The thing we own has gone up in flames with the stock crash.

**go with the flow** and **go with it** Inf. to cope with adversity; to accept one’s lot. □ No, just relax and go with the flow. □ Go with it. Don’t fight it.

**go with the territory** Go to come with the territory.

**go with the tide** Fig. to move along with the effect of outside forces. □ I just go with the tide. I never fight fate. □ She just goes with the tide, never giving a thought to thinking for herself.

**go without** and **do without** to manage while not having any of something that is needed; to not have any of something. □ We were a poor family and usually went without. □ I didn’t have enough money to buy a new coat so I did without.

**go well with** someone or something to agree-ably. □ Milk doesn’t go with grapefruit. □ Pink doesn’t go with orange. □ I think I’ll go with the yellow one. □ We decided to go with the oak table rather than the walnut one.

**goad someone into something** to urge or coerce someone into doing something. □ Don’t try to goad me into it. I just won’t do it! □ We goaded Mary into going with us.

**goad someone on to urge someone onward, possibly with jeers or challenges; to urge someone to continue. (Usually in this order.) □ The cheering crowd goaded the team on to victory. □ I goaded Jed on to taking the risk.

**gobble someone or something up** to eat something very fast, swallowing large chunks. □ The dog gobbled the meat down in seconds. □ The cat gobbled down the sardines.

**gobble something down** to eat something very fast, swallowing large chunks. □ The shoppers gobbled all the sale merchandise up in a few hours. □ They gobbled up everything.

**God forbid!** and **Heaven forbid!** a phrase expressing the desire that God would forbid the situation that the speaker has just mentioned from ever happening. □ Tom: It looks like taxes are going up again. Bob: God forbid! □ Bob: Bill was in a car wreck. I hope he wasn’t hurt! Sue: God forbid!

**God helps them that help themselves.** and **God helps those who help themselves.** Prov. You cannot depend solely on divine help, but must work yourself to get what you want. □ You can’t spend your days waiting for a good job to find you. God helps those that help themselves. □ If you want a better education, start studying. God helps those who help themselves.

**God only knows!** Inf. Only God knows.; No one knows but God. □ Tom: How long is all this going to take? Alice: God only knows! □ Bob: Where are we going to find one hundred thousand dollars? Mary: God only knows!

**God rest someone’s soul.** May God bless a previously mentioned person who has died. □ I remember what my mother, God rest her soul, used to say about that.

**God’s gift (to women)** Fig. a desirable or perfect man. (Usually sarcastic.) □ Tom thinks he’s God’s gift to women, but if the truth were known, they laugh at him behind his
back. ☐ He acted like he was God's gift and I should be real grateful to be going out with him.

God takes soonest those he loveth best. Prov. Good people often die young. ☐ The minister told the boy's grieving parents that God takes soonest those he loveth best. ☐ It may seem to us that Nancy was too young to die, but God takes soonest those he loveth best.

God willing. If God wants it to happen. (An expression indicating that there is a high certainty that something will happen, so high that only God could prevent it.) ☐ John: Please try to be on time. Alice: I'll be there on time, God willing. ☐ Bob: Will I see you after your vacation? Mary: Of course, God willing.

God willing and the creek don't rise. Rur. If all goes well. ☐ Tom: Will you be able to get the house painted before the cold weather sets in? Jane: Yes, God willing and the creek don't rise. ☐ We'll be able to visit our daughter for Christmas, Lord willing and the creek don't rise.

God's in his heaven; all's right with the world. Prov. Everything is just as it should be. (Used to express satisfaction, joy, or contentment.) ☐ Now that my wife has returned from her long trip, God's in his heaven; all's right with the world.

The gods send nuts to those who have no teeth. Prov. People often get good fortune that is no use to them. ☐ Soon after Melissa lost her hearing, she won season tickets to the symphony. The gods send nuts to those who have no teeth.

goggle at someone or something to stare at someone or something with bulging eyes. ☐ Don't stand there goggling at me! ☐ The child stood there and goggled at the newborn lamb.

going, going, gone 1. [in an auction] close to being sold, almost sold, sold. ☐ Going, going, gone. The new owner is the handsome gentleman in the back row. 2. Fig. disappearing and finally gone. ☐ The little car is going, going, gone.

going great guns Fig. going fast or energetically. ☐ I'm over my cold and going great guns. ☐ Business is great. We are going great guns selling ice cream.

going on happening; occurring. ☐ What is going on here? ☐ Something is going on in the center of town. Can you hear the sirens?

the going rate the current rate or the current charges for something. ☐ The going interest rate for your account is 10 percent. ☐ Our babysitter charges us the going rate.

going strong functioning well or energetically. ☐ We are still well and going strong.

going to tattle Go to next.

going to tell and going to tattle a threat that one is going to report someone's misdeed to someone in authority. ☐ If you do that again, I'm going to tell! ☐ Sue just went to the teacher. She's going to tattle.

gol dang Go to next.


a gold mine of information Fig. someone or something that is full of information. ☐ Grandfather is a gold mine of information about World War I. ☐ The new encyclopedia is a positive gold mine of useful information.

A golden key can open any door. Prov. Sufficient money can accomplish anything. ☐ Jill: I'm amazed that Sally got into a good university; her grades were so poor. Jane: Well, she comes from a wealthy family, and a golden key can open any door. ☐ Jane: How did Fred manage to get invited to the party at the country club? It's so exclusive there. Alan: Yes, but a golden key can open any door.

a golden opportunity Fig. an excellent opportunity that is not likely to be repeated. ☐ When I failed to finish college, I missed my golden opportunity to prepare myself for a good job.

gone but not forgotten Cliché gone or dead and still remembered. ☐ The good days we used to have together are gone, but not forgotten. ☐ Uncle Harry is gone but not forgotten. The stain where he spilled the wine is still visible in the parlor carpet.

gone goose someone or something that has departed or run away. ☐ Surely, the burglar is a gone goose by now. ☐ The child was a gone goose, and we did not know where to look for him.

gone on Euph. died. ☐ My husband, Tom—he's gone on, you know—was a great one for golf. ☐ Let us remember those who have gone on before.

gone to meet one's maker Euph. died. ☐ Poor old Bob has gone to meet his maker. ☐ After a long illness, Reggie went to meet his maker.

gone with the wind Fig. gone as if taken away by the wind. (A phrase made famous by the Margaret Mitchell novel and subsequent film Gone with the Wind. The phrase is used to make gone have a stronger force.) ☐ Everything we worked for was gone with the wind.

a goner a dead or dying creature or person. ☐ The boy brought the sick fish back to the pet store to get his money back. "This one is a goner," he said. ☐ John thought he was a goner when his parachute didn't open.

(Good) afternoon. 1. the appropriate greeting for use between noon and supper time. ☐ Sally: How are you today? Jane: Good afternoon. How are you? Sally: Fine, thank you. ☐ Bob: Afternoon. Nice to see you. Bill: Good afternoon. How are you? Bob: Fine, thanks. 2. an expression used on departure or for dismissal between noon and supper time. (Meaning "I wish you a good afternoon.") ☐ Sally: See you later, Bill. Bill: Afternoon. See you later. ☐ Mary: Nice to see you. Tom: Good afternoon. Take care.

good and something very or completely something. (Sometimes a state of being.) ☐ Joe never does anything till he's good and ready. ☐ Mary's good and mad, all right.

*good as done the same as being done; almost done. (*Also: as ~. Many different words can replace done in this phrase, according to context: cooked, dead, finished, painted, typed, etc.) ☐ This job is as good as done. It'll just take another second. ☐ Yes, sir, if you hire me to paint your house, it's as good as painted. ☐ When I hand my secretary a package to be shipped, I know that it's as good as delivered right then and there.

267
**good as gold** Cliché very good. (Usually used to describe children. □ Also: as ∼ ) □ Mother: Thank you for taking care of Gretchen; I hope she hasn’t been too much trouble. Grandmother: Not at all; she’s been as good as gold. □ We knew that Daddy would not read us a bedtime story unless we behaved, so we tried to be good as gold.

**good as new** Cliché as good as when it was new; as well or as healthy as normal. (Also: as ∼ ) □ A little rest and I’ll be as good as new.

a **good bet** Fig. a great likelihood. □ It’s a good bet that he will be late because of the rain.

the **Good Book** the Bible. □ I read some in the Good Book every day. □ Sally’s always quoting from the Good Book.

The **good die young**. Prov. Good people tend to die at an early age. □ Marshall’s twenty-year-old son died in a car crash; it did not comfort Marshall to think that the good die young. □ Jill: It doesn’t seem fair that Laurie is dead. She was such a wonderful person. Jane: They always say that the good die young.

a **good egg** Fig. a good and dependable person. □ He seems like a good egg. I’ll take a chance on him.

**Good enough.** That’s good.; That’s adequate. □ Bill: Well, now. How’s that? Bob: Good enough. □ Bob: I’ll be there about noon. Tom: Good enough. I’ll see you then.

**good enough for government work** Go to close enough for government work.

**good enough for** someone or something adequate for someone or something. □ This seat is good enough for me. □ I don’t want to move. □ I’m happy. It’s good enough for me. □ That table is good enough for my office.

**(Good) evening.** 1. the appropriate greeting for use between supper time and the time of taking leave for the night or by midnight. (Compare this with Good night.) □ Bob: Good evening, Mary. How are you? Mary: Evening, Bob. Nice to see you. □ “Good evening,” said each of the guests as they passed by Mr. and Mrs. Franklin. 2. the appropriate phrase used for leave-taking between supper time and before the time of final leave-taking to go to bed. □ Mary: Let’s call it a day. See you tomorrow, Bill. Bill: Yes, it’s been a long and productive day. Good evening, Mary. □ Bob: Nice seeing you, Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson: Good evening, Bob.

**Good fences make good neighbors.** Prov. It is easier to be friendly with your neighbor if neither of you trespasses upon the other’s property or privacy. □ Jane: The guy next door is letting his party guests wander across our lawn again. Alan: I guess we’ll have to build a fence there. Good fences make good neighbors, like they say.

**good for what ails you** Run. able to cure any problem or illness. (Usually used to describe food or liquor.) □ Have a sip of this whiskey. It’s good for what ails you. □ Sally’s beef broth is good for what ails you.

**Good for you!** a complimentary expression of encouragement for something that someone has done or received. □ Sue: I just got a raise. Bill: Good for you! □ Jane: I really told him what I thought of his rotten behavior. Sue: Good for you! He needs it.

**Good going!** Go to Nice going!

**Good golly, Miss Molly!** Inf. Good grief! ; Wow! □ Good golly, Miss Molly! This place is a mess! □ Good golly, Miss Molly! That’s awful! a **(good) grasp of** something Go to a (solid) grasp of something.

**Good grief!** Inf. an exclamation of surprise, shock, or amazement. □ Alice: Good grief! I’m late! Mary: That clock’s fast. You’re probably okay on time. □ Bill: There are seven newborn kittens under the sofa! Jane: Good grief!

**(Good) heavens!** Inf. an exclamation of surprise, shock, or amazement. (See also (My) heavens!) □ John: Good heavens! Look at that diamond ring she has! Bill: I bet it’s not real. □ Jane: Ouch! John: Good heavens! What happened? Jane: I just stubbed my toe.

A **good husband makes a good wife.** and A **good Jack makes a good Jill.** Prov. If a husband or man wants his wife or girlfriend to be respectful and loving to him, he should be respectful and loving to her. □ Don’t blame your wife for being short-tempered with you; you’ve been so unpleasant to her lately. A good husband makes a good wife.

The **good is the enemy of the best.** Prov. Instead of making things the best that they can, people often settle for making them merely good. □ Mother: Aren’t you going to rewrite your paper? Child: Why? It’s good enough. Mother: The good is the enemy of the best.

A **good Jack makes a good Jill.** Go to A good husband makes a good wife.

**Good job!** Go to Nice going!

**Good luck!** 1. a wish of good luck to someone. □ Mary: I have my recital tonight. Jane: I know you’ll do well. Good luck! □ Sally: I hear you’re leaving for your new job tomorrow morning. Bob: That’s right. Sally: Well, good luck! 2. You will certainly need luck, but it probably will not work. (Sarcastic.) □ Bill: I’m going to try to get this tax bill lowered. Sue: Good luck! □ Bill: I’m sure I can get this cheaper at another store. Clerk: Good luck!

A **good man is hard to find.** Go to Good men are scarce.

**good many** quite a few. □ I have a good many kinfolk in Texas. □ Mary owns a good many acres of land.

**Good men are scarce.** and A **good man is hard to find.** Prov. Men who make good husbands or workers are rare. □ Larry is the best employee I’ve ever had, and I’ll go to a good deal of effort to keep him, because good men are scarce. □ “I think you should marry John,” Sue advised her daughter. “He’s a good man, and a good man is hard to find.”

**(Good) morning.** the standard greeting phrase used any time between midnight and noon. □ Bob: Good morning. Bill: Good morning, Bob. You sure get up early!

**(Good) night.** 1. the appropriate departure phrase for leave-taking after dark. (This assumes that the speakers will not see one another until morning at the earliest. Night alone is familiar.) □ John: Bye, Alice. Alice: Night. See you tomorrow. □ Bill: Good night, Mary. Mary: Good night, Bill. 2. the appropriate phrase for wishing someone a good night’s sleep. □ Father: Good night, Bill. Bill: Night, Pop. □ Father: Good night. Mother: Good night.
**good old boy** and **good ole boy** Rur. a good guy; a dependable companion. □ Old Tom is a good old boy. He’ll help. □ One of these good ole boys will give you a hand.

the **good old days** back in an earlier time which everyone remembers as a better time, even if it really wasn’t. □ Back in the good old days, during World War I, they used real cactus needles in record players. □ The good old days didn’t start until they had indoor bathrooms.

good riddance (to bad rubbish) Cliché [It is] good to be rid (of worthless persons or things). (See also **Good-bye and good riddance**.) □ She slammed the door behind me and said, “Good riddance to bad rubbish!” □ “Good riddance to you, madam,” thought I.

**Good seed makes a good crop.** Prov. Starting with good materials will help you get good results. □ Jill: Elsie and Jim are going to have a baby. Jane: I’m sure it will be a good child, since they’re both such good people. Good seed makes a good crop. □ I am sure Robert’s business will flourish. He’s capable and honest, and good seed makes a good crop.

a **good sport** someone who can accept a loss in a competition or can accept being the butt of a joke. □ Bob is usually a good sport, but this time he didn’t seem to appreciate your joke.

**Good things come in small packages.** Go to The best things come in small packages.

**Good things come to him who waits.** and **Everything comes to him who waits.** Prov. If you are patient you will get what you want. □ Fred: Why is it taking you so long to get dinner ready? Can’t you hurry up? Ellen: Good things come to him who waits. □ Jill: I wish our train would get here. Jane: Everything comes to her who waits.

A **good time was had by all.** Cliché Everyone had a good time. □ Jill: How was the party? Jane: A good time was had by all. □ After seeing the movie, the ten of us went out for ice cream, and a good time was had by all.

good to go Inf. all ready to go; all checked and pronounced ready to go. □ I’ve checked everything and we are good to go. □ Everything’s good to go and we will start immediately.

*a (good) working over* a good scolding. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ The boss gave me a good working over before firing me. □ She got a working over about her performance on the project.

**Good-bye and good riddance.** Cliché a phrase marking the departure of someone or something unwanted. □ Fred: Supposing I was to just walk out of here, just like that? Mary: I’d say good-bye and good riddance. □ As the garbage truck drove away, carrying the drab old chair that Mary hated so much, she said, “Good-bye and good riddance.”

**Good-bye for now.** and **(Good-bye) until next time.**; **Till next time.**; **Bye for now.**; **Till we meet again.**; **Until we meet again.** Good-bye, I’ll see you soon.; Good-bye, I’ll see you next time. (Often said by the host at the end of a radio or television program.) □ Alice: See you later. Good-bye for now. John: Bye, Alice. □ Mary: See you later. Bob: Good-bye for now. □ The host of the talk show always closed by saying, “Good-bye until next time. This is Wally Ott, signing off.”

**(Good-bye) until then.** and **(Good-bye) till then.; (Good-bye) till later.** (Good-bye) until sometime in the future. □ Sally: See you tomorrow. Good-bye until then. Sue: Sure thing. See you. □ Mary: See you later. Bob: Until later. □ The announcer always ended by saying, “Be with us again next week at this time. Good-bye until then.”

* the **goods on** someone something potentially damaging or embarrassing about someone. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ John beat me unfairly in tennis, but I’ll get even. I’ll get the goods on him and his cheating. □ The authorities are going to get the goods on Mr. Smith. He has been selling worthless land again.

**goof around** to act silly. □ The kids were all goofing around, waiting for the bus. □ Stop goofing around!

**goof off** to waste time. □ John is always goofing off. □ Quit goofing off and get to work!

**goof on** someone Inf. to tease or kid someone. □ I don’t believe you. I think you’re just goofing on me.

**goof someone or something up!** Inf. to mess someone or something up; to ruin someone’s plans; to make something nonfunctional. □ Who goofed this machine up? □ Who goofed up the machine?

**goof up (on something)** Inf. to make an error with something; to blunder while doing something. □ Please don’t goof up on this job. □ If you goof up one more time, you’re finished.

**goofed (up)** 1. Inf. messed up; out of order. □ All my papers are goofed up. □ Everything on my desk is goofed. Who’s been here? 2. Inf. confused; distraught. □ I’m sort of goofed up today. I think I’m coming down with something. □ I was up too late last night, and now I’m all goofed up.

*geo**se **bumps** and *geo**se **pimples** Fig. a prickly feeling related to having bumps on one’s skin due to fear, excitement, or cold. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ When I heard that old song, I got goose bumps. □ I never have goose pimples, but my teeth chatter when it’s cold.

**goose egg** 1. Fig. a raised bump on the skull when one’s head has been struck. □ I walked into the edge of the door and got a terrible goose egg. 2. Fig. in a sports score, zero. □ At the end of the game there was nothing but goose eggs next to our name.

**goose pimples** Go to goose bumps.

gorge oneself on something and **gorge oneself with something** to eat something to the point of fullness. □ Don’t gorge yourself on the snacks. Dinner is in ten minutes. □ You have gorged yourself with cheese! No wonder you’re not hungry. □ Claire gorged herself on the doughnuts that Fred bought.

**gorge someone or something with something** to fill someone or something by eating something. □ She gorged the dog with canned food. □ The puppy gorged itself with all the hamburger Paul had set out to thaw.
gorked (out) Sl. heavily sedated; knocked out. □ Once the patient was gorked, he was more cooperative. □ The guy in Room 226 is totally gorked out now.

gospel truth Fig. the undeniable truth. □ The witness swore he was telling the gospel truth. □ I told my parents the gospel truth about how the vase broke.

gossip about someone or something to talk maliciously about someone or something. □ Who are you gossiping about now? □ They are gossiping about what happened last weekend.

got to fly Go to I’ve got to fly.

gotta get up pretty early in the morning to do something Rar. it would be difficult to do something (specified) because of the ability or quality involved. □ You gotta get up pretty early in the morning to cheat Bill Johnson. He’s a sharp businessman for sure. □ You gotta get up pretty early in the morning to know your Bible better than Preacher Harris.

gouge something out Go to gouge something out of something.

gouge something out of someone or something to cheat someone out of something. (Compare this with chisel something out of someone.) □ They gouged the money out of the old man. □ The crooks gouged the life savings out of the old lady.

gouge something out of something and gouge something out Go to scoop or chisel something out of something. □ Tom gouged a horrible furrow out of the wood of the piano bench. □ He gouged out a horrible scratch.

Governments have long arms. Go to Kings have long arms.

grab a bite (to eat) Go to a bite (to eat).

grab a chair and grab a seat Fig. to quickly sit down in a seat. □ Grab a chair and join the group!

grab a seat Go to previous.

grab at someone or something and grab for someone or something to grasp quickly at someone or something; to try to seize someone or something. □ He grabbed at me, but I got away unscathed. □ I grabbed at the rope, but missed. □ The teacher grabbed for the little boy and held him.

grab for someone or something Go to previous.

grab on(to someone or something) to grasp someone or something; to hold onto someone or something. □ Here, grab onto this rope! □ Grab on and hold tight.

grab someone or something away (from someone or something) to snatch someone or something away from someone or something. □ Harry’s aunt grabbed the dirty candy away from him before he got it in his mouth. □ I grabbed away the meat from the dog.

grab someone’s attention and get someone’s attention; grip someone’s attention Fig. to draw or attract someone’s attention. □ The bright colors on the poster are there to grab your attention. □ The scary movie gripped my attention.

grace someone or something with one’s presence Fig. to honor someone or something with one’s presence. □ “How nice of you to grace us with your presence,” Mr. Wilson told Mary sarcastically as she entered the classroom late.

□ The banquet was graced with the presence of the governor.

grace something with something Fig. to adorn something or some place with something, especially a person’s presence. □ The lovely lady graced our home with her presence. □ The stage was graced with flowers and a few palm trees.

graced with something made elegant by means of some ornament or decoration. □ The altar was graced with lovely white flowers. □ The end of the beautiful day was graced with a beautiful sunset.

*graceful as a swan very graceful. (*Also: as ~.) □ The boat glided out onto the lake as graceful as a swan. □ Jane is graceful as a swan.

a gracious plenty and an elegant sufficiency Euph. enough (food). □ No more, thanks. I have a gracious plenty on my plate. □ At Thanksgiving, we always have an elegant sufficiency and are mighty thankful for it.

grade someone down (on something) to give someone a low ranking, rating, or score on some performance. □ I had to grade you down on your essay because of your spelling. □ Please don’t grade me down for a minor mistake.

graduate (from something) to earn and receive a degree from an educational institution. □ I graduated from a large midwestern university. □ Bill intends to graduate in the spring.

graduate (in something) (with something) to earn a degree in some subject with honors, etc. □ I graduated in math with highest honors. □ Sharon graduated with honors in medicine.

graft something on(to something) and graft something on to splice a living part onto another living part. □ The gardener grafted a red rose onto the stem of another species. □ The gardener grafted on a red rose.

a grain of truth even the smallest amount of truth. □ The attorney was unable to find a grain of truth in the defendant’s testimony. □ If there were a grain of truth to your statement, I would trust you.

the granddaddy of them all Go to the daddy of them all.

a grandfather clause a clause in an agreement that protects certain rights granted in the past even when conditions change in the future. □ The contract contained a grandfather clause that protected my pension payments against claims such as might arise from a future lawsuit.

grandfather someone or something in1 to protect someone or a right through the use of a grandfather clause. □ My payments were grandfathered in years ago.

grant someone no quarter and give someone no quarter Fig. not to allow someone any mercy or indulgence. (Originally meant to refuse to imprison and simply to kill one’s prisoner.) □ The professor was harsh on lazy students. During class, he granted them no quarter.

grant something to someone to give or award something to someone. □ The foundation granted a large sum of money to Jane for her research. □ They granted an award to Kelly.

graph something out Go to draw a graph of something. □ Please take this data and graph it out. □ Graph out this data, please.
grapple (with someone) (for something) to fight or scuffle with someone to get hold of something. ① The cop grappled with the thief for the gun. ② He grappled for the gun with Max.
grapple with something Fig. to deal with a problem; to get a "good hold" on a problem. ① I have enough to grapple with now. No more problems, please. ② I cannot grapple with any additional problems.
grasp at someone or something to try to seize someone or something. ① He grasped at the bar and held on tight. ② The beggar grasped at the pedestrian and lost his grip.
grasp someone or something by holding onto someone or something by holding. ① He grasped his friend by the hand and pulled him to safety. ② Sharon grasped the dog by its collar and held on tight.
grasping at straws Fig. to depend on something that is useless; to make a futile attempt at something. ① John couldn’t answer the teacher’s question. He was just grasping at straws. ② There I was, grasping at straws, with no one to help me.

The grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence). Prov. People always think they would be happier in a different set of circumstances. (Usually implies that the other circumstances really are not any better.) ① Jill: My job is so tedious. I wish I had my own business, like Beatrice does. Jane: Beatrice probably wishes she had the security of her old job. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
grass widow a woman abandoned by her husband. (The origin of this is not clear.) ① Jane’s husband isn’t dead, but she’s a widow just the same—a grass widow. ② Bill ran off and left Mary a grass widow.
grate on someone to annoy someone; to rub, scrape, or abrade something. ① Your negative attitude really grates on me. ② Everything you say grates on me.
grate on someone’s(nerves) Fig. to annoy someone; to bother someone. ① My obnoxious brother is grating on my nerves. ② Your whining really grates on me.
grate on something to rub, scrape, or abrade something. ① The tree branch is grating on the side of the house. ② The bottom of the door is grating on the threshold. Please fix it.
gratify someone’s desires Euph. to have sex with someone. ① The prostitute promised to gratify her customer’s desires. ② That night, he gratified her desires.
gravitate to(ward) someone or something Fig. to move slowly toward someone or something, as if being pulled by gravity. ① People tend to gravitate toward the kitchen at parties. ② Unless you correct their manners, the children will gravitate toward rude behavior.

a gray area Fig. an area of a subject or question that is difficult to put into a particular category because it is not clearly defined and may have connections or associations with more than one category. ① The responsibility for social studies in the college is a gray area. Several departments are involved. ② Publicity is a gray area in that firm. It is shared between the marketing and design divisions.

*gray hair(s) 1. Lit. a lightening of the hair caused by aging or hereditary factors. (Typically: get 〜; have 〜; give someone 〜.) ① I get more gray hair the older I get. ② I guess my genes give me gray hair. 2. Fig. a lightening of the hair caused by stress or frustration. (Typically: get 〜; have 〜; give someone 〜.) ① I’m getting gray hairs because I have three teenage boys. ② I have gray hair from raising four kids.
gray matter Fig. intelligence; brains; power of thought. ① Use your gray matter and think what will happen if the committee resigns. ② Surely they’ll come up with an acceptable solution if they use some gray matter.
graze against someone or something to brush or scrape against someone or something. ① The car grazed against the side of the truck. ② I grazed against an old man as I was jogging this morning.
graze on something 1. [for animals] to browse or forage in a particular location. ① The cattle are grazing on the neighbor’s land. ② I wish they wouldn’t graze on other people’s land. 2. [for animals] to browse or forage, eating something in particular. ① The deer are grazing on my carrots! ② The cows were grazing on the meadow grasses for weeks.
grease someone’s palm and oil someone’s palm Fig. to bribe someone. ① If you want to get something done around here, you have to grease someone’s palm. ② I’d never oil a police officer’s palm. That’s illegal.
grease the skids Fig. to help prepare for or ease the way for the success or failure of someone or something. ① Ray set out to grease the skids for the right things to happen. ② We need someone to grease the skids for the Wilson contract.
a greasy spoon Fig. a cheap diner, where the silverware might not be too clean. ① The corner greasy spoon is always busy at lunchtime.

Great balls of fire! Inf. Great heavens! Wow! ① Mary got up to play the fiddle, and great balls of fire! That girl is loud! ② I wish they wouldn’t graze on other people’s land. Great minds think alike.
the great beyond Euph. life after death. ① The fortune-teller claimed to get messages from the great beyond. ② I often think of my loved ones in the great beyond, and long for the day I will see them again.

Great day (in the morning)! Narr. My goodness! (An exclamation of surprise.) ① Great day in the morning! I didn’t expect to see you here. ② Great day! That thunder sound is loud!

a great deal much; a lot. ① You can learn a great deal about nature by watching television. ② This is a serious problem and it worries me a great deal.

Great minds think alike. Prov. Very intelligent people tend to come up with the same ideas at the same time. (Used playfully, to commend someone for expressing the same thing you were thinking of; implies that you are congratulating that person for being as smart as you are.) Also Great minds run in the same gutters, a casual and jocular variant.) ① Jill: Let’s ride our bikes to the store instead of walking. Jane: I was just thinking we should do that, too. Jill: Great minds think alike.

Great oaks from little acorns grow. and Mighty oaks from little acorns grow. Prov. Immense things can come from small sources. ① Don’t tell lies, not even small ones. Great oaks from little acorns grow.

Great Scott! Inf. an exclamation of shock or surprise. ① “Great Scott! You bought a truck!” shrieked Mary. ② Fred:
the grim reaper Fig. death. □ I think I have a few years to go yet before the grim reaper pays me a call.

give in to something to surrender to something.

The greatest thing since indoor plumbing and the greatest thing since sliced bread Rur. the most wonderful invention or useful item in a long time. □ As far as I’m concerned, this new food processor is the greatest thing since indoor plumbing. □ Joe thinks Sally is the greatest thing since sliced bread. You can tell just by the way he looks at her.

the grime reaper Fig. death. □ I think I have a few years to go yet before the grim reaper pays me a call.

give in to something to surrender to something.

the grim reaper Fig. death. □ I think I have a few years to go yet before the grim reaper pays me a call.

give in to something to surrender to something.

Greek to someone incomprehensible to someone; as mysterious as Greek writing. □ I don’t understand this. It’s all Greek to me. □ She said it was Greek to her, and that it made no sense at all.

green around the gills Go to pale around the gills.

*green as grass very green. (*Also: as ~.) □ His face turned as green as grass just before he vomited.

green stuff Fig. money; U.S. paper money. □ I’ve run out of green stuff. Can you loan me a few bucks?

green with envy Fig. appearing jealous; appearing envious. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ My new car made my neighbor green with envy. □ Bill was green with envy that I won first place.

greet someone or something with something to welcome someone or something with something; to accost someone or something with something upon arrival. □ I greeted her with a large bouquet of roses. □ The sun greeted the day with bright rays of light.

Greetings and felicitations and Greetings and salutations! Hello and good wishes. (A bit stilted.) □ “Greetings and felicitations! Welcome to our talent show!” said the master of ceremonies. □ Bill: Greetings and salutations, Bob! Bob: Come off it, Bill. Can’t you just say “Hi” or something?

grieve for someone or something to mourn for someone or something. □ Don’t grieve for me. I’m okay. □ She grieved for her lost chances.

grieve over someone or something to lament and pine for someone or something. □ Now, don’t grieve over a lost cat. □ There is no reason to continue grieving over him.

the grim reaper Fig. death. □ I think I have a few years to go yet before the grim reaper pays me a call.

give in to something to surrender to something.

grind at someone or something 1. to smile a beaming smile at someone or something. □ The entire class grinned at the camera. □ I grinned at her and she turned away quickly.

2. to smile a beaming smile at the thought of, or mental picture of, someone or something. □ He grinned at the thought of his coming home to his family. □ He grinned at her as she gazed upon the diamond ring he had given her.

grin from ear to ear Fig. to smile a very wide, beaming smile. □ She was grinning from ear to ear as she accepted the prize. □ We knew Timmy was happy because he was grinning from ear to ear.

grind away (at someone) Fig. to needle, criticize, and nag someone continually. □ Why are you always grinding away at me? □ Leave me alone. Stop grinding away!

grind away (at something) to crush something into particles continually. □ The machine ground away at the rocks, making tons of gravel. □ It ground away, making a terrible noise in the process.

ground on Fig. [for something] to drag on endlessly. □ The hours ground on without anything happening. I was so tired of waiting. □ The lecture ground on, minute after minute.

grind someone down!* Fig. to wear someone down by constant requests; to wear someone down by constant nagging. □ If you think you can grind me down by bothering me all the time, you are wrong. □ The constant nagging ground down the employees at last.

grind something away to remove something by grinding. □ Grind the bumps away and make the wall smooth. □ Please grind away the bumps.

grind something down* to make something smooth or even by grinding. □ Grind this down to make it smooth. □ Please grind down this rough spot.

grind something into something 1. to pulverize something into powder, grit, particles, etc. □ The machine ground the rocks into gravel. □ The mill ground the grain into flour.

2. and grind something in* to crush or rub something into something. □ People’s feet ground the cigarette ashes into the carpet. □ Their feet ground in the ashes.

grind something out* 1. Lit. to produce something by grinding. □ Working hard, he ground the powder out, a cup at a time. □ He ground out the powder, a cup at a time.

2. Fig. to produce something in a mechanical or perfunctory manner. □ The factory just keeps grinding these toys out, day after day. □ The machine grinds out the same part by the hundreds all day long.

grind something to something to keep grinding something until it is something. □ I ground the fennel seeds to a powder and threw them in the simmering sauce. □ The wheels of the cars, trucks, and buses had ground the football to a broken mass.

grind something together to rub things together. □ Stop grinding your teeth together. □ The stones ground together as we drove over them.

grind something up to pulverize or crush something by crushing, rubbing, or abrasion. □ Please grind the fennel seeds up. □ Grind up the fennel seeds and sprinkle them on the top.

grind to a halt Fig. to slow down and stop. □ Every day about noon, traffic in town grinds to a halt. □ The bus ground to a halt at the corner and someone got off.
a grip on oneself Fig. control of one's emotions. (*Typically: get ~; have ~.) ☐ Calm down, man! Get a grip on yourself! ☐ I encouraged him to get a grip on himself.

a grip on something 1. and *a hold on something Lit. a good grasp on something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) ☐ Try to get a grip on the ropes and pull yourself up. ☐ You should get a hold on the knob and turn it firmly. 2. Fig. a thorough knowledge of some topic. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) ☐ I need to have a grip on the basics of accounting. ☐ Try to get a hold on all the facts first.

grip someone's attention Go to grab someone's attention.

gripe at someone to complain to someone. ☐ Stop griping at me! ☐ There is no need to gripe at your little brother.

gripe one's soul Inf. to annoy someone. ☐ That kind of thing really gripes my soul! ☐ John, have I ever told you that you gripe my soul?

gripe (to someone or something) (about someone or something) to make specific complaints to someone about someone or something. ☐ Don't gripe to me about what she said to you! ☐ There is no need to gripe about the job to everyone.

grist for the mill and grist for someone's mill; grist to the mill Fig. something useful or needed. ☐ Bob bases the novels he writes on his own experience, so everything that happens to him is grist for the mill. ☐ Ever since I started making patchwork quilts, every scrap of cloth I find is grist for the mill.

grit one's teeth Fig. to grind or clench one's teeth together in anger or determination. ☐ I was so mad, all I could do was stand there and grit my teeth. ☐ All through the race, Sally was gritting her teeth. She was really determined.

groan about someone or something to complain about someone or something. ☐ What are you groaning about? ☐ She is groaning about her work.

groan something out† to say something with a groan. ☐ He groaned the name out. ☐ He groaned out the name of his assailant before he passed out.

groan under something 1. Lit. to groan while bearing a heavy burden. ☐ He groaned under the weight of the trunk. ☐ The rafters groaned under the heavy weight of the pianos. 2. Fig. to suffer under a burden. ☐ For years, the people had groaned under the cruel ruler. ☐ England groaned under the rule of Cromwell just as he had groaned under King Charles.

groan with something to groan because of something, such as pain. ☐ She groaned with pain, but no one helped her. ☐ I think the old man was groaning with boredom more than anything else.

gronk (out) Sl. to conk out; to crash, as with a car or a computer. ☐ My car groked out on the way to work this morning. ☐ The program groks every time I start to run it.

groom someone as something to prepare someone for a job or position. ☐ He was grooming his son as his successor. ☐ They groomed Charles as the next treasurer.

groom someone for something to prepare someone for something; to prepare someone to be someone. ☐ The boss is grooming his son for the presidency of the company. ☐ They are grooming the vice president for the top position.

groove on someone or something to show interest in someone or something; to relate to someone or something. ☐ Fred was beginning to groove on new age music when he met Phil. ☐ Sam is really grooving on Mary.

groove (about) (for someone or something) and grope (around) (for someone or something) to feel around blindly for someone or something. ☐ In the darkness, he groped about for his glasses. ☐ Fran groped for the light switch and found it.

grope after someone or something to reach for a departing or fleeing person or thing awkwardly or ineffectually. ☐ The feeble hand groped after the departing form. ☐ I groped after the cat as it ran under the bed.

grope (around) (for someone or something) Go to groove (about) (for someone or something).

grip at someone or something to reach for someone or something. ☐ She gripped feebly at the form she could hardly see. ☐ Sharon groped at Frank as he ran out to get the doctor.

gross someone out† to disgust someone. ☐ Those horrible pictures just gross me out. ☐ Jim's story totally grossed out Sally.

ground someone in something Fig. to instruct someone in an area of knowledge. ☐ We grounded all our children in the basics of home cooking. ☐ We were all grounded in basic cooking by the time we were six.

ground something on something Fig. to build a firm basis for something on something else. ☐ He grounded his thinking on his detailed research. ☐ His thinking was grounded on years of reading.

grounded in (actual) fact Fig. based on facts. ☐ This movie is grounded in fact. ☐ The stories in this book are all grounded in actual fact.

grounds for something the basis or cause for legal action such as a lawsuit. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) ☐ Your negligence is grounds for a lawsuit. ☐ Is infidelity grounds for divorce in this state?

group someone or something around someone or something to gather people or things around people or things. ☐ The photographer grouped the wedding party around the bride for the picture. ☐ The photographer then grouped them around the cake.

group someone or something together to gather people or things together. ☐ Try to group all the smokers together at one table. ☐ Steve grouped all the dictionaries together.

group something under something to classify something under some category. ☐ They have now grouped the fungi under their own families. ☐ We should group all the older ones under a separate category.

grouse about someone or something to complain about someone or something. ☐ What are you grousing about now? ☐ I am grousing about your carelessness!

grouse at someone or an animal Fig. to criticize someone or an animal directly to the person or animal. ☐ Stop grousing at me! ☐ Sharon is grousing at the cat again.

grovel (about) in something to wallow around in the dirt, etc., while prostrating oneself. ☐ The poor fellow groveled
grovel before someone or something

grovel to someone to kneel in deference to someone; to kowtow to someone. □ You don’t have to grovel to me! □ I refuse to grovel to anyone.

grow accustomed to doing something Go to accustomed to doing something.

grow accustomed to someone or something Go to accustomed to someone or something.

grow apart (from someone or something) 1. Lit. [for things] to separate as they grow. □ These trees tend to grow apart from each other as they get bigger. □ They need to grow apart so they won’t be too crowded. 2. Fig. [for people] to separate from one another gradually. □ Over the years, they grew apart from each other. □ Ted and Sharon grew apart and saw less and less of each other.

grow away from someone [for someone] to become less intimate with someone; [for someone] to become independent of someone gradually. □ She has grown away from her husband over the years. □ We expect our children to grow away from us.

grow away from something [for something] to move away from something as it grows. □ The tree grew away from the house—thank heavens. □ See if you can train the vine to grow away from the fence.

grow back [for something that has come off] to grow back again. (Includes parts of plants and some animals, fingernails, toenails, etc.) □ The lizard’s tail grew back in a few months. □ The leaves will grow back in a month or so.

grow disgusted at someone or something Go to disgusted at someone or something.

grow disgusted with someone or something Go to disgusted with someone or something.

grow dissatisfied with someone or something Go to dissatisfied with someone or something.

grow down (into something) [for roots] to penetrate downward as they grow. □ The young roots grew down into the rich soil. □ The roots grew down and drew up the precious water.

grow from something to develop and grow from a seed, bulb, corm, etc. □ This huge tree grew from a little seed. □ What kind of plant grows from this bulb?

grow in something 1. [for someone] to increase in some quality, such as wisdom, strength, stature, etc. □ As I got older, I was supposed to grow in wisdom and other good things. □ Sam grew in strength as he got over the disease. 2. [for a plant] to develop or flourish in something or some place. □ These plants grow in rich soil with moderate moisture. □ They will grow well in this soil.

grow into something 1. Lit. [for a child] to develop into a particular type of person. □ The child grew into a tall, powerful athlete. □ I hope I have grown into a person my parents can be proud of. 2. Lit. [for a plant] to develop into a mature specimen of its species. □ This twig will grow into an oak tree. □ I hope this seedling grows into a fine mango tree. 3. Lit. [for a plant, tumor, toenail] to penetrate into something as it grows. □ The roots of the tree grew into our sewer line. □ Try to keep the tree roots from growing into the foundation. 4. Lit. to grow enough to fit into something. □ The shirt is a little large, but Timmy will grow into it. □ My shoes are too big, but I will grow into them. 5. Fig. [for a situation or a problem] to develop into something more serious. □ I hope this matter doesn’t grow into something worse. □ This business is growing into a real crisis.

grow knee-high by the 4th of July Go to knee-high by the 4th of July.

grow on someone 1. Lit. [for a fungus, tumor, parasite, etc.] to live and grow on someone’s skin. □ I’ve got this stuff growing on me and I want to get rid of it. □ Is that an ink stain or is something growing on you? 2. Fig. [for something] to become familiar to and desired by someone; [for something] to become habitual for someone. □ This kind of music grows on you after a while. □ Kenneth sort of grows on you after a while.

grow out [for something that has been cut back] to regrow. □ Don’t worry, your hair will grow out again. □ Will the grass grow out again, do you think?

grow out of (all) proportion Go to out of (all) proportion.

grow out of something 1. Lit. to develop and grow outward from something. □ Soft green shoots grew out of the trunk of the tree. □ A bush grew out of the gutter and hung down the front of the house. 2. Lit. to age out of something; to outgrow something; to abandon something as one matures. □ Finally, Ted grew out of his bedwetting. □ Haven’t you grown out of your fear of the dark yet? 3. Lit. to grow so much that some article of clothing does not fit. □ Timmy’s getting so tall that he’s grown out of all his clothes. □ He grew out of his suit, and he’s only worn it three times. 4. Fig. [for a problem] to develop from something less serious. □ This whole matter grew out of your failure to let the cat out last night. □ A big argument has grown out of a tiny disagreement!

grow over something [for vegetation] to cover over something as it grows. □ The vines grew over the shed and almost hid it from view.

grow poles apart Go to poles apart.

grow sick (and tired) of someone or something Go to sick (and tired) of someone or something.

grow soft on someone Go to soft on someone.

grow something from something to propagate a plant from a seed, bulb, corm, etc. □ I grew these tomatoes from seeds. □ Can you grow a mango tree from a seed?

grow thick-skinned Go to thick-skinned.

grow thin-skinned Go to thin-skinned.

grow to do something to gradually begin to do certain things, using verbs such as feel, know, like, need, respect, sense, suspect, think, want, wonder, etc. □ I grew to hate Bob over a period of years. □ As I grew to know Bob, I began to like him.

grow together [for things] to join together as they grow and develop. □ Two of these trees grew together when they
were much smaller. The broken ends of the bone grew together far more rapidly than Chuck had thought.

grow up to become mature; to become adult. All the children have grown up and the parents are left with a lot of debts.

grow up into someone or something to mature into a type of person or a person who does a particular job. She grew up into a fine young lady. I want to grow up into a strong and healthy person.

grow worlds apart Go to worlds apart.

A growing youth has a wolf in his belly. Prov. Young people who are growing fast are hungry all the time. If you doubt that a growing youth has a wolf in his belly, you should see how much my fourteen-year-old cousin eats.

growl at someone or something to snarl at someone or something. Don't growl at me like that. The dog growled at the cat.

growl something out to say something with a sound like growling or snarling. Jane growled a few words out. She growled out a few words and the gates opened for us.

a growth experience and a growth opportunity; a learning experience Euph. an unpleasant experience. This job has been a growth experience for me. I've learned so much. Jim said that his trip to Mexico turned out to be a real learning experience.

a growth opportunity Go to previous.

grub around (for someone or something) to search around for someone or something. I went to the attic and grubbed around for my old uniform. The guys went out and grubbed around for another soccer player.

grub around (in something) to wear old or "grubby" clothes around. I was grubbing around in my jeans when Alice showed up. I was wearing my jeans and just sort of grubbing around when she came.

*gruff as a bear gruff; curt and unsociable. (Also: as ~.) I hate to ask Erica questions; she's always gruff as a bear. I'm always as gruff as a bear before I've had my first cup of coffee.

grumble about someone or something to complain about someone or something. What are you grumbling about now? The students were grumbling about the teacher.

grumble at someone to complain to someone. Go grumble at someone else. I'm tired of listening. Stop grumbling at me!

grunt something out to say something with a snort or grunt. Jane grunted a command out to someone. She grunted out a curt command and the gate opened.

grunt work Fig. work that is menial and thankless. During the summer, I earned money doing grunt work. I did all of the grunt work on the project, but my boss got all of the credit.

guarantee against something to certify that something bad will not happen. No one can guarantee against that happening. I can't guarantee against something going wrong.

guarantee something against something (for something) to certify that something will not fail, break, or wear out, usually for a period of time. We guarantee this radio against defects for one year. I bought a service contract to guarantee my car against defects.

guard against someone or something to take care to avoid someone or something. Try to guard against getting a cold. You should guard against pickpockets.

guard someone or something from someone or something to protect someone or something from someone or something. The assistant manager will guard your valuables from thieves. She guarded the kitten from the angry dog.

guess at something to estimate something; to give an opinion about what something might be. I hate to just guess at it, but if you insist: ten feet long. Go ahead, guess at the number of pennies in this jar.


guest of honor a guest who gets special attention from everyone; the person for whom a party, celebration, or ceremony is given. Bob is the guest of honor, and many people will make speeches about him. The guest of honor sits at the front of the room on the dais.

guffaw at someone or something to laugh at someone or something very hard and raucously. The audience guffawed at the clown's antics.

guide someone around to lead or escort someone on a tour of something or some place. Please let me guide you around the plant, so you can see how we do things here. I would be happy to guide you around.

guide someone away from someone or something and guide someone away to lead or escort someone away from someone, something, or some place. (Usually said of someone who requires help or guidance.) A police officer guided the children away from the busy street. Please guide away those people before they bump into your grandmother.

guide someone or something across (something) to lead or escort someone or something across something. I had to guide him across the desert. The bridge was very narrow and Jill got out to guide the truck across. We had to guide it across.

guess at something to estimate something; to give an opinion about what something might be. I hate to just guess at it, but if you insist: ten feet long. Go ahead, guess at the number of pennies in this jar.


guest of honor a guest who gets special attention from everyone; the person for whom a party, celebration, or ceremony is given. Bob is the guest of honor, and many people will make speeches about him. The guest of honor sits at the front of the room on the dais.

guffaw at someone or something to laugh at someone or something very hard and raucously. The audience guffawed at the clown's antics.

guide someone around to lead or escort someone on a tour of something or some place. Please let me guide you around the plant, so you can see how we do things here. I would be happy to guide you around.

guide someone away from someone or something and guide someone away to lead or escort someone away from someone, something, or some place. (Usually said of someone who requires help or guidance.) A police officer guided the children away from the busy street. Please guide away those people before they bump into your grandmother.

guide someone or something across (something) to lead or escort someone or something across something. I had to guide him across the desert. The bridge was very narrow and Jill got out to guide the truck across. We had to guide it across.

guide something away (from someone or something) 1. to lead something away from someone or something. I guided the lawn mower away from the children. Please stand there and guide away the cars. 2. to channel or route something away from someone or something. The farmer guided the creek water away from the main channel through a narrow ditch. We had to guide away the sheep from the road.

A guilty conscience needs no accuser. Prov. If you have done something wrong and feel guilty about it, you will be uncomfortable and want to confess even if no one accuses you of wrongdoing. Even though no one noticed him eating most of the cookies, Peter felt so bad about it that he told us what he had done. A guilty conscience needs no accuser.
gulp for air Fig. to eagerly or desperately try to get air or a breath. ☐ Tom gulped for air after trying to hold his breath for three minutes. ☐ Mary came up out of the water, gulping for air.

gulp something back† Fig. to force or hold back tears, sobs, etc. ☐ He gulped his sobs back and clutched at his wound. ☐ He gulped back his sobs.

gulp something down† to drink all of something, usually quickly. ☐ He gulped his coffee down and left. ☐ He gulped down his coffee.

gum something up† and gum the works up† Fig. to make something inoperable; to ruin someone’s plans. ☐ Please, Bill, be careful and don’t gum up the works. ☐ Tom sure gummed up the whole plan.

gun for someone 1. Lit. to seek one out to shoot one. ☐ They say that Tex is gunning for the sheriff. 2. Fig. to seek someone out in anger. ☐ The boss is gunning for you. ☐ I think that Walter is gunning for me.

gun someone or an animal down† Lit. to shoot someone or an animal. ☐ Max tried to gun a policeman down. ☐ The cop tried to gun down the rabid dog.

gung ho Inf. enthusiastically in favor of something. ☐ Bobby is really gung ho on his plan to start his own company.

gush (forth) (from someone or something) and gush (forth) (out of someone or something); gush (out) (from someone or something) to spout out of someone or something. (Can be words, water, blood, vomit, etc. The optional elements cannot be transposed.) ☐ The blood gushed forth from his wound. ☐ Curses gushed forth from Sharon. ☐ Water gushed forth out of the broken pipe. ☐ The words gushed out from her mouth. ☐ The curses gushed from her mouth in torrents.

gush over someone or something 1. Lit. [for liquid] to flood over someone or something. ☐ The floodwaters gushed over the farmland. ☐ The hot soup gushed over the cook as the huge pot tipped over. 2. Fig. [for someone] to heap praise, flattery, and compliments on someone or something. ☐ Aunt Mattie always gushed over us children so much that we dreaded her coming. ☐ All the guests gushed over my beet salad.

gush with something [for something] to flow with something. ☐ The stream gushed with the sudden runoff of the storm. ☐ The faucet gushed with brownish water, so I turned it off.

gussied up Rur. dressed up fancy. ☐ All the girls got gussied up for the dance, but the guys wore their regular clothes. ☐ Mary really got gussied up. She even curled her hair.

gussy someone or something up† Rur. to dress someone or something up; to make someone or something fancy. ☐ She gussied the kids up for the wedding. ☐ See if you can gussy up this room a little before folks get here.

gut feeling and gut reaction; gut response a personal, intuitive feeling or response. ☐ I have a gut feeling that something bad is going to happen. ☐ My gut reaction is that we should hire Susan for the job.

gut reaction Go to previous.

gut response Go to gut feeling.

guzzle something down† to drink something rapidly and eagerly. ☐ He guzzled the beer down and called for another. ☐ He guzzled down the beer and called for another.

gyp someone out of something to deceive someone in order to get something of value. ☐ The salesclerk gyped me out of a dollar. ☐ The taxi driver tried to gyp me out of a fortune by driving all over the place.
habituate someone to someone or something to accustom someone to someone or something. □ Soon she will habituate the baby to the new feeding schedule. □ The office staff worked hard to habituate the new employee to the schedule.

hack around Inf. to waste time. □ I'm just hacking around and doing nothing. □ Stop hacking around and get to work.

hack (away) at someone or something to chop at someone or something continuously. □ The brutal murderer hacked away at his victim. □ The woodcutter hacked at the tree and finally got it down.

hack one's way through something Fig. to cut one's way through something. □ We had to hack our way through the jungle. □ The surveyors hacked a pathway through the undergrowth.

hack someone (off) Inf. to annoy someone; to embarrass someone. □ It really hacks me when you drum your fingers like that. □ You really hack me off!

hack someone or something apart† 1. Lit. to chop up someone or something. □ The murderer hacked the victim apart. □ He hacked apart the victim. □ The butcher hacked the chicken apart. 2. Fig. to criticize someone or something severely. □ The review just hacked him apart for his poor showing in the play. □ The critic hacked apart all the actors in the play.

hack something Inf. to endure something; to deal with something. (The something is usually it.) □ I don't know if I can hack it. □ John works very hard, but he can't seem to hack it.

hack something down† to chop something down. □ Who hacked this cherry tree down? □ Who hacked down this cherry tree?

hack something off† to chop something off. □ I need to get up that tree and hack that big branch off before it bangs on the house. □ Please hack off that big branch.

hack something out of something and hack something out† 1. to cut or chop something out of something. □ Jill hacked the bone out of the roast. □ She hacked out the big bone. 2. to fashion something by carving or chiseling from something. □ He hacked a rabbit out of the chunk of wood. □ In no time, the carver had hacked out a rabbit.

hack something to something to cut something up into something roughly or crudely, such as pieces, bits, smithereens. □ The editor hacked my story to smithereens. □ Don't hack the turkey to pieces!

hack something up† 1. Lit. to chop something up into pieces. (Refers often to wood.) □ Hack all this old furniture up, and we'll burn it in the fireplace. □ Hack up this stuff, and we'll burn it. 2. Fig. to damage or mangle something. □ Who hacked my windowsill up? □ Who hacked up my table?

hacked (off) Inf. angry; annoyed. □ Wally was really hacked off about the accident. □ Oh, Wally is always hacked about something.

(had) best do something ought to do something, had better do something. □ Mary had best learn to mind her manners. □ You best listen to what I say.

had (just) as soon do something and would (just) as soon do something prefer to do something else; to be con-
tent to do something. (The would or had is usually expressed as the contraction 'd.) □ They want me to go into town. I'd as soon stay home. □ If you're cooking stew tonight, we'd as soon eat somewhere else. □ I would just as soon stay home as pay to go to see a bad movie.

(had) known it was coming Go to knew it was coming.

had rather do something and had sooner do something prefer to do something. (The had is usually expressed as the contraction, 'd.) □ I'd rather go to town than sit here all evening. □ They'd rather not.

had sooner do something Go to previous.

hadn't oughta Inf. should not have. □ You hadn't oughta teased me like that. □ I know I hadn't oughta stolen that candy.

haggle about something to bargain or negotiate about something. □ They are always willing to haggle about the price, so don't take the first price you're given. □ I wish you wouldn't try to haggle about everything when we shop.

haggle (with someone) over someone or something and haggle with someone (over someone or something) to argue with someone over someone or something. □ I don't want to haggle with you over Tom and whose team he's going to be on. □ Let's not haggle over the price. □ There is no point in haggling with her.

hail a cab and hail a taxi to signal to a taxi that you want to be picked up. □ See if you can hail a cab. I don't want to walk home in the rain.

hail a taxi Go to previous.

hail from some place to come from some place as one's hometown or birthplace; to originate in some place. □ He hails from a small town in the Midwest. □ Where do you hail from?

hail someone as something to praise someone for being something. □ The active members hailed him as fraternity brother of the year. □ Sally was hailed as an effective leader.

hair and hide(, horns and tallow) Rur. every last thing; every part. (Refers originally to using every part of slaughtered cattle for something.) □ They took everything Mary had, hair and hide, horns and tallow. □ Joe never threw anything away. He found a use for everything, hair and hide.

the hair of the dog that bit one Fig. a drink of liquor taken when one has a hangover; a drink of liquor taken

when one is recovering from drinking too much liquor. (Often the same type of liquor as one got drunk on.)
"Oh, I’m miserable. I need some of the hair of the dog that bit me. "That’s some hangover you’ve got there, Bob. Here, drink this. It’s some of the hair of the dog that bit you.

hale and hearty Cliché healthy. □ The young infant was hale and hearty. □ The calf—hale and hearty—ran around the barnyard.

hale-fellow-well-met Fig. friendly to everyone; falsely friendly to everyone. (Usually said of males.) □ Yes, he’s friendly, sort of hale-fellow-well-met. □ He’s not a very sincere person. Hail-fellow-well-met—you know the type. □ What a pain he is. Good old Mr. Hail-fellow-well-met. What a phony!

half a bubble off plumb Fig. giddy; crazy. □ She is acting about half a bubble off plumb. What is wrong with her? □ Tom is just half a bubble off plumb, but he is all heart.

Half a loaf is better than none. Prov. Getting only part of what you want is better than not getting anything. □ Fred: How did your court case go? Alan: Not good. I asked for $500, and the judge only awarded me $200. Fred: Half a loaf is better than none.

half in the bag intoxicated. □ Jerry was half in the bag when we found him. □ They were all half in the bag by midnight.

half the battle Fig. a significant part of an effort. □ Getting through traffic to the airport was half the battle. The flight was nothing at all.

half the time sometimes. □ I like that TV show, but half the time I forget to watch it when it’s on. □ She says she’s my friend, but she can’t remember my name, half the time.

Half the truth is often a whole lie. Prov. If you do not tell the whole truth, you can mislead people just as if you tell them an outright lie. □ Jill: You lied to me. Jane: I did not. Everything I said was true. Jill: But you didn’t tell me the whole story. And half the truth is often a whole lie.

Half the world knows not how the other half lives. Prov. You cannot understand what life is like for people who are different from you; often, rich people do not know what it is like to be poor, and poor people do not know what it is like to be rich. □ Until he spent school vacation at his friend Richard’s country home, Jim was never aware that some people do not have to work for a living. He discovered that half the world knows not how the other half lives. □ Bill decided to dress in secondhand clothes and spend the weekend among the homeless men in the warehouse district, to see how the other half lives.

half under 1. Lit. semiconscious. □ I was half under and could hear what the doctor was saying. □ I was afraid they would start cutting while I was only half under. 2. Fig. Inf. to be intoxicated; to be tipsy. □ He was half under and could barely stand up. □ Only four beers and she was half under.

halfhearted (about someone or something) unenthusiastic about someone or something. □ Ann was halfhearted about the choice of Sally for president. □ She didn’t look halfhearted to me. She looked angry.

ham something up! Fig. to make a performance seem silly by showing off or exaggerating one’s part. (A show-off actor is known as a ham.) □ Come on, Bob. Don’t ham it up! □ The play was going fine until Bob got out there and hammered up his part.

hammer (away) at someone Fig. to interrogate someone; to ask questions endlessly of someone. □ The cops kept hammering away at the suspect until he told them everything they wanted to know. □ They hammered at him for hours.

hammer (away) at something 1. Lit. to continue to do a task that requires much hammering. □ The roofers are hammering away at the job, trying to finish before night. 2. Lit. to pound at or on something, such as a door. □ Who is hammering away at the door? □ The police are hammering at the door. 3. Fig. to dwell overly long on a point or a question. □ Stop hammering away at the same thing over and over. □ The agents asked question after question. They would not stop hammering at the issue.

hammer on someone or something to pound something down even with the surrounding surface. □ Hammer all the nails down so that none of them will catch on someone’s shoe. □ Hammer down all these nails!

hammer something home! Fig. to try extremely hard to make someone understand or realize something. □ The boss hopes to hammer the firm’s poor financial position home to the staff. □ I tried to hammer home to Anne the fact that she would have to get a job.

hammer something into someone and pound something into someone; hammer someone in; pound someone in Fig. to teach something to someone intensively, as if one were driving the information in by force. □ Her parents had hammered good manners into her head since she was a child. □ They hammered in good manners every day. □ They pounded proper behavior into the children.

hammer something into something and pound something into something; hammer something in; pound something in Fig. to drive something into something as with a hammer. □ Todd hammered the spike into the beam. □ He hammered in the spike. □ He hammered it in with two hard blows.

hammer something onto something and hammer something on! to pound something onto something. □ I hammered the lid onto the paint can. □ She hammered on the lid very tightly.

hammer something out! 1. Lit. to hammer a dent away; to make a dent even with the surrounding surface. □ I’m going to have to have someone hammer this dent in my fender out. □ It will take a while to hammer out the dent. 2. Lit. to expand something by hammering it thinner. □ He hammered out the gold into a very thin sheet. □ He hammered out the gold into thin sheets. 3. Fig. to arrive at an agreement through argument and negotiation. □ The two parties could not hammer a contract out. □ At last, we were able to hammer out an agreement. 4. Fig. to play something on the piano. □ She hammered the song out loudly and without feeling. □ Listen to John hammer out that song on the piano.
hand in glove (with someone) Fig. very close to someone. ① John is really hand in glove with Sally. ② The teacher and principal work hand in glove.

*hand in hand 1. Lit. holding hands. (*Typically: do something ~; sit ~; walk ~.) ① They walked down the street hand in hand. ② Bob and Mary sat there quietly, hand in hand. ③ Fig. [of two things] together, one with the other. (*Typically: go ~.) ④ Cookies and milk seem to go hand in hand. ⑤ Teenagers and back talk go hand in hand.

*① a hand in something and ② a part in something Fig. a part in establishing or running something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) ① I would like to have a hand in the planning process. ② I will not let Jane have a part in this project.

Hand it over. Give it to me. (Fixed order.) ① It’s mine. Hand it over! ② Come on. Give me the box of jewels. Hand it over!

hand over fist Fig. [for money and merchandise to be exchanged] very rapidly. ① What a busy day. We took in money hand over fist. ② They were buying things hand over fist.

hand over hand Fig. [moving] one hand after the other (again and again). ① Sally pulled in the rope hand over hand. ② The man climbed up the rope hand over hand.

hand someone or something over† (to someone or something) to deliver someone or something to someone or a group; to relinquish someone or something to someone or a group. ① The kidnappers handed the child over to the go-between. ② All right, hand over the hostage!

hand someone something Fig. to tell someone something; to tell someone nonsense. ① Don’t hand me that stuff! That’s silly! ② She handed me a line about being a famous author.

hand something around† to pass something around. ① Hand this around and let everyone look at it. ② Hand around each of these pictures so everyone gets to see them.

hand something back† (to someone) to return something to someone by hand. ① Would you please hand this paper back to Scott? ② Hand back this book to Fred, if you please.

hand something down† from someone to someone to pass something down through many generations. ① I hope we can make it a tradition to hand this down from generation to generation. ② My descendants will hand down this watch from generation to generation.

hand something down† (to someone) 1. Lit. to pass something to a person on a lower level. ① Hand this wrench down to the man under the sink. ② Please hand down this wrench. 2. Fig. to give something to a younger person. (Either at death or during life.) ① John handed his old shirts down to his younger brother. ② I hope my uncle will hand down his golf clubs to me when he dies. 3. Fig. to announce or deliver a (legal) verdict or indictment. ① The grand jury handed seven indictments down last week. ② The jury handed down a guilty verdict.

hand something in† to submit something by hand. ① Did you hand your application form in? ② I forgot to hand in my test paper.

hand something in† (to someone) Go to pass something in† (to someone).
Handsome is as handsome does. Prov. It is more important to treat people well than to be good-looking; just because you are good-looking does not mean you are a good person. Jill: I'd like to get to know George better. Jane: Why? Jill: He's so handsome. Jane: Handsome is as handsome does. He's a very unpleasant person.

hang a few on! to take a few drinks; to have a few beers. They went out to hang a few on. Let's hang on a few and then go on to the meeting.

hang a hickey Sl. to make a U-turn. Hang a hickey in the middle of the block. Right here! Hang a hickey!

hang a left Inf. to turn left. He hung a left at the wrong corner. Hey, here! Hang a left here!

hang a louie Sl. to turn left. You have to hang a louie at the stop sign. Go another block and hang a louie.

hang a ralph Sl. to turn right. He skied down the easy slope and hung a ralph near a fir tree. Don't hang a ralph until you get past the traffic light.

hang a right Inf. to turn right. Hang a right about here. I told him to hang a right at the next corner, but he went on.

hang around (some place) to loiter some place; to be in a place or in an area, doing nothing in particular. Why are you hanging around my office? It's comfortable here. I think I'll hang around here for a while.

hang around someone or something Go to around someone or something.

hang around (with someone) and go around (with someone) Fig. to spend a lot of time with someone; to waste away time with someone. John hangs around with Bill a lot. They've been going around with the Smiths.

hang back (from someone or something) to lag back behind someone or something; to stay back from someone or something, perhaps in avoidance. Why are you hanging back from the rest of the group? Come on! Don't hang back!

hang behind (someone or something) to stay behind someone or something. Don't hang behind us, please. Come on up here and walk with us. Fred is hanging behind and may get lost at the next turn.

hang by a hair and hang by a thread 1. Lit. to hang by something very thin, such as a thread or a hair. The tiniest part of the mobile hung by a thread, the rest are on plastic cords. 2. and hang on by a hair; hang on by a thread Fig. to depend on something very insubstantial; to hang in the balance. Your whole argument is hanging by a thread. John isn't failing geometry, but his passing grade is just hanging by a hair.

hang by a thread Go to previous.

hang by something 1. to be suspended at the end of something, such as a rope, chain, string, etc. The bag is only hanging by a string. The food hung by a rope from a tree to protect it from the bears that wandered into camp now and then. 2. to dangle, suspended by some body part, such as thumbs, legs, etc. I was hanging by my legs on the exercise bar when the rain started. I can hang by just my middle fingers!

hang down (from someone or something) to be suspended from someone or something. Grasping vines hung down from the towering trees. Thousands of vines hung down.

hang fire to delay or wait; to be delayed. I think we should hang fire and wait for other information. Our plans have to hang fire until we get planning permission.

hang five and hang ten Sl. to stand toward the front of a surfboard or diving board and hang the toes of one or both feet over the edge. Surfing. The coach told her to hang ten and not to look down. Get out there and hang five. You can swim. Nothing can go wrong.

hang from something to be suspended from something. Colorful decorations hung from the branches of the tree. What is that hanging from the side of the building?

hang in the balance Go to in the balance.

Hang in there. Be patient, things will work out.

hang it all! Inf. Damn it all! Oh, hang it all! I'm late. He's late again! Hang it all!

hang it up Sl. to quit something, (Fixed order. See also hang something up.) I've had it with this job. It's time to hang it up. Just hang it up. Don't bother with it.

hang loose and stay loose to relax and stay calm. Just hang loose, man. Everything'll be all right. Stay loose, chum. See ya later.

* the hang of something the knowledge or knack of doing something correctly. Typically: get ~; have ~; teach someone ~. As soon as I get the hang of this computer, I'll be able to work faster. Now that I have the hang of starting the car in cold weather, I won't have to get up so early.

hang off to wait quietly to one side. The boys hung off a little, waiting to see what would happen next. Hang off awhile and don't do anything.

hang on 1. to wait awhile. Hang on a minute. I need to talk to you. Hang on. Let me catch up with you. 2. to survive for awhile. I think we can hang on without electricity for a little while longer. This cold has been hanging on for a month. This is the kind of flu that hangs on for weeks. 4. to be prepared for fast or rough movement. (Usually a command.) Hang on! The train is going very fast. Hang on! We're going to crash! to pause in a telephone conversation. Please hang on until I get a pen. If you'll hang on, I'll get her.

hang on by a thread Go to hang by a hair.

hang on for dear life Cliché to hang on tight. As the little plane bounced around over the mountains, we hung on for dear life.

hang on someone's coattails Go to ride on someone's coattails.

hang on (someone's) every word Cliché to listen closely or with awe to what someone says. Am hanging on your every word. Please go on. The audience hung on her every word throughout the speech.
hang on (to someone or something) and hold on (to someone or something) 1. Lit. to grasp someone or something. □ She hung on to her husband to keep warm. □ She sat there and hung on, trying to keep warm. 2. Fig. to detain someone or something. □ Please hang on to Tom if he's still there. I need to talk to him.

Hang on to your hat! and Hold on to your hat! Fig. Get ready for what's coming! Here comes a big shock! □ There is a rough road ahead. Hang on to your hat! □ Here we go! Hold on to your hat!

hang one on Go to tie one on.

hang one’s hat (up) somewhere to take up residence somewhere. □ George loves Dallas. He’s decided to buy a house and hang his hat up there. □ Bill moves from place to place and never hangs his hat up anywhere.

hang out (of something) to be visibly coming out of something. □ Your shirttail is hanging out of your pants. □ My shirttail was hanging out.

hang out (some place) 1. to spend time in a place habitually. □ Is this where you guys hang out all the time? 2. to spend time aimlessly; to waste time. □ Bill: What are you doing this afternoon? Tom: Oh, I’ll just hang out. □ Kids hang out too much these days.

hang out (with someone or something) to associate with someone or a group on a regular basis. □ She hangs out with Alice too much. □ I wish you would stop hanging out with that crowd of boys.

hang over someone or something 1. to be suspended over someone or something. □ A fancy crystal chandelier hangs over us. □ An ornate ceiling fan hangs over the table. 2. [for some prevailing quality] to seem to hover over someone or something. □ An aura of gloom hangs over Joe. □ A dismal pall hung over the gathering.

hang over someone’s head [for something unpleasant] to worry someone. □ I have a horrible exam hanging over my head. □ I hate to have medical problems hanging over me.

hang someone by the neck to execute someone or kill oneself by tying a noose around the neck and dropping the victim in order to break the neck or strangle the victim. □ The executioner hanged him by the neck until he died. □ He hanged himself by the neck.

hang someone for something 1. Lit. to execute someone by hanging for doing something. □ The state prosecutor will try to hang you for this crime. □ The sheriff wanted to hang Ted for murder. 2. Fig. to extract an overly severe punishment for some deed. □ They are trying to hang me for a parking ticket. □ You can’t hang me just for coming in late!

hang someone in effigy Fig. to hang a dummy or some other figure of a hated person. □ They hanged the dictator in effigy. □ The angry mob hanged the president in effigy.

hang someone or something from something to suspend someone or something from something. □ The captain wanted to hang him from the highest yardarm as punishment. □ I hung a colorful decoration from the windowsill.

hang someone or something with something to suspend someone or something with something, such as a rope, chain, thread, etc. (The past tense hanged is usually used only with the hanging of people.) □ The executioners hanged the criminal with a rope and later with a chain. □ They hung the picture with a golden cord.

hang someone out to dry Fig. to defeat or punish someone. □ The boss was really angry at Billie. He yelled at him and hung him out to dry.

hang something on someone Sl. to blame something on someone; to frame someone for something. (See also hang something on someone or something.) □ Don’t try to hang the blame on me! □ The sheriff tried to hang the bank robbery on Jed.

hang something on someone or something to drape or hook something on someone or something. (See also hang something on someone.) □ Hang this sign on Walter and see how he looks. □ Please hang this sign on the front door.

hang something out (of something) to suspend something outside of something while it is attached to the inside of something. □ He hung the rope out of the window so he could escape the burning building. □ She ran to the window and hung the rope out.

hang something over someone or something to suspend something over someone or something. □ Sally hung the colorful mobile over the baby’s crib. □ Please hang these garlands over the party table.

hang something up† to return the telephone receiver to its cradle. (See also hang it up.) □ Please hang this up when I pick up the other phone. □ Please hang up the phone.

hang ten Go to hang five.

hang together 1. Fig. [for something or a group of people] to hold together; to remain intact. □ I hope our bridge group hangs together until we are old and gray. □ I don’t think that this car will hang together for another minute. 2. Fig. [for a story] to flow from element to element and make sense. □ This story simply does not hang together. □ Your novel hangs together quite nicely. 3. Fig. [for people] to spend time together. □ We hung together for a few hours and then went our separate ways. □ The boys hung together throughout the evening.

hang tough (on something) Sl. to stick to one’s position (on something). □ I decided I’d hang tough on it. I tend to give in too easy. □ Yes, just hang tough.

hang up 1. [for a machine or a computer] to grind to a halt; to stop because of some internal complication. □ Our computer hung up right in the middle of printing the report. □ I was afraid that my computer would hang up permanently. 2. to replace the telephone receiver after a call; to terminate a telephone call. □ I said good-bye and hung up. □ Please hang up and place your call again.

hang up (in someone’s ear) Go to next.

hang up (on someone or something) 1. and hang up (on someone’s ear) to end a telephone call by returning the receiver to the cradle while the other party is still talking. □ She hung up on me! □ I had to hang up on all that rude talk. 2. to give up on someone or something; to quit dealing with someone or something. □ Finally, I had to hang up on Jeff. I can’t depend on him for anything. □ We hung up on them because we knew we couldn’t make a deal.

hang with someone Sl. to spend or waste time with someone. □ Dave spent the afternoon hanging with Don, and neither one got anything done. □ I’m going down to the corner and hang with the guys.
hanker after someone or something and hanker for someone or something Rur. to want someone or something; to long for someone or something. I hanker after a nice big beefsteak for dinner.

happen before someone’s time Go to before someone’s time.

happen in the (very) nick of time Go to in the (very) nick of time.

happen to someone or something to befall someone or something; to occur to someone or something. What is going to happen to me? Something awful happened to your car.

happen (up)on someone or something to come upon someone or something, as if by accident. (See also come (up)on someone or something.) I just happened upon a strange little man in the street who offered to sell me a watch.

*happy as a clam (at high tide) and *happy as a clam (in butter sauce); *happy as a lark; *happy as can be contented; very happy. I’ve been happy as a clam since I moved to the country. I don’t need much. Just somewhere to live, some work to do, and a TV to watch, and I’m happy as a clam at high tide.

Matthew was happy as a lark throughout his whole vacation. Bob was happy as can be when he won the lottery.

happy as a clam (in butter sauce) Go to previous.

happy as a lark Go to happy as a clam (at high tide).

happy as can be Go to happy as a clam (at high tide).

a happy camper a happy person. The boss came in this morning and found his hard disk trashed. He was not a happy camper.

happy hour a time to drink a cocktail, starting at about 5:00 p.m. (Often bars have lower prices during “happy hour.”) I think that Mary has been starting happy hour a little early. Before noon I think.

Happy is the bride that the sun shines on. Prov. It is supposed to be good luck for the sun to shine on a couple on their wedding day. Our wedding day was a sunny day, and most of my relatives made sure to remind me, “Happy is the bride that the sun shines on.”

Happy is the country which has no history. Prov. Since history tends to record only violent, unfortunate, or tumultuous events, a country with no history would be a country lucky enough to have no such unhappy events to record. The history of our country is so full of greed, violence, and dishonesty; happy is the country which has no history.

a harbinger of things to come and a portent of things to come; a sign of things to come; a sample of the events that are to occur in the future. The first cuts in our budget are a harbinger of things to come. Today’s visit from the auditors is a portent of things to come.

harbor something against someone or something to have and retain a bad feeling of some kind toward someone or something. I harbor no ill will against you. Alice does not harbor any bad feeling against the company that let her go.

a hard act to follow Go to a tough act to follow.

*hard as a rock and *hard as stone very hard. (Also: as ~.) This cake is as hard as a rock! I can’t drive a nail into this wood. It’s hard as stone.

*hard as nails Cliché [of someone] stern and unyielding. (Also: as ~.) Don’t try to bargain with Liz. She’s as hard as nails. Bob may seem sweet and easily swayed, but in fact he’s hard as nails.

hard as stone Go to hard as a rock.

hard at something and hard at doing something working hard at something. Tom’s busy. He’s hard at work on the lawn.

*hard feelings Fig. feelings of resentment or anger. (Typically: cause ~; have ~; give someone ~.) The argument caused a lot of hard feelings, but finally we got over it.

a hard nut to crack and a tough nut to crack Fig. difficult person or problem to deal with. This problem is getting me down. It’s a hard nut to crack. Tom is sure is a hard nut to crack. I can’t figure him out.

hard of hearing [of someone] unable to hear well or partially deaf. Please speak loudly. I am hard of hearing. Tom is hard of hearing, but is not totally deaf.

hard on someone’s heels Go to on someone’s heels.

hard on someone harming someone’s feelings; demanding much from someone. I wish you wouldn’t be so hard on me. So I make mistakes. I never said I was perfect.

hard put (to do something) and hard pressed (to do something) able to do something only with great difficulty. I’m hard put to come up with enough money to pay the rent. I get hard put like that about once a month.

a hard row to hoe Go to a tough row to hoe.

the hard sell high-pressure selling techniques. (Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) They gave me the hard sell, but I still wouldn’t buy the car. The clerk gave the customer the hard sell.

hard sledding and tough sledding Fig. a very difficult time. They had some hard sledding when they were first married. It was tough sledding for sure when our crops failed that year.

a hard time and a bad time; a rough time trouble [over something]; unnecessary difficulty. (Typically: have ~; give someone ~.) Please don’t give me a hard time. The clerk got a hard time from the boss, so he quit.

hard times Go to bad times.

hard to believe and hard to swallow not easily believed; hardly believable. Her story was hard to swallow, and it finally was proven to be a lie.

hard to swallow Go to previous.

hard to take difficult or painful to accept. The news was hard to take, but we soon realized that it was all for the best.

hard up (for something) greatly in need of something, especially money. Ann was hard up for cash to pay the bills. I was so hard up, I couldn’t afford to buy food.

Hard words break no bones. Prov. Verbal abuse does not physically hurt you, and therefore you should not be very upset by it. (Can be used to reply to someone who is verbally abusing you.) Jill: I can’t believe some of the
names Fred called me. Jane: Well, hard words break no bones.

**harden oneself to something** Fig. to make oneself capable of bearing something unpleasant. ☐ You will have to learn to harden yourself to tragedies like this. They happen every day in a hospital. ☐ She had learned to harden herself to the kinds of poverty she had to work in.

**harden something off** to accustom a young plant to normal weather so it can be moved from a protected environment to the out-of-doors. ☐ We put the plants by the open window to harden them off. ☐ We hardened off the plants.

**harden something up** to make something hard or strong. ☐ The soil was harder than the back of God’s head. We had a hard time digging it. ☐ The wood was solid and dense and harder than the back of God’s head.

**harder than the back of God’s head** Rur. very hard. ☐ The soil was harder than the back of God’s head. We had a hard time digging it. ☐ The wood was solid and dense and harder than the back of God’s head.

**hardly dry behind the ears** Go to wet behind the ears.

**hardly exchange more than** some number of words with someone Go to exchange no more than some number of words with someone.

**hardly have time to breathe** and **scarcely have time to breathe** Fig. to be very busy. ☐ This was such a busy day. I hardly had time to breathe. ☐ They made him work so hard that he scarcely had time to breathe.

**hardly have time to think** so busy that one can hardly think properly; very busy. ☐ I’ve been so busy that I hardly have time to think. ☐ I hardly have time to think in the job that I do. We are just too busy.

**hard-nosed** Fig. stern and unforgiving. ☐ Mr. Howe was known to be very hard-nosed, but he could really be friendly if you got to know him.

**hark(en) back to something** 1. to have originated as something; to have started out as something. (Harken is an older word meaning “pay heed to.”) ☐ The word icebox harks back to refrigerators that were cooled by ice. ☐ Our modern breakfast cereals hark back to the porridge and gruel of our ancestors. 2. to remind one of something. ☐ Seeing a horse and buggy in the park harks back to the time when horses drew milk wagons. ☐ Sally says it harkens back to the time when everything was delivered by horse-drawn wagons.

**harmonize with someone or something** to blend with someone or something musically. ☐ Please try to harmonize with the rest of the singers! ☐ Will you harmonize with the piano, please?

**harness an animal up** to put a harness on an animal, such as a horse. ☐ You had better harness the horses up so we can go. ☐ Please harness up the mare for me.

**harness someone or an animal to something** to attach someone, something, or an animal to something with a harness. ☐ The instructor harnessed me to the hang glider, and I really began to get nervous. ☐ Andrew harnessed the horses to the little wagon.

**harp on someone or something** Fig. to keep talking or complaining about someone or something; to refer to someone or something again and again. ☐ I wish you would quit harping on Jeff all the time. He couldn’t be all that bad. ☐ Stop harping on my mistakes and work on your own.

**has come and gone** has already arrived and has already departed. ☐ No, joy is not here. She’s come and gone. ☐ Sorry, you are too late for your appointment. The doctor has come and gone.

(Has the) **cat got your tongue?** Why are you not saying anything? (Often said by adults to children.) ☐ Grandpa used to terrify me, both because he was big and fierce-looking and because he usually greeted me by belowing, “Cat got your tongue?” ☐ Hi, Lisa! How are you? How’s your husband? Are you surprised to see me? What’s the matter, has the cat got your tongue?

**has the world by the tail (with a downhill drag)** Rur. has destiny under control. ☐ The young businessman had the world by the tail with a downhill drag. He had made a million dollars before he was twenty-five. ☐ She’s got the world by the tail now, but her fame won’t last forever.

**hash something over (with someone)** Fig. to discuss something with someone. ☐ I need to hash this matter over with you. ☐ I’ve hashed over this business enough.

**hash something up** 1. to chop something up. ☐ Now, hash the onion and garlic up and put it in the skillet. ☐ Now, hash up the beef and brown it. 2. to mess something up. ☐ Somebody hashed my manuscript up! ☐ Somebody hashed up my manuscript!

**hassle someone about something and hassle someone with something** to harass someone about something. ☐ Come on! Don’t hassle me about the deadline! ☐ Stop hassling me with all the little details.

**Haste makes waste.** Prov. You do not save any time by working too fast; hurrying will cause you to make mistakes, and you will have to take extra time to do the job over again. ☐ Fred: Hurry up and get my car fixed. Alan: Don’t rush me. Haste makes waste.

**hatch an animal out** to aid in releasing an animal from an egg. ☐ They hatched lots of ducks out at the hatchery. ☐ The farmer hatched out hundreds of chicks each month.

**hatchet man** a man who does the cruel or difficult things for someone else; someone who does someone else’s dirty work. ☐ He served as the president’s hatchet man and ended up doing all the dirty work.

**hate someone or something like sin** Fig. to hate someone or something a great deal. ☐ She won’t eat Brussels sprouts. She hates ’em like sin. ☐ I don’t want that man anywhere near me. I hate him like sin.

**hate someone’s guts** Fig. to hate someone very much. ☐ Oh, Bob is terrible. I hate his guts! ☐ You may hate my guts for saying so, but I think you’re getting gray hair.

**hats off to someone or something** Fig. let us salute or honor someone or something. ☐ Hat’s off to Perry for planning the dinner and finding such a good band.

**haul off and do something** 1. Inf. to draw back and do something, such as strike a person. ☐ She hauled off and slapped him hard. ☐ Max hauled off and poked Lefty in the nose. 2. Rur. to do something without a great deal of preparation. ☐ The old man hauled off and bought him—
haul someone in Fig. to arrest someone; [for a police officer] to take someone to the police station. □ The cop hauled the drunk driver in. □ They hauled in the suspects.

haul someone on the carpet Go to call someone on the carpet.

haul someone or something over to something to drag someone or something over to something. (Fixed order.) □ She hauled the boy over to the mess he made and forced him to clean it up. □ Ken hauled the logs over to the fireplace and laid the fire.

haul someone over the coals Go to rake someone over the coals.

haul someone (up') before someone or something Fig. to bring someone into the presence of someone or something, usually some officer of the law. □ The officer hauled the suspect up before the judge. □ She hauled up the suspect before the judge.

haul something down to pull something down from a higher level. □ Terry hauled the sail down and put it away. □ Please haul down the mainsail.

haul something (from some place) to some place and haul something from some place (to some place) to drag something from one place to another. □ I don't want to have to haul this thing from home to office and back again. □ I hauled my suitcase to the airport from my hotel.

haul something up (from something) to drag or pull something up from below. □ Jeff hauled the bucket up from the bottom of the well. □ He hauled up the bucket.

haul up (somewhere) and pull up (somewhere) to stop somewhere; to come to rest somewhere. □ The car hauled up in front of the house. □ My hat blew away just as the bus pulled up to the stop.

have a bad attitude to have a negative outlook on things; to be uncooperative. □ Perry has a bad attitude and has nothing positive to contribute to the conversation.

have a bad case of the simples Rur. to be stupid. □ That boy has a bad case of the simples. He can't understand anything. □ She acts smart enough on the playground, but get her in the classroom and she has a bad case of the simples.

have a bad effect on someone or something to be bad for someone or something. □ Aspirin has a bad effect on me. □ Cold weather has a bad effect on roses.

have a ball to have an exciting time. □ I plan to have a ball while I’m on vacation. □ Come on, everybody! Let's have a ball!

have a bear by the tail Go to have a tiger by the tail.

have a bellyful Inf. to have as much as one can stand. □ I’ve had a bellyful of your whining. Be quiet!

have a big mouth to be a gossiper; to be a person who tells secrets. □ Mary has a big mouth. She told Bob what I was getting him for his birthday. □ You shouldn’t say things like that about people all the time. Everyone will say you have a big mouth.

have a big mouth to be a gossiper; to be a person who tells secrets. □ Mary has a big mouth. She told Bob what I was getting him for his birthday. □ You shouldn’t say things like that about people all the time. Everyone will say you have a big mouth.

have a blast Inf. to have a great time; to have a lot of fun. □ The food was good and we had a blast. Thanks for inviting us to the party.

Have a blimp! Sl. Have a good year! (A reference to the Goodyear blimp, which is famous for being at notable events.) □ Good-bye. Have a blimp! □ Have a blimp! See you next summer.

have a blowout 1. [for one's car tire] to burst. □ I had a blowout on the way here. I nearly lost control of the car. □ If you have a blowout in one tire, you should check the other tires. 2. Sl. to have a big, wild party; to enjoy oneself at a big party. □ Mary and Bill had quite a blowout at their house Friday night. □ Fred and Tom had quite a blowout last night.

have a bone to pick (with someone) to have a disagreement to discuss with someone; to have something to argue about with someone. □ Hey, Bill. I’ve got a bone to pick with you. Where is the money you owe me? □ I had a bone to pick with her, but she was so sweet that I forgot about it.

have a brush with something to have a brief contact with something; to have an experience with something. (Especially with the law. Sometimes a close brush.) □ Ann had a close brush with the law. She was nearly arrested for speeding. □ When I was younger, I had a brush with scarlet fever, but I got over it.

have a burr under one's saddle Rur. to be irritated by something. □ Joe has a burr under his saddle because Jane's going out with Bill tonight. □ Mary must have a burr under her saddle. She's been snapping at me all day.

have a buzz on Fig. to be intoxicated. (Fixed order.) □ Pete has a buzz on and is giggling a lot. □ Both of them had a buzz on by the end of the celebration.

have a case (against someone) to have much evidence that can be used against someone in court. □ Do the police have a case against John? □ No, they don't have a case.

have a change of heart Fig. to change one's attitude or decision, usually from a negative to a positive position. □ I had a change of heart at the last minute and gave the beggar some money. □ Since I talked to you last, I have had a change of heart. I now approve of your marrying Sam.

have a clear conscience (about someone or something) and have a clean conscience (about someone or something) to be free of guilt about someone or something. □ I’m sorry that John got the blame. I have a clean conscience about the whole affair. □ I have a clear conscience about John and his problems. □ I didn’t do it. I swear to that with a clean conscience.

have a close call Go to next.

have a close shave and have a close call Fig. to have a narrow escape from something dangerous. □ What a close shave I had! I nearly fell off the roof when I was working there. □ I almost got struck by a speeding car. It was a close shave.

have a clue (about something) Fig. to know anything about something; to have even a hint about someone or something. (Usually negative.) □ I don’t have a clue about where to start looking for Jim. □ Why do you think I have a clue about Tom’s disappearance?
have a conniption (fit) Rur. to get angry or hysterical. (See also have a fit) □ I got so mad I thought I was going to have a conniption. □ My father had a conniption fit when I got home this morning.

have a corncob up one’s ass and have a poker up one’s ass 1. Inf. to be very stiff. (Use with caution.) □ How come you’re acting so high-and-mighty with me? Do you have a corncob up your ass? □ He was a terrible actor, stiff and wooden. He looked like he had a poker up his ass. 2. Inf. to be very touchy or irritable. □ Wow! Old Mr. Webster really has a corncob up his ass this morning. Watch out! □ Tom has a poker up his ass and he’s looking for you. Better make yourself scarce.

have a death wish Fig. to seem to be willing to take all sorts of needless risks. □ Look at the way that guy drives. He must have some sort of a death wish.

have a familiar ring (to it) Fig. for a story or an explanation] to sound familiar. □ Your excuse has a familiar ring. Have you done this before? □ This term paper has a familiar ring to it. I think it has been copied.

have a field day Fig. to experience freedom from one’s usual work schedule; to have a very enjoyable time. (As with children who are released from classes to take part in sports and athletic contests.) □ The boss was gone and we had a field day today. No one got anything done. □ The air was fresh and clear and everyone had a field day in the park during the lunch hour.

have a finger in the pie and have one’s finger in the pie Fig. to have a role in something; to be involved in something. (See also have one’s finger in too many pies) □ Tess wants to have a finger in the pie. She doesn’t think we can do it by ourselves. □ Sally always wants to have a finger in the pie.

have a fit and throw a fit to be very angry; to show great anger. (See also have a conniption (fit).) □ The teacher had a fit when the dog ran through the classroom. □ John threw a fit when he found his car had been damaged.

have a flair for something to have a talent for doing something; to have a special ability in some area. □ Alice has quite a flair for designing. □ I have a flair for fixing clocks.

have a gift for (doing) something Fig. to have a natural talent for doing something. □ Tony has a gift for writing short stories. □ Sharon has a gift for dealing with animals.

have a glass jaw Fig. to be susceptible to a knockout when struck on the head. (Said only of boxers who are frequently knocked down by a blow to the head.) □ When the prizefighter was knocked out cold by a right to the chin in the first round, the newspapers said he had a glass jaw. □ Once a fighter has a glass jaw, he’s finished as a boxer.

have a go at something Go to a try at something.

have a good arm Fig. to have a strong and conditioned arm for sports, especially pitching in baseball. □ Perry had a good arm, but he often pitched wide of the plate.

have a good command of something to know something well. □ Bill has a good command of French. □ Jane has a good command of economic theory.

have a good head on one’s shoulders Fig. to have common sense; to be sensible and intelligent. □ Mary doesn’t do well in school, but she’s got a good head on her shoulders. □ John has a good head on his shoulders and can be depended on to give good advice.

have a (good) mind to do something Fig. have an inclination to do something. □ I have a good mind to tell him just what I think of him. □ She had a mind to go to college, but her folks talked her out of it.

Have a good one. Go to Have a nice day.

have a good thing going to have something of an ongoing nature arranged for one’s own benefit. □ Sally paints pictures and sells them at art fairs. She has a good thing going, and she makes good money. □ John inherited a fortune and doesn’t have to work for a living anymore. He’s got a good thing going.

Have a good time. Enjoy yourself in what you are about to do. (Often said when someone is about to leave for an event.) □ Bill: I’m leaving for the party now. Father: Have a good time. □ Sue: Tonight is the formal dance at the Palmer House, and I’m going. Mary: Have a good time. I’m watching television right here.

Have a good trip. and Have a nice trip. Have a pleasant journey. (Compare this with Have a safe trip. This phrase avoids references to safety.) □ As Sue stepped onto the plane, someone in a uniform said, “Have a nice trip.” □ “Have a good trip,” said Bill, waving his good-byes.

have a (good) working over Go to a (good) working over.

have a green thumb Fig. to have the ability to grow plants well. □ Just look at Mr. Simpson’s garden. He has a green thumb. □ My mother has a green thumb when it comes to houseplants.

have a head for something Fig. to have the mental capacity for something. □ Jane has a good head for directions and never gets lost. □ Bill doesn’t have a head for figures and should never become an accountant.

have a heart Fig. to be compassionate; to be generous and forgiving; to have an especially compassionate heart. □ Oh, have a heart! Give me some help! □ If Anne had a heart, she’d volunteer to help us on the charity drive.

have a heart of gold Cliché to be generous, sincere, and friendly. □ Mary is such a lovely person. She has a heart of gold. □ You think Tom stole your watch? Impossible! He has a heart of gold.

have a heart of stone Fig. to be cold and unfriendly. □ Sally has a heart of stone. She never even smiles. □ The villain in the play had a heart of stone. He was cruel to everyone.

have a heart-to-heart (talk) Fig. to have a sincere and intimate talk. □ I had a heart-to-heart talk with my father before I went off to college. □ I have a problem, John. Let’s sit down and have a heart-to-heart.

have a hidden talent and have hidden talents Fig. to have talents or skills that no one knows about. □ Wow, Perry! I didn’t know you had so many hidden talents.

have a hitch in one’s gait along Rur. to have a permanent or temporary limp. □ Pappy’s got quite a hitch in his gait along since he broke his hip.

have a hunch (that something is the case) and have a hunch about something to have an idea about what did, will, or should happen; to have a feeling that something
have a nose for something Fig. to have the ability to sense or find something, such as news, trouble, gossip, etc.  □ Fred has a nose for news. She’s a good reporter.  □ Fred has a nose for gossip.

have a one-track mind Fig. to think entirely or almost entirely about one subject.  □ Adolescent boys often have one-track minds. All they’re interested in is the opposite sex.  □ Bob has a one-track mind. He can only talk about football.

have a passion for someone or something Fig. to have a strong feeling of need or desire for someone, something, or some activity.  □ Mary has a great passion for chocolate.  □ John has a passion for fishing, so he fishes as often as he can.

have a penchant for doing something to have a taste, desire, or inclination for doing something.  □ John has a penchant for eating fattening foods.  □ Ann has a penchant for buying clothes.

have a place in something to have a role in some plan or some activity.  □ Do I have a place in the negotiations?  □ Mary did not have a place in any of this.

have a rare old time a fine and enjoyable time at a party or something similar.  □ We had a rare old time at Tom’s the other night.  □ I haven’t had a rare old time like that in years.

have a rough time (of it) and have a tough time (of it) to experience a difficult period.  □ Since his wife died, Mr. Brown has been having a rough time of it.  □ Be nice to Bob. He’s been having a rough time at work.

have a roving eye to be flirtatious; to be interested in having sexual relations outside of marriage. (Usually used to describe men.)  □ Poor Maria. Her husband has a roving eye.  □ When they were first married, he had a roving eye.

the city had a run of serious crimes that angered the citizens.  □ The city had a run of huge sales increases over the last few years.

have a run-in with someone or something to have trouble with someone or something.  □ I had a run-in with Mrs. Wilson. She’s a hard case.  □ We’ve had a run-in before.

Have a safe journey. Go to next.

Have a safe trip. and Have a safe journey. I hope that your journey is safe.; Be careful and assure that your journey is safe. (Said as someone is about to leave for a trip.)  □ Bill: Well, we’re off for London. Sally: Have a safe trip.  □ Bill: You’re driving all the way to San Francisco? Bob: Yes, indeed. Bill: Well, have a safe trip.

have a score to settle (with someone) Fig. to have a problem to clear up with someone; to have to get even with someone about something.  □ I have a score to settle with John since he insulted me at our party.  □ John and I have a score to settle.

have a scrape (with someone or something) Fig. to come into contact with someone or something; to have a small battle with someone or something.  □ I had a scrape with the county sheriff.  □ John and Bill had a scrape, but they are friends again now.

have a screw loose and have a loose screw; have got a screw loose Inf. Fig. to be silly or eccentric.  □ He’s sort of strange. I think he’s got a loose screw.  □ Yes, he has a screw loose somewhere. He wears a heavy jacket in the middle of summer.
have a seat to sit down. (Often a polite invitation to sit down.) □ Have a seat. I’ll be with you in a minute.

have a set-to (with someone) to have an argument or fight with someone. □ Perry and Emmett had quite a set-over the choice of music.

have a soft spot (in one’s heart) for someone or an animal Fig. to have a fondness for someone, something, or an animal. □ I have a soft spot in my heart for Jeff. I’ll always be his friend. □ Elaine has a soft spot for kittens.

have a (sound) grasp of something Go to a (solid) grasp of something.

have a spaz SL. to get angry or hysterical; to have a convulsion (fit). (Spaz is short for a spasmodic attack or fit.) □ If my dad hears about this, he’ll have a spaz. □ The teacher had a spaz when I came in so late.

have a stake in something Fig. to have something at risk in something: to have a financial or other interest in something. □ I have a stake in that company. I want it to make a profit. □ I don’t have a stake in it, so I don’t care.

have a stroke to experience sudden unconsciousness or paralysis due to an interruption in the blood supply to the brain. (Also used as an exaggeration. See the last example.) □ The patient who received an artificial heart had a stroke two days after the operation. □ My great-uncle Bill—who is very old—had a stroke last May. □ Calm down. Bob. Don’t have a stroke over a silly mistake.

have a sweet tooth Fig. to desire to eat many sweet foods—especially candy and pastries. □ I have a sweet tooth, and if I don’t watch it, I’ll really get fat. □ John eats candy all the time. He must have a sweet tooth.

have a thing about someone or something 1. to have a special fear or dislike of someone or something. □ Kelly has a thing about Tim. She simply hates him. □ I have a thing about snakes. 2. to have a craving for someone or something. □ I have a thing about Maggie. I guess I’m in love. □ Elaine has a thing about strawberry ice cream. She can’t get enough of it.

have a thing going (with someone) and have something going (with someone) Fig. to have a romance or a love affair with someone. □ John and Mary have a thing going. □ Bill has something going with Ann.

have a thirst for something 1. Lit. to be thirsty for something to drink. □ I have a thirst for a tall glass of iced tea. 2. Fig. to have a craving or desire for something. □ The tyrant had an intense thirst for power. □ The actor’s thirst for fame caused him to become unscrupulous.

have a tiger by the tail and have got a tiger by the tail; have a bear by the tail Fig. to have become associated with something powerful and potentially dangerous; to have a very difficult problem to solve. □ You have a tiger by the tail. You bit off more than you could chew. □ You’ve had a bear by the tail ever since you agreed to finish that big project.

have (a) use for someone or something 1. to have need for someone or something. (Often negative. Note the use of any and no in several examples.) □ I have no use for Josh and his big fancy car. □ See if you have use for this hammer. □ Do you have any use for this? □ I have no use for that. 2. to like someone or something. (Often negative. Note the use of any and no in several examples.) □ I don’t have any use for sweet potatoes. □ I have no use for Harry.

have a way with someone or something to have a special and effective way of dealing with someone or something. □ She has a way with Jeff. She can get him to do anything. □ Sarah has a way with flowers. She can arrange them beautifully.

have a way with words to have talent in the effective or stylish use of words. (See also have the gift of the gab.) □ Ask Perry to make the announcement. He has a way with words.

have a weakness for someone or something Fig. to be unable to resist someone or something; to be (figuratively) powerless against someone or something. □ I have a weakness for chocolate. □ John has a weakness for Mary. I think he’s in love.

have a weight problem Euph. to be fat; to be overweight. □ He had a weight problem when he was a teenager, but he slimmed down once he started exercising. □ She has a weight problem, but she’s a lovely woman.

have a whack at something Go to a try at something.

have a whale of a time Fig. to have an exciting or fun time; to have a big time. (Whale is a way of saying big.) □ We had a whale of a time at Sally’s birthday party. □ Enjoy your vacation! I hope you have a whale of a time.

have a yellow belly and have a yellow streak down one’s back Fig. to be cowardly. □ Tex has a yellow streak down his back a mile wide. He’s afraid to cross the street!

have a yellow streak down one’s back Go to previous.

have all one’s marbles Fig. to have all one’s mental faculties; to be mentally sound. (Very often with a negative or said to convey doubt.) □ I don’t think he has all his marbles. □ Do you think Bob has all his marbles?

have an accident 1. to experience something that was not foreseen or intended. □ Traffic is very bad. I almost had an accident. □ Drive carefully. Try to avoid having an accident. 2. Euph. to lose control of the bowels or the bladder. (Usually said of a young child.) □ “Oh, Ann,” cried Mother. “It looks like you’ve had an accident!” □ Mother asked Billy to go to the bathroom before they left so that he wouldn’t have an accident in the car.

have an ace up one’s sleeve Go to have something up one’s sleeve.

have an affair (with someone) to have a love affair with someone. □ When I was 20, I had an affair with a rock star, and really made a fool of myself.

have an alcohol problem and have a drinking problem Euph. to be a drunkard. □ He has an alcohol problem. It got so bad that he almost lost his job. □ If you have a drinking problem, our clinic can help.

have an appetite for something 1. Lit. to have a desire to eat something in particular. □ I have an appetite for a nice big steak. 2. Fig. to have a desire to have, see, hear, etc., something. □ Bobby has a big appetite for sports and activity. □ Bob has no appetite for violence on television.

have an argument (with someone) to argue with someone. □ Let’s not have an argument with the boss. □ Tom and John had an argument.
have an ax(e) to grind Fig. to have something to complain about. □ Tom, I need to talk to you. I have an ax to grind. □ Bill and Bob went into the other room to argue. They had an axe to grind.

have an ear for something Fig. to have the ability to learn music or languages. □ Bill doesn't have an ear for music. He can't carry a tune. □ Mary has a good ear for languages.

have an easy time of it to have an experience with something that is less difficult or severe than others have experienced. □ We were given a hard assignment, but Fred had an easy time of it.

have an effect on someone or something to cause a result in someone or something. □ The storm had a bad effect on the baby, who cried all night. □ Will this have an effect on my taxes?

have an eye for someone or something Fig. to have a taste or an inclination for someone or something. □ Bob has an eye for beauty. □ He has an eye for color.

have an impact on someone or something to leave an impression on someone or something. □ The sharp change in interest rates had an impact on the housing market. □ Your story really had an impact on me.

have another guess coming Go to next.

have another think coming and have another guess coming to have to rethink something because one was wrong the first time. (Think is a noun here.) □ She's quite wrong. She has another think coming if she wants to walk in here like that. □ You have another guess coming if you think you can treat me like that!

have arrived to have reached a position of power, authority, or prominence. □ Jane saw her picture on the cover of the magazine and felt that she had finally arrived. □ When I got an office with a window, I knew that I had arrived.


have at someone to go at someone; to attack someone. □ The boys had at the gang members and gave them a beating. □ I just knew John was going to have at Fred.

have at something Go to get at something.

have bats in one's belfry Inf. Fig. to be crazy. □ You must really have bats in your belfry if you think I'll put up with that kind of stuff. □ Pay no attention to her. She has bats in her belfry.

have been around to be experienced in life. (Use with caution since this can also be taken to mean to be promiscuous.) □ Ask Sally about how the government works. She's been around the state capital for years. □ They all know a lot about life. They've been around.

have been to hell and back Fig. to have survived a great deal of trouble. □ What a terrible day! I feel like I have been to hell and back. □ After a day of shopping, I feel like I have been to hell and back.

have bigger fish to fry and have other fish to fry; have more important fish to fry Fig. to have other things to do; to have more important things to do. □ I can't take time for your problem. I have other fish to fry. □ I won't waste time on your question. I have bigger fish to fry.

have broad shoulders 1. Lit. to have wide shoulders. □ She has broad shoulders because she exercises and lifts weights. 2. Fig. to have the ability to cope with unpleasant responsibilities; to have the ability to accept criticism or rebuke. □ No need to apologize to me. I can take it. I have broad shoulders. □ Karen may have broad shoulders, but she can't endure endless criticism.

have calluses from patting one's own back and break one's arm patting oneself on the back Fig. to be a braggart. □ If you haven't heard about Bill's latest achievement, he'd be glad to tell you. He has calluses from patting his own back. □ Jane: I did a really wonderful job, if I do say so myself. Tom: If you're not careful, you'll break your arm patting yourself on the back.

have carnal knowledge of someone Euph. to have had sex with someone. (Formal or jocular.) □ She had never before had carnal knowledge of a man.

have cause to do something to have a justifiable reason to do something. □ Do you have cause to think that Mary took your money? □ He had no cause to yell at me like that.

have clean hands Fig. to be guiltless. (As if a guilty person would have dirty or bloody hands.) □ Don't look at me. I have clean hands. □ The police took him in, but let him go after questioning because he had clean hands.

have come a long way 1. Lit. to have traveled a long distance. □ You've come a long way. You must be tired and hungry. □ I've come a long way. Please let me rest. 2. Fig. to have accomplished much; to have advanced much. □ My, how famous you are. You've come a long way. □ Tom has come a long way in his career in a short time.

have confidence in someone to trust someone; to know that someone will be true. □ I have confidence in you, and I know you will do well. □ Randy tends not to have confidence in anyone.

have designs on someone or something Fig. to have plans to exploit or somehow take advantage of someone or something. □ Mrs. Brown has designs on my apple tree. I think she's going to cut off the part that hangs over her fence. □ Mary has designs on Bill. I think she'll try to date him.

have dibs on something to reserve something for oneself; to claim something for oneself. (Often said by children.) □ I have dibs on the last piece of cake. □ John has dibs on the last piece again. It isn't fair.

have doubts about someone or something to have questions or suspicions about someone or something. □ I have doubts about Alice and whether she can do it. □ We have no doubts about the usefulness of this project.

have egg on one's face Fig. to be embarrassed by something one has done. (As if one went out in public with a dirty face.) □ I was completely wrong, and now I have egg on my face. □ She's really got egg on her face!

have eyes in the back of one's head Fig. to seem to be able to sense what is going on behind or outside of one's field of vision. □ My teacher seems to have eyes in the back of her head. □ My teacher doesn't need to have eyes in the back of his head. He watches us very carefully.

have faith in someone to believe someone; to trust someone to do or be what is claimed. □ I have faith in you. I
know you will try your best. ☐ We have faith in you and know you can do the job well.

have feelings about someone or something to have preferences or notions about someone or something. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ I don’t have any feelings about Jeff. You can choose him if you want. ☐ I have no feelings about this matter. Do what you want.

have feet of clay Fig. [for a strong person] to have a defect of character. ☐ All human beings have feet of clay. No one is perfect. ☐ Sally was popular and successful. She was nearly fifty before she learned that she, too, had feet of clay.

have fun to experience enjoyment. ☐ Please forget your problems and have fun.

have (got) a glow on Fig. to be intoxicated; to be tipsy. (Fixed order.) ☐ Since you already have a glow on, I guess you won’t want another drink. ☐ Jed had a glow on and was acting silly.

have (got) a glow on Fig. to be intoxicated; to be tipsy. (Fixed order.) ☐ Since you already have a glow on, I guess you won’t want another drink. ☐ Jed had a glow on and was acting silly.

have growing pains 1. Fig. [for a child] to have pains—which are attributed to growth—in the muscles and joints. ☐ The doctor said that all Mary had were growing pains and that nothing was really wrong. ☐ Not everyone has growing pains. 2. Fig. [for an organization] to have difficulties in its early stages of growth. ☐ The banker apologized for losing my check and said the bank was having growing pains. ☐ The new administration was having terrible growing pains.

have had enough to have had as much of something as is needed or will be tolerated. ☐ Stop yelling at me. I’ve had enough. ☐ No more potatoes, please. I’ve had enough. ☐ I’m leaving you, Bill. I’ve had enough!

have had it (up to here) to have reached the end of one’s endurance or tolerance. (When used with up to here, can be accompanied by a gesture, such as the hand held at the neck.) ☐ Okay, I’ve had it. You kids go to bed this instant. ☐ We’ve all had it up to here with you, John. Get out!

have had its day to be no longer useful or successful. ☐ Streetcars have had their day in most American cities. ☐ Some people think that the fountain pen has had its day, but others prefer it to other kinds of pens.

have half a mind to do something Go to next.

have half a notion to do something and have half a mind to do something Fig. to have almost decided to do something, especially something unpleasant. ☐ I have half a mind to go off and leave you here. ☐ The cook had half a notion to serve cold chicken.

have hell to pay Go to have the devil to pay.

have hidden talents Go to have a hidden talent.

have (high) hopes of something Fig. to be expecting something. ☐ I have hopes of getting there early. ☐ We have high hopes that John and Mary will have a girl.

Have I got something for you? Inf. I have something really exciting for you! (Said earnestly, before saying or showing something surprising or exciting.) ☐ Have I got something for you? Wait’ll you hear about it! ☐ Have I got something for you? You’re gonna love it.

Have I made myself clear? Do you understand exactly what I am telling you? (Indicates anger or dominance.) ☐ I don’t intend to warn you again. Have I made myself clear?

☐ I do not want you to hang around with Tim ever again! Have I made myself clear?

have intimate relations with someone Euph. to have sex with someone. ☐ I understand that Jim once had intimate relations with Sarah. ☐ Rumor has it that she has had intimate relations with someone other than her husband.

have it (all) over someone or something (in something) to be much better than someone or something. ☐ This cake has it all over that one. ☐ My car has it all over yours.

have it all together and have got it all together to be mentally and physically organized; to be of sound mind. ☐ I don’t have it all together today. ☐ Try me again later when I have it all together.

have it both ways to have both of two incompatible things. ☐ John wants the security of marriage and the freedom of being single. He wants to have it both ways. ☐ John thinks he can have it both ways—the wisdom of old age and the vigor of youth.

have it in for someone to be mad at someone; to wish to harm someone. ☐ Jane seems to have it in for Jerry. I don’t know why. ☐ Max has it in for his old girlfriend since she broke up with him.

have it in one to do something to have the motivation or inspiration to do something. ☐ She just doesn’t have it in her to go back home. ☐ I wanted to help out, but I just didn’t have it in me.

have it made and have got it made to have succeeded; to be set for life. ☐ I have a good job and a nice little family. I have it made. ☐ He’s really got it made since he won the lottery.

have it made in the shade and have got it made in the shade Sl. to have succeeded; to be set for life. ☐ Wow, is he lucky! He has it made in the shade. ☐ Sarah’s got it made in the shade with her huge inheritance.

Have it your way. It will be done your way.; You will get your way. (Usually shows irritation on the part of the speaker.) ☐ Tom: I would like to do this room in blue. Sue: I prefer yellow. I really do. Tom: Okay. Have it your way. ☐ Jane: Let’s get a pie. Apple would be good. Bob: No: If we are going to buy a whole pie, I want a cherry pie, not apple. Jane: Oh, have it your way!

have just one oar in the water Rur. to not be thinking clearly. ☐ Tom has some crazy plan for opening his own restaurant. If you ask me, he has just one oar in the water. ☐ She has just one oar in the water if she thinks Bill is going to pay any attention to her.

have kittens to get extremely upset. ☐ My mother pretty near had kittens when she found out I got fired. ☐ Calm down. Don’t have kittens.

have more luck than sense to be lucky but not intelligent. ☐ Jane went driving out into Death Valley without any water. She survived—she has more luck than sense. ☐ Tom: I like to drive ninety miles an hour on the freeway. Nobody’s ever caught me. Mary: You have more luck than sense.

have more than one string to one’s fiddle Rur. to have many talents. ☐ Joe has more than one string to his fiddle. He’s a good painter, and he also cooks and fixes cars. ☐ This job involves a lot of different duties. We’ll need to hire someone who has more than one string to his fiddle.
have neither rhyme nor reason Go to neither rhyme nor reason.

(have) never had it so good have never had so much good fortune. □ No, I’m not complaining. I’ve never had it so good. □ Mary is pleased with her new job. She’s never had it so good.

have no business doing something to be wrong to do something; to be extremely unwise to do something. □ You have no business bursting in on me like that! □ You have no business spending money like that!

have no staying power to lack endurance; not to be able to last. □ Sally can swim fast for a short distance, but she has no staying power. □ That horse can start fairly fast, but it has no staying power.

have no truck with something Rur. to have nothing to do with something. □ After the way Mary treated me, I’ll have no truck with her. □ We only show good, wholesome movies at this theater. We have no truck with most of that Hollywood trash.

have none of something to tolerate or endure no amount of something. □ I’ll have none of your talk about quitting school. □ We’ll have none of your gossip. □ I wish to have none of the sweet potatoes, please.

have nothing on someone 1. to lack the evidence necessary to place a charge against someone. □ The police had nothing on Bob, so they let him loose. □ You’ve got nothing on me! Let me go! 2. to have an advantage over someone. □ Roger has nothing on me when it comes to basketball.

have nothing on someone or something to have no information about someone or something. (See also have nothing on someone.) □ The dictionary had nothing on the word I looked up. □ The librarian said that the library has nothing on the topic of my paper.

have nothing to do with someone or something and not have anything to do with someone or something to prefer not to associate or be associated with someone or something. □ I don’t like Mike so I won’t have anything to do with the books he writes. □ Bob will have nothing to do with Mary since she quit her job.

have one foot in the grave Fig. to be almost dead. □ I was so sick, I felt as if I had one foot in the grave. □ Poor old Uncle Herman has one foot in the grave.

have one in the oven Fig. to be pregnant with a child. □ She’s got three kids now and one in the oven.

have one’s ass in a sling and have got one’s ass in a sling Sl. to be dejected or hurt; to be pouting. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ She’s got her ass in a sling because she got stood up. □ So you didn’t get a perfect score. Why do you have your ass in a sling?

have one’s back to the wall Fig. to be in a defensive position. □ He’ll have to give in. He has his back to the wall. □ How can I bargain when I’ve got my back to the wall?

have one’s brain on a leash Sl. to be drunk. □ Max had his brain on a leash before he even got to the party. □ Some guy who had his brain on a leash ran his car off the road.

have one’s cake and eat it too and eat one’s cake and have it too Cliche to have in one’s possession something and be able to use or exploit it; to have it both ways. (Usually stated in the negative.) □ Tom wants to have his cake and eat it too. It can’t be done. □ Don’t buy a car if you want to walk and stay healthy. You can’t eat your cake and have it too.

have one’s druthers Go to have one’s rathers.

have one’s ear to the ground Go to keep an ear to the ground.

have one’s eye on someone or something Go to keep an eye on someone or something.

have one’s eye out (for someone or something) Go to keep an eye out (for someone or something).

have one’s feet on the ground Go to keep one’s feet on the ground.

have one’s finger in too many pies Fig. to be involved in too many things; to have too many tasks going to be able to do any of them well. (See also have a finger in the pie.) □ I’m too busy. I have my finger in too many pies. □ She never gets anything done because she has her finger in too many pies.

have one’s finger(s) in the till Go to have one’s hand in the till.

have one’s hand in something Fig. to exercise control over something; to play an identifiable role in doing something. (See also have a hand in something.) □ She always has to have her hand in everything. □ I want to have my hand in the arrangement.

have one’s hand in the till and have one’s finger(s) in the till Fig. to steal money from one’s employer. □ James couldn’t afford that car on just his salary. He must have his hand in the till. □ Sally was outraged when she found that one of her salesclerks had his fingers in the till.

have one’s hands full (with someone or something) Fig. to be busy or totally occupied with someone or something. □ I have my hands full with my three children. □ You have your hands full with managing the store.

have one’s hands tied Fig. to be prevented from doing something. (As if one’s hands were made immobile.) □ I can’t help you. I was told not to, so I have my hands tied. □ John can’t help. He has his hands tied by his boss.

have one’s head in the clouds Fig. to be unaware of what is going on from fantasies or daydreams. □ “Bob, do you have your head in the clouds?” asked the teacher. □ She walks around all day with her head in the clouds. She must be in love.

have one’s head in the sand Go to bury one’s head in the sand.

have one’s heart (dead) set against something Fig. to be totally against something; to be opposed to something. □ Jane has her heart dead set against going to Australia. □ John has his heart set against going to college.

have one’s heart go out to someone Fig. to have compassion for someone. □ I can’t have my heart go out to everyone. □ To give generously to charity shows that one’s heart goes out to those who are suffering.

have one’s heart in one’s mouth Fig. to feel strongly emotional about someone or something. (See also one’s heart is in one’s mouth.) □ I had my heart in my mouth when I heard the national anthem.
have one's heart in the right place Fig. to have good intentions, even if there are bad results. □ I don't always do what is right, but my heart is in the right place. □ Good old Tom. His gifts are always tacky, but his heart's in the right place.

have one's heart on one's sleeve Go to wear one's heart on one's sleeve.

have one's heart set on something Fig. to be desiring and expecting something. □ Jane has her heart set on going to London. □ Bob will be disappointed. He had his heart set on going to college this year.

have one's heart stand still Fig. an expression said when one's heart (figuratively) stops beating because one is shocked or is feeling strong emotions. □ I had my heart stand still once when I was overcome with joy. □ Lovers—at least the ones in love songs—usually say their hearts stood still.

have one's luck run out Fig. for one's good luck to stop; for one's good fortune to come to an end. □ I had my luck run out when I was in South America. I nearly starved. □ I hate to have my luck run out just when I need it.

have one's mind in the gutter and have got one's mind in the gutter Fig. tending to think of or say things that are obscene. □ Tiffany has her mind in the gutter. That's why she laughs at all that dirty stuff. □ Why do you tell so many dirty jokes? Do you always have your mind in the gutter.

have one's name inscribed in the book of life Euph. to die. □ He was a beloved father, brother, and friend, and he has his name inscribed in the book of life. □ By the time she was twenty, her parents, brothers, and sister had all had their names inscribed in the book of life.

have one's nose in a book Fig. to be reading a book; to read books all the time. □ Bob has his nose in a book every time I see him. □ His nose is always in a book. He never gets any exercise.

have one's nose in the air Fig. to be conceited or aloof. □ Mary always seems to have her nose in the air. □ I wonder if she knows that she has her nose in the air.

have one's nose out of joint Go to get one's nose out of joint.

have one's rathers and have one's druthers (More informal with druthers.) to have what one prefers; to have one's way. □ If I had my rathers, we'd go out every Friday night. □ I suspect that if Joe had his druthers, he'd be taking Mary to the dance instead of Jill.

have one's shoulder to the wheel and keep one's shoulder to the wheel; pit one's shoulder to the wheel Fig. to do the hard work that needs to be done; to focus on getting a job done. □ You won't accomplish anything unless you put your shoulder to the wheel. □ I put my shoulder to the wheel and finished the job quickly.

have one's way with someone Euph. to have sexual relations with someone, possibly with that person being reluctant. □ He invited her up to his apartment, hoping to have his way with her. □ Now that you have had your way with me, do I mean nothing to you?

have one's wires crossed Fig. to have one's mental processes in disarray; to be confused. □ You don't know what you are talking about. You've really got your wires crossed!

□ Joan got her wires crossed about who arrived first. It was Bob, not Gary.

have one's words stick in one's throat Fig. to be so overcome by emotion that one can hardly speak. □ I sometimes have my words stick in my throat. □ John said that he never had his words stick in his throat.

have one's work cut out for one Fig. to have a large and difficult task prepared for one. □ They sure have their work cut out for them, and it's going to be hard. □ There is a lot for Bob to do. He has his work cut out for him.

have one too many and have a few too many Euph. to be drunk. □ He had one too many, and now he's throwing up. □ You'd better not drive. I think you've had a few too many.

have oneself something to get, have, or take something. □ I'll have myself some of that coconut cream pie, if you don't mind. □ You just go and have yourself a nice, long nap.

have pity on someone or an animal to have compassion toward someone or an animal. (See also take pity on someone or an animal.) □ Please! Have pity on us. Let us come in?

have pull with someone to have influence with someone. (Also with some, much, lots, etc.) □ Let's ask Ann to help us. She has pull with the mayor. □ Do you know anyone who has some pull with the bank president? I need a loan.

have recourse to something to be able to use something for help; to be able to fall back on something. □ You will always have recourse to the money your grandfather left you. □ You will not have recourse to that money until you are over 21 years of age.

have relations with someone Euph. to have sexual relations with someone. □ While engaged to Mary, he was having relations with at least two other women. □ She was having relations with one of her employees, which was strictly against policy.

have rocks in one's head Fig. to be silly or crazy. □ John is a real nut. He has rocks in his head. □ I don't have rocks in my head—I'm just different.

have seen better days Euph. to be in bad condition. □ My old car has seen better days, but at least it's still running. □ She's seen better days, it's true, but she's still lots of fun.

have so Go to have too.

have (some) bearing on something to have relevance to something. (Note the use of no and any in the negative.) □ I know something that has some bearing on the issue you are discussing. □ This has no bearing on anything that will happen today. □ This doesn't have any bearing on all that. □ What bearing does John's decision have on the situation?

have some food to go Go to go.

have (some) time to kill Fig. to have extra time; to have a period of time with nothing to do. □ Whenever you have some time to kill, call me up and we'll chat.

have someone around (for something) to have someone come for a visit, tea, dinner, etc. □ We really should have the Wilsons around for an evening of bridge. □ Yes, let's have them around.

have someone back to invite someone for a return visit. □ We would love to have you back sometime. □ We want to have you back the next time you are in town.
have someone behind the eight ball Go to behind the eight ball.

have someone by someone or something Go to by someone or something.

have someone by something to hold onto someone by something. (See also have someone by someone or something.)

She had me by the shoulder and I couldn’t get away. The cops had him dead to rights with damning testimony of two eyewitnesses.

have someone dead to rights Fig. to have caught someone red-handed; to have irrefutable evidence about someone’s misdeed.

We have you dead to rights on this one. The cops had him dead to rights with damning testimony of two eyewitnesses.

have someone down to have someone for a visit to a place that is on a lower level or in the south. (Fixed order.)

Why don’t we have Roger down for the weekend? They had us down to their place in Florida.

have someone drawn and quartered Go to drawn and quartered.

have someone for breakfast Fig. to defeat someone with ease.

Careful, she’ll have you for breakfast if you’re not prepared to debate her. I’m afraid they had our team for breakfast again.

have someone in to call or invite someone into one’s home. (Fixed order.)

I’ll have the plumber in to fix that leak. We had friends in for bridge last night.

have someone in one’s corner Fig. to have someone supporting one’s position or goals. (Originally from boxing.)

As long as I have Mr. Howe in my corner, I feel confident about what I have to say.

have someone in one’s pocket Fig. to have complete control over someone.

Don’t worry about the mayor. She’ll cooperate. I’ve got her in my pocket. John will do just what I tell him. I’ve got him and his brother in my pocket.

have someone in one’s spell and have someone under one’s spell Fig. to have enchanted or captivated the attention of someone.

She has him in her spell with her grace and beauty. Ken has Karen under his spell.

have someone on a string Go to on a string.

have someone on the string Fig. to have someone waiting for a decision.

Sally has John on the string. He has asked her to marry him, but she hasn’t replied yet. Yes, it sounds like she has him on the string.

have someone or something about and have someone or something around to have someone or something nearby habitually.

I really don’t want to have all those people around all the time. It’s good to have a fire extinguisher around.

have someone or something cornered 1. Lit. to have someone or something trapped as in a corner.

We had the wild cat cornered, but it jumped over the wall and got away.

I think I have the part you need cornered in a warehouse in Indiana. We’ll order it.

have someone or something in mind Fig. to be thinking of someone or something as a candidate for something.

Did you have anyone in mind for the job? I have something in mind for the living-room carpeting. He probably had himself in mind when he spoke about the need for new blood.

have someone or something in one’s hands 1. Lit. to hold someone or something in one’s hands. (Have can be replaced with leave or put.)

I have the tools you need in my hands, ready to give them to you when you need them.

2. Fig. to have control of or responsibility for someone or something. (Have can be replaced with leave or put.)

You have the whole project in your hands. The boss put the whole project in your hands.

have someone or something in one’s sights 1. Lit. to have one’s gun aimed at someone or something.

The sniper had the soldier in his sights. I had the deer in my sights. I fired.

2. Fig. to consider someone or something one’s goal or conquest.

I have a promotion in my sights and I hope to get it before the end of the year. I’ve had Sally in my sights for years. I intend to marry her.

have someone or something in tow Fig. to lead, pull, or tow someone or something around.

Mrs. Smith has her son by the hand and in tow. That car has a boat in tow.

have someone or something on one’s hands to be burdened with someone or something. (Have can be replaced with leave.)

I run a record store. I sometimes have a large number of unwanted records on my hands. Please don’t leave the children on my hands.

have someone or something on one’s mind and have someone or something on the brain (More informal with brain.) to think often about someone or something; to be obsessed with someone or something.

Bill has chocolate on his mind. John has Mary on his mind every minute.

Karen has Ken on the brain.

have someone or something on the brain Go to previous.

have someone or something on track Go to on track.

have someone or something under (close) scrutiny Go to under (close) scrutiny.

have someone or something under control Go to under control.

have someone or something (well) in hand Fig. to have someone or something under control.

I have the child well in hand now. She won’t cause you any more trouble.

We have everything in hand. Don’t worry.

have someone over a barrel Go to over a barrel.

have someone over (for something) to invite someone to come to one’s home, for a meal, party, visit, cards, the evening, etc. (Fixed order.)

We will have you over for dinner some day. We will have you over soon.

have someone pegged as something Go to peg someone as something.

have someone’s best interest(s) at heart to make decisions based on someone’s best interests.

I know she was only doing what would benefit her, but she said she had my best interests at heart.

have someone’s blood on one’s hands 1. Lit. to have the blood of some other person on one’s hands.

He fell and got a terrible cut and now I have his blood on my hands as well as my shirt. Fig. to be responsible for someone’s death; to be guilty of causing someone’s death. The teenager’s blood was on the policeman’s hands. The king’s blood was on the hands of the murderer who killed him.
**have someone's eye**  Fig. [for someone] to establish and hold eye contact with someone; to attract someone's attention. □ When Tom at last had her eye, he smiled at her. □ Once she had my eye, she began motioning toward the exit.

**have someone's hide**  Fig. to punish someone severely. □ The sheriff swore he'd have the outlaw's hide. □ You lousy no-good so-and-so! I'll have your hide!

**have someone slated for something**  Go to slated for something.

**have someone slated to do something**  Go to slated to do something.

**have someone under a spell**  Go to under a spell.

**have someone under one's spell**  Go to have someone in one's spell.

**have someone under someone's thumb**  Go to under someone's thumb.

**have someone under someone's wing(s)**  Go to under someone's wing(s).

**have someone up (for something)**  to invite someone to a place that is on a higher level or in the north, for a meal, party, cards, etc. (Fixed order.) □ We would like to have you up for dinner some evening. □ We will have you up soon.

**have something against someone or something**  to have a reason to dislike someone or something. (Note the replacement for something in the negative in the example.) □ Do you have something against me? □ I have nothing against chocolate ice cream.

**have something at one's fingertips**  and **have something at hand**  Fig. to have something within (one's) easy reach. (Have can be replaced with keep.) □ I have a dictionary at my fingertips. □ I try to have everything I need at hand.

**have something cinched**  Fig. Inf. to have something settled; to have the results of some act assured. □ Don't worry. I've got it cinched. □ You just think you've got it cinched.

**have something coming (to one)**  to deserve punishment (for something). □ Bill broke a window, so he has a spanking coming to him. □ That's it, Bill. Now you've got it coming!

**have something doing**  and **have something on**  to have plans for a particular period of time. (Note the variation with anything in the examples. Fixed order.) □ Bob: Are you busy Saturday night? Bill: Yes, I've got something doing. □ I don't have anything doing Sunday night. □ I have something on almost every Saturday.

**have something down to a T**  Fig. to have something mastered. □ I can do it. I have it down to a T.

**have something for (a meal)**  to serve or eat something at a particular meal, such as breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper, etc. □ We had eggs for breakfast. □ What did you have for dinner?

**have something for someone**  to have a gift for someone; to have something in reserve for someone. □ I have some cake for you in the kitchen if you want it. □ We have a present for you. Here. I hope you like it.

**have something for something**  to have a remedy for a problem, disease, etc.; to possess something used for some purpose. □ I have something for tight jar lids. It will open them immediately. □ I have some medicine for that disease.

**have something going (for oneself)**  [for someone] to have a beneficial scheme or operation going. □ John really has something going for himself. He's a travel agent, and he gets to travel everywhere for free. □ I wish I could have something like that going.

**have something going (with someone)**  Go to have a thing going (with someone).

**have something hanging over one's head**  Fig. to have something bothering or worrying one; to have a deadline worrying one. □ I keep worrying about my old car breaking down. □ I hate to have something like that hanging over my head. □ I have a history paper that is hanging over my head.

**have something hung up and salted**  Rur. to know everything about something. (Often used ironically, as in the second example.) □ The historian sure had Louisiana history hung up and salted. □ Jim's sixteen years old, and he thinks he has the opposite sex hung up and salted.

**have something in common (with someone or something)**  [for groups of people or things] to resemble one another in specific ways. □ Bill and Bob both have red hair. They have that in common with each other. □ Bob and Mary have a lot in common. I can see why they like each other.

**have something in hand** 1. Go to in hand. 2. Fig. to have something under control. □ I thought I had my destiny in hand, but then fate played a trick on me. □ Don't worry about me. I have everything in hand.

**have something in stock**  to have merchandise available and ready for sale. □ Do you have extra large sizes in stock? □ Of course, we have all sizes and colors in stock.

**have something in store (for someone)**  Fig. to have something planned for one's future. □ Tom has a large inheritance in store for him when his uncle dies. □ I wish I had something like that in store.

**have something made**  to hire someone to make something. □ Isn't it a lovely coat? I had to have it made because I couldn't find one I liked in a store. □ We had the cake made at the bakery. Our oven isn't big enough for a cake that size.

**have something on**  Go to have something doing.

**have something on file**  to have a written record of something in storage. □ I'm sure I have your letter on file. I'll check again. □ We have your application on file somewhere.

**have something on one's person**  to carry something about with one. □ Do you have any money on your person? □ I don't have any business cards on me.

**have something on the ball**  to have a particular amount of smartness or cleverness. □ Both John and Mary have a lot on the ball. They should go far. □ I think I'd do better in school if I had more on the ball. I learn slowly.

**have something out**  to have something, such as a tooth, stone, tumor, removed surgically. (Fixed order.) □ You are going to have to have that tumor out. □ I don't want to have my tooth out!

**have something out (with someone)**  to settle a disagreement or a complaint. (Fixed order.) □ John has been mad at Mary for a week. He finally had it out with her today. □ I'm glad we are having this out today.
have something stick in one’s craw Fig. to have something irritate or displease someone. □ I don’t like to have someone’s words stick in my craw. □ He meant to have the problem stick in my craw and upset me.

have something to burn Fig. to have lots of something, such as money, power, food, space, cars, etc.; to have more of something than one needs. □ Look at the way Tom buys things. You’d think he had money to burn. □ If I had all that acting talent to burn as he does, I’d have won an Oscar by now.

have something to do with something and not have anything to do with something; have nothing to do with something to be associated with or related to something. □ Does your dislike for Sally have something to do with the way she insulted you? □ My illness has something to do with my lungs.

have something to spare Fig. to have more than enough of something. □ Ask John for some firewood. He has firewood to spare. □ Do you have any candy to spare?

have something up one’s sleeve and have an ace up one’s sleeve Fig. to have a secret or surprise plan or solution (to a problem). (Alludes to cheating at cards by having a card hidden in one’s sleeve.) □ I’ve got something up my sleeve, and it should solve all your problems. I’ll tell you what it is after I’m elected. □ The manager has an ace up her sleeve. She’ll surprise us with it later.

have something wrapped up Go to sewed up.

have sticky fingers Fig. to have a tendency to steal. □ The clerk—who had sticky fingers—got fired. □ The little boy had sticky fingers and was always taking his father’s small change.

the ball in one’s court 1. Lit. to have a ball belonging to a game played on a court on one’s side of the court. □ You have the ball in your court, so hit it back to me! 2. Fig. to be responsible for the next move in some process; to have to make a response to something that someone else has started. □ You have the ball in your court now. You have to answer the attorney’s questions. □ There was no way that Liz could avoid responding. She had the ball in her court.

have the best of someone or something to defeat someone or something. □ I’m afraid you have the best of me. □ We had the best of the opposite team by the end of the first half.

have the cards stacked against one and have the deck stacked against one Fig. to have one’s chance at future success limited by factors over which one has no control; to have luck against one. □ You can’t get very far in life if you have the deck stacked against you. □ I can’t seem to get ahead. I always have the cards stacked against me.

have the courage of one’s convictions to have enough courage and determination to carry out one’s goals. □ It’s fine to have noble goals in life and to believe in great things. If you don’t have the courage of your convictions, you’ll never reach your goals. □ Jane was successful because she had the courage of her convictions.

have the deck stacked against one Go to have the cards stacked against one.

have the devil to pay and have hell to pay Inf. to have a great deal of trouble. (Use hell with caution.) □ If you cheat on your income taxes, you’ll have the devil to pay. □ I came home after three in the morning and had hell to pay.

have the facts straight Go to get the facts straight.

have the final say Go to the last word.

have the gall to do something Fig. to have sufficient arrogance to do something. □ I bet you don’t have the gall to argue with the mayor. □ Only Jane has the gall to ask the boss for a raise this month.

have the gift of gab and have a gift for gab Fig. to have a great facility with language; to be able to use language very effectively. (See also have a way with words.) □ My brother really has the gift of gab. He can convince anyone of anything. □ I don’t talk a lot. I just don’t have the gift for gab.

have the hots for someone Sl. to be sexually aroused by someone. □ Perry has the hots for Earline.

have the makings of something Fig. to possess the qualities that are needed for something. □ The young boy had the makings of a fine baseball player. □ My boss has all the makings of a prison warden.

have the Midas touch Fig. to have the ability to be successful, especially the ability to make money easily. (From the name of a legendary king whose touch turned everything to gold.) □ Bob is a merchant banker and really has the Midas touch. □ The poverty-stricken boy turned out to have the Midas touch and was a millionaire by the time he was twenty-five.

the mullygrubs Rav. to feel depressed. □ She had the mullygrubs because her husband was out of town. □ Joe had the mullygrubs. We tried to cheer him up.

have the patience of a saint and have the patience of Job Fig. to have a great deal of patience. □ Steve has the patience of Job given the way his wife nags him. □ Dear Martha has the patience of a saint; she raised six children by herself.

have the patience of Job Go to previous.

have the presence of mind to do something Fig. to have the calmness and ability to act sensibly in an emergency or difficult situation. □ Jane had the presence of mind to phone the police when the child disappeared. □ The child had the presence of mind to write down the car’s license-plate number.

have the shoe on the other foot Fig. to experience the opposite situation (from a previous situation). (See the proverb The shoe is on the other foot.) □ I used to be a student, and now I’m the teacher. Now I have the shoe on the other foot.

have the stomach for something 1. Fig. to be able to tolerate certain foods. □ Do you have the stomach for Tex-Mex cooking? □ We just don’t have the stomach for onions anymore. 2. Fig. to have the courage or resolution to do something. □ I don’t have the stomach for watching those horror movies. □ Ken doesn’t have the stomach for fighting.

have the time of one’s life to have a very good time; to have the most exciting time in one’s life. □ What a great party! I had the time of my life. □ We went to Florida last winter and had the time of our lives.

have to do something so bad one can taste it Go to so bad one can taste it.
have to do with something to be associated with or related to something. □ Sally’s unhappiness has to do with the way you insulted her. □ My illness has to do with my stomach.

have to get married Euph. [for a couple] to get married because the woman is pregnant. □ They didn’t have a long engagement. They had to get married, you see. □ They had to get married, and their first baby was born seven months later.

have to go some (to do something) to need to try very hard to accomplish something. □ That’s really great, Jean! I have to go some to do better than that!

have to hand it to someone to give someone credit for something. (Includes an expression of obligation, such as must, got to, have to, etc.) □ You’ve really got to hand it to Jane. She has done a fine job. □ We have to hand it to Fred. That wine he brought was great.

have to live with something to have to endure something. □ I have a slight limp in the leg that I broke last year. The doctor says I’ll have to live with it. □ We don’t like the carperting in the living room, but since money is so tight we’ll have to live with it.

have too and have so to have done something (despite anything to the contrary). (This is an emphatic way of affirming that something has happened.) □ Mother: You haven’t made your bed. Bob: I have too! □ I have so turned in my paper! If you don’t have it, you lost it!

have too many irons in the fire Fig. to be doing too many things at once. □ Tom had too many irons in the fire and missed some important deadlines. □ It’s better if you don’t have too many irons in the fire.

have too much of a good thing Prov. To hurt yourself by overindulging in something good. □ I’ve gained five pounds from all the holiday dinners I’ve eaten this month. I think I had too much of a good thing. □ Alan: We’re having such a good time at this resort, why don’t we stay another week? Jane: I think we’d get bored with it if we stayed that long. You can have too much of a good thing, you know.

have too much on one’s plate and have a lot on one’s plate Fig. to be too busy. □ I’m sorry, I just have too much on my plate right now. □ If you have too much on your plate, can I help?

have (too much) time on one’s hands Fig. to have extra time; to have time to spare. □ Your problem is that you have too much time on your hands. □ I don’t have time on my hands. I am busy all the time.

have two left feet Fig. to be very awkward with one’s feet. (Often refers to awkwardness at dancing.) □ I’m sorry, I can’t dance better. I have two left feet.

have what it takes and have got what it takes to have the skills, power, intelligence, etc., to do something. □ I know I’ve got what it takes. □ I guess I don’t have what it takes to be a composer.

have words Euph. to argue. □ From the sound of things, Bill and his father had words last night. □ We had words on the subject of money.

have words with someone (over someone or something) Fig. to quarrel with someone over something or something. □ I had words with John over Mary and her friends. □ Elaine had words with Tony over his driving habits.

(Have you) been keeping busy? and (Have you been) keeping busy? Inf. a vague greeting asking about how someone has been occupied. □ Tom: Been keeping busy? Bill: Yeah. Too busy. □ Sue: Hi, Fred. Have you been keeping busy? Fred: Not really. Just doing what I have to.

(Have you) been keeping cool? and (Have you been) keeping cool? Inf. an inquiry about how someone is surviving very hot weather. □ Tom: What do you think of this hot weather? Been keeping cool? Sue: No, I like this weather just as it is. □ Mary: Keeping cool? Bill: Yup. Run the air-conditioning all the time.

(Have you) been keeping out of trouble? and (Have you been) keeping out of trouble? You been keeping out of trouble? Inf. a vague greeting asking one what one has been doing. □ Bob: Hi, Mary. Have you been keeping out of trouble? Mary: Yeah. And you? Bob: Oh, I’m getting by. □ Tom: Hey, man! Been keeping out of trouble? Bob: Hell, no! What are you up to? Tom: Nothing.

(Have you) been okay? and You been okay? Inf. a vague greeting asking if one has been well. □ Tom: Hey, man. How are you doing? Bob: I’m okay. You been okay? Tom: Sure. See you! □ Mary: I heard you were sick. Sally: Yes, but I’m better. Have you been okay? Mary: Oh, sure. Healthy as an ox.

(Have you) changed your mind? and You changed your mind? You have decided to alter your decision? □ Sally: As of last week, they said you are leaving. Changed your mind? Bill: No. I’m leaving for sure. □ Tom: Well, have you changed your mind? Sally: Absolutely not!

Have you heard? and Did you hear? a question used to introduce a piece of news or gossip. □ Sally: Hi, Mary. Mary: Hi. Have you heard about Tom and Sue? Sally: No, what happened? Mary: I’ll let one of them tell you. Sally: Oh, come on! Tell me! □ Bob: Hi, Tom. What’s new? Tom: Did you hear that they’re raising taxes again? Bob: That’s not new.

Have you met someone? a question asked when introducing someone to someone else. (The question need not be answered. The someone is usually a person’s name.) □ Tom: Hello, Mary. Have you met Fred? Mary: Hello, Fred. Glad to meet you. Fred: Glad to meet you, Mary. □ Tom: Hey, Mary! Good to see you. Have you met Fred? Mary: No, I don’t believe I have. Hello, Fred. Glad to meet you. Fred: Hello, Mary.

Haven’t I seen you somewhere before? and Haven’t we met before? a polite or coy way of trying to introduce yourself to someone. □ Bob: Hi, Haven’t I seen you somewhere before? Mary: I hardly think so. □ Bill (moving toward Jane): Haven’t we met before? Jane (moving away from Bill): No way!

hazard a guess Go to take a guess.

hazard an opinion Fig. to give an opinion. □ Anne asked the attorney to hazard an opinion about the strength of her lawsuit. □ Don’t feel like you have to hazard an opinion on something you know nothing about.

He gives twice who gives quickly. Prov. When someone asks you for something, it is more helpful to give something right away than to wait, even if you might be
He lives long who lives well. Prov. If you live virtuously, you will have a long life; a person who does not live virtuously is wasting his life. □ The pastor, exhorting his congregation to live moral lives, said, “He lives long who lives well.”

He puts his pants on one leg at a time. Prov. The person referred to is only human.; The person referred to is an ordinary person. □ Sue: That man is my favorite movie star. Don’t you think he’s just divine? Jane: Oh, I don’t know. I imagine he puts his pants on one leg at a time.

He that cannot obey cannot command. Prov. If you want to become a leader, you should first learn how to follow someone else. □ Jones can’t seem to do anything I ask him to. He’ll never get anywhere; he that cannot obey cannot command.

He that hath a full purse never wanted a friend. Prov. A rich person always has plenty of friends. □ Jill: Ever since Joe won the lottery, he’s been getting congratulations from friends and relatives he hasn’t heard from in years. Jane: You know how it is. He that hath a full purse never wanted a friend.

He that is down need fear no fall. Prov. If you have nothing, you cannot lose anything by taking a risk. □ Jim spent his last ten dollars on lottery tickets, figuring that he who is down need fear no fall.

He that would eat the kernel must crack the nut. Prov. You have to work if you want to get anything good. □ If you want to be a good pianist, you have to practice every day. He that would eat the kernel must crack the nut.

He that would go to sea for pleasure, would go to hell for a pastime. Prov. Being a sailor is so unpleasant that anyone who would do it for fun must be crazy. □ Old Sailor: Why did you decide to go to sea? Young Sailor: I thought it would be fun. Old Sailor: He that would go to sea for pleasure, would go to hell for a pastime.

He that would have eggs must endure the cackling of hens. Prov. You must be willing to endure unpleasant, irritating things in order to get what you want. □ Sue: I’m tired of working after school. All the customers at the store are so rude. Mother: But you wanted money to buy a car. He that would have eggs must endure the cackling of hens, dear.

He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin. Prov. If you want to marry a woman, you should find a way to impress her mother, so that the mother will favor her marrying you. □ Harry: I think I want to marry Gina. Bill: Don’t propose to her until you’re sure her mother is on your side. He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin.

He travels fastest who travels alone. Prov. It is easier to achieve your goals if you do not have a spouse, children, or other connections to consider. □ Jill: Don’t go yet! Wait for me to get ready. Jane: But you always take at least half an hour. No wonder they always say that he travels fastest who travels alone.

He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-cent head. Rur. He is stupid but rich. □ He got the job because he’s the boss’s son, not because he’s smart. He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-cent head.

He who begins many things, finishes but few. Prov. If you start a lot of projects, you will not have time and energy to complete them all. (Can be used to warn someone against starting too many projects.) □ Sarah’s room is littered with sweaters and mittens she started to knit but never finished, a testament to the fact that she who begins many things, finishes but few.

He who excuses himself accuses himself. Prov. By apologizing for something, you admit that you did it. □ Maybe I should tell my boss I’m sorry for breaking the copy machine. On the other hand, he who excuses himself accuses himself.

He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day. Prov. It may be cowardly to run away from a fight, but running away gives you a better chance of surviving. □ The school bully told Phillip to meet him in the playground after school, but Phillip didn’t keep the appointment. When his friends called him a coward, Phillip shrugged and said, “He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day.”

He who hesitates is lost. Prov. People should act decisively. □ Jill: Should I apply for that job? At first I thought I definitely should, but now I don’t know. . . . Jane: She who hesitates is lost. □ Call that girl and ask her out. Call her right now. He who hesitates is lost.

He who laughs last, laughs best. Go to next.

He who laughs last, laughs longest. and He who laughs last, laughs best. Prov. If someone does something nasty to you, that person may feel satisfaction, but you will feel even more satisfaction if you get revenge on that person. □ Joe pulled a dirty trick on me, but I’ll get him back. He who laughs last, laughs best.

He who pays the piper calls the tune. Prov. If you are paying for someone’s services, you can dictate exactly what you want that person to do. □ When Mrs. Dalton told the artist what she wanted her portrait to look like, the artist cringed to think that anyone could have such bad taste. Still, he who pays the piper calls the tune, and Mrs. Dalton got what she wanted.

He who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount. Prov. Sometimes it is more dangerous to stop doing a dangerous thing than it is to continue doing it. □ Jill: You shouldn’t take out another loan. You’re already too far in debt. Jane: If I don’t take out a loan, I can’t make the payments on the loans I already have. You know how it is—she who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount.

He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon. Prov. If you have dealings with dangerous people, you must be careful that they do not harm you. □ If you’re going to hang out with that disreputable bunch of people, keep in mind that he who sups with the devil should have a long spoon.

He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom. Prov. If you want to gain high status, you must start with low status and slowly work upwards. □ Although Thomas hoped to become a famous journalist, he didn’t mind working for a small-town newspaper at first.
“He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom,” he said.

**He will get his.** and She will get hers. One will be punished for one's misdeeds. □ Jill: It seems like Fred can do any evil thing he wants. Jane: Don't worry. He'll get his. □ You may think you will always profit by your life of crime, but you'll get yours.

**a head** and **per head** [for] a person; [for] an individual. □ How much do you charge per head for dinner? □ It costs four dollars a head.

**head and shoulders above** someone or something Fig. clearly superior to someone or something. (Often with stand, as in the example.) □ This wine is head and shoulders above that one. □ John stands head and shoulders above Bob.

**head away from** someone or something to turn and move away from someone or something. □ The car headed away from Andrew and he knew he was stranded for at least an hour. □ We headed away from the store, not knowing that my purse was riding on the roof of the car.

**head back** (some place) to start moving back to some place. □ I walked to the end of the street and then headed back home. □ This is far enough. Let's head back.

**head for** someone or something to aim for or move toward someone or something. □ She waved good-bye as she headed for the door. □ Ann came in and headed for her mother.

**head for the hills** and **take to the hills; run for the hills** 1. Lit. to flee to higher ground. □ The river's rising. Head for the hills! □ Head for the hills! Here comes the flood! 2. Fig. to depart quickly. □ Here comes crazy Joe. Run for the hills. □ Everyone is heading for the hills because that boring Mr. Simpson is coming here again.

**head for the last roundup** Euph. to reach the end of usefulness or of life. (Originally said of a dying cowboy.) □ This ballpoint pen is headed for the last roundup. I have to get another one. □ I am so weak. I think I’m headed for the last roundup.

**head for (the) tall timber** Rur. to run away and hide. □ When we heard Pa's angry bellow, we headed for the tall timber. □ The bank robbers headed for tall timber with their loot.

**head into something** to move into something head or front end first. □ Head into that parking space slowly. It is quite narrow. □ I turned the boat toward shore and headed in.

**head on** directly; head to head. □ I think we need to face this threat head on. Let's be proactive not reactive!

**head out after** someone, something, or an animal to start pursuing someone, something, or an animal. □ The sheriff and his men headed out after the bank robbers. □ We headed out after the runaway boat.

**head out for** something or some place; to begin a journey to something or some place. □ We headed out for Denver very early in the morning. □ What time do we head out tomorrow morning?

**head over heels in love (with someone)** Fig. very much in love with someone. □ John is head over heels in love with Mary. □ They are head over heels in love with each other.

**head someone off at the pass** Fig. to intercept someone. (From Old West movies. Fixed order.) □ I need to talk to John before he gets into the boss's office. I'll head him off at the pass. □ The sheriff set out in a hurry to head Jed off at the pass.

**head someone or something at** someone or something to point or aim someone or something toward someone or something. □ He headed the boat at the island and sped off. □ I headed Rachel at her brother, whom she hadn't seen for thirty years.

**head someone or something into** someone or something to direct someone or something into someone or something. □ Jill headed the car into the parking place. □ I headed Rachel into the ice cream store and left her on her own.

**head someone or something off** Fig. to intercept and divert someone or something. □ I think I can head her off before she reaches the police station. □ I hope we can head off trouble. □ We can head it off. Have no fear.

**head something out** to aim something outward; to move something on its way, head or front first. □ Head the boat out and pull out the throttle. □ I headed out the car and we were on our way.

**head something up!** 1. Lit. to get something pointed in the right direction. (Especially a herd of cattle or a group of covered wagons.) □ Head those wagons up—we’re moving out. □ Head up the wagons! 2. Fig. to be in charge of something; to be the head of some organization. □ I was asked to head the new committee up for the first year. □ Will you head up the committee for me?

**head South** Go to go South.

*a head start (on someone)* an early start [at something], before someone else starts. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Bill always gets there first because he gets a head start on everybody else. □ I’m doing well in my class because I have a head start; I learned some of this last year.

*a head start (on something)* an early start on something, [before someone else starts]. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I was able to get a head start on my reading during the holidays. □ If I hadn’t had a head start, I’d be behind in my reading.

**head toward** someone or something 1. Lit. to point at and move toward someone, something, or some place. □ Head toward Mary and don’t stop to talk to anyone else. □ Sharon headed toward the parking lot, hoping to get home soon. 2. Fig. to be developing into something; to be moving toward a specific result. □ The problem will head toward a solution when you stop making the situation worse than it is. □ I believe that you are heading toward severe health problems if you don’t stop smoking.

**headed for something** destined for something. □ Harry is headed for real trouble. □ She is headed for a breakdown.

**heads or tails** the face of a coin or the other side of a coin. (Often used in an act of coin tossing, where one circumstance is valid if the front of a coin appears and another
Heads up!

Heads up! Raise your head and look around you carefully for information or something that you need to see or avoid. □ Heads up! Watch out for that door! □ Heads up! There is a car coming.

Heads will roll Fig. people will get into severe trouble. □ When the company's year-end results are known, heads will roll. □ Heads will roll when the principal sees the damaged classroom.

Heal over [for the surface of a wound] to heal. □ The wound healed over very quickly, and there was very little scarring. □ I hope it will heal over without having to be stitched.

Heal someone of something to cure someone's ailments. □ Are you the doctor who healed me of my wounds? □ Can any doctor heal us of a common cold?

Heal up [for an injury] to heal. □ The cut healed up in no time at all.

A heap of something a great deal of something. □ Tom's got a heap of money, but no one to spend it on. □ A teacher has to have a heap of patience as well as a lot of smarts.

A heap sight Rur. a lot; very much. □ This chair is a heap sight better than that one. □ You got a heap sight more taters than I did.

Heap something up1 to make something into a pile. □ He heaped the mashed potatoes up on my plate, because he thought I wanted lots. □ Heap up the leaves in the corner of the yard.

Heap something (up) on someone or something 1. Lit. to pile something up on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Please don’t heap so much trouble upon me! □ Wally heaped leaves on the flower bed. 2. Fig. to give someone too much of something, such as homework, praise, criticism, etc. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Don’t heap too much praise on her. She will get conceited. □ The manager heaped criticism on the workers.

Heap something with something to pile something onto something. □ Karen heaped Jeff’s plate with way too much food. □ We heaped the driveway with leaves and then put them into bags.

Hear a peep out of someone Fig. to get some sort of a response from someone; to hear the smallest word from someone. (Usually in the negative.) □ I don’t want to hear another peep out of you. □ I didn’t know they were there. I didn’t hear a peep out of them.

Hear about someone or something to learn about someone or something. (Not necessarily by hearing.) □ Have you heard about Tom and what happened to him? □ I heard about the accident.

Hear from someone or something to get a message from someone or a group. □ I want to hear from you every now and then. □ We hear from the court every year or so about jury duty.

Hear of someone or something to learn of the existence of someone or something. □ Did you ever hear of such a thing? □ I have heard of Sharon Wallace and I would like to meet her.

Hear someone out1 1. Lit. to hear all of what someone has to say. (Fixed order.) □ Please hear me out. I have more to say. □ Hear out the witness. Don’t jump to conclusions. 2. Fig. to hear someone's side of the story. (Fixed order.) □ Let him talk! Hear him out! Listen to his side! □ We have to hear everyone out in this matter.

Hear something through to listen to all of something. □ I would like you to hear this explanation through before making your decision. □ I won’t have an opinion until I hear this through.

Hear word (from someone or something) Go to word (from someone or something).

Hearing impaired Euph. deaf or nearly deaf. □ This program is closed-captioned for our hearing-impaired viewers. □ His mother happens to be hearing impaired, so he learned to sign at an early age.

Hearken to someone or something Formal or stilted to listen to someone or something; to pay attention to someone or something. □ Please hearken to me. I speak the truth. □ Hearken to the call of the nightingale.

Heart and soul Fig. the central core [of something or someone]. □ Now we are getting to the heart and soul of the matter. □ This feature is the heart and soul of my invention.

The heart of the matter Go to the crux of the matter.

A heartbeat away from being something Cliché set to be the next ruler upon the final heartbeat of the current ruler. (The decisive heartbeat would be the current ruler's last heartbeat.) □ The vice president is just a heartbeat away from being president. □ The prince was only a heartbeat away from being king.

heat someone up1 Fig. to make someone angry. (One old [now folksy] past tense is het.) □ This kind of nonsense really heats me up. □ Mean talk heats up the kids.

Heat something up1 (to something) to raise the temperature of something to a certain level. □ Please heat this room up to about seventy degrees. □ Can you heat up the room a little more?

Heat up 1. Lit. to get warmer or hot. □ It really heats up in the afternoon around here. □ How soon will dinner be heated up? 2. Fig. to grow more animated or combative. □ The debate began to heat up near the end. □ Their argument was heating up, and I was afraid there would be fighting.

Heave in(to) sight Fig. to move into sight in the distance. □ As the fog cleared, a huge ship heaved into sight. □ After many days of sailing, land finally heaved in sight.

Heave something at someone or something to throw something at someone or something. □ Fred heaved a huge snowball at Roger. □ The thug heaved the rock at the window and broke it to pieces.

Heave something up1 1. Lit. to lift something up. □ With a lot of effort, they heaved the heavy lid up. □ The workers heaved up the huge boulder. 2. Fig. to vomit something up. □ The dog heaved most of the cake up on the kitchen floor. □ It heaved up the cake it had eaten.
heave to to stop a sailing ship by facing it directly into the wind. □ The captain gave the order to heave to. □ The ship hove to and everyone had a swim.

Heaven forbid! Go to God forbid!

Heaven help us! Fig. Good grief! That’s awful. □ He fell and broke his hip! Heaven help us! What’s next?

Heaven protects children, sailors, and drunken men. Prov. Children, sailors, and drunkards often escape being injured in dangerous situations. (Often used to express amazement that a child, sailor, or drunk person has escaped injury.) □ Jill: Did you hear? A little girl fell out of a second-floor window in our apartment building. Jane: Was she killed? Jill: She wasn’t even hurt. Jane: Heaven protects children, sailors, and drunken men. □ Mike was so drunk he shouldn’t even have been conscious, but he managed to drive home without hurting himself or anyone else; heaven protects children and drunkards.

Heavens to Betsy! Inf. My goodness! (A mild oath.) □ Heavens to Betsy! What was that noise? □ Heavens to Betsy! It's good to hear your voice!

heavy going difficult to do, understand, or make progress with. □ Jim finds math heavy going. □ Talking to Mary is heavy going. She has nothing interesting to say.

heavy into someone or something Inf. much concerned with someone or something; obsessed with someone or something. □ Freddie was heavy into auto racing and always went to the races. □ Sam is heavy into Mary. He’s been out with her every night this week.

A heavy purse makes a light heart. Prov. If you have plenty of money, you will feel happy and secure. □ Everyone in the office is especially cheerful on payday, since a heavy purse makes a light heart.

hedge against something to do something to lessen the risk of something happening; to bet against something bad happening. □ I want to hedge against something going wrong in the stock market, so I have bonds in my portfolio, too. □ We will hedge against any risk we can detect.

A hedge between keeps friendship green. Prov. Your friendship will flourish if you and your friend respect each other’s privacy. □ Lynne and I are the best of friends, but we often like to spend time apart. A hedge between keeps friendship green.

hedge one’s bets Fig. to reduce one’s loss on a bet or on an investment by counterbalancing the loss in some way. □ Bob bet Ann that the plane would be late. He usually hedges his bets. This time he called the airline and asked about the plane before he made the bet. □ John bought some stock and then bet Mary that the stock would go down in value in one year. He has hedged his bets perfectly. If the stock goes up, he sells it, pays off Mary, and still makes a profit. If it goes down, he reduces his loss by winning the bet he made with Mary.

hedge someone in Fig. to restrict someone. (See also hedge someone or something in.) □ Our decision hedged in the children so they could not have any flexibility. □ She hedged herself in by her own behavior.

hedge someone or something in to enclose someone or something in a hedge. (See also hedge someone in.) □ Their overgrown yard has almost hedged us in. □ Their bushes hedged in our yard.

hedge something against something Fig. to protect investments against a decline in value by making counterbalancing bets or investments. □ The investor hedged his portfolio against a drop in stock prices by buying some bonds. □ I have to hedge my bets against losing.

heist someone or something (up!) Rur. to lift someone or something. □ See if you can heist that box onto the top shelf.

heavens to Betsy! Inf. a severe scolding. (*Typically: get ~; catch ~; give someone ~. Use caution with hell.) □ The boss just gave me hell about it. □ I’m really going to give Tom hell when he gets home. 2. Inf. trouble; pain. (*Typically: give someone ~. Use caution with hell.) □ My arthritis is giving me hell in this weather. □ This problem is giving us hell at the office.

hell around Sl. to go around making trouble or noise. □ Who are those kids who are out there helling around every night? □ They hell around because it’s fun.

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. Prov. There is nothing as unpleasant as a woman who has been offended or whose love has not been returned. □ When Mary Ann discovered that George was not in love with her, George discovered that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. □ Bill: I’m getting tired of going out with Mary; I think I’ll tell her we’re through. Fred: Be careful. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, you know.

a hell of a mess Inf. a terrible mess. (Use caution with hell.) □ This is really a hell of a mess you’ve gotten us into. □ I never dreamed I’d come back to such a hell of a mess.

a hell of a note Inf. a surprising or amazing piece of news. (Use caution with hell.) □ So you’re just going to leave me like that? Well, that’s a hell of a note! □ You forgot what I asked you to bring? That’s a hell of a note.

a hell of a someone or something and a helluva someone or something 1. Inf. a very bad person or thing. (Use caution with hell.) □ That’s a hell of a way to treat someone. □ He’s a hell of a driver! Watch out! 2. Inf. a very good person or thing. (Use caution with hell.) □ He is one hell of a guy. We really like him. □ We had a helluva good time.

hell on a holiday Rur. a big commotion. (Use caution with hell.) □ It was hell on a holiday outside the stadium when the team won the big game. □ What’s going on down on Main Street? Sounds like hell on a holiday!

hell on earth Fig. a very unpleasant situation, as if one were in hell. □ That man made my life hell on earth! □ The whole time I was there was just hell on earth.

hell-bent for leather Inf. moving or behaving recklessly; riding a horse fast and recklessly. □ They took off after the horse thief, riding hell-bent for leather. □ Here comes the boss. She’s not just angry; she’s hell-bent for leather.

hell-bent for somewhere or something Fig. riding or drive somewhere very fast or recklessly. □ Fred sped along, hell-bent for home, barely missing another car.

Hellfire and damnation! Inf. Damn it! (An oath used to express anger or irritation.) □ Hellfire and damnation! Turn that radio down! □ Hellfire and damnation! This is the second time our picnic’s been rained out.

Hell’s bells (and buckets of blood)! Inf. an exclamation of anger or surprise. (Use caution with hell.) □ Alice:
Your pants are torn in back. John: Oh, hell’s bells! What will happen next? Bill: Well, Jane, looks like you just flanked calculus. Jane: Hell’s bells and buckets of blood! What do I do now?

**help** someone or something 1. Lit. to assist someone or something with a person or a thing. □ Can you help me out with my geometry? □ Please help me with my son with his geometry. 2. Fig. to help someone or a group by providing someone or something. □ I need some salt. Would you help me out with a little bit of salt? □ Can you help our department with a secretary?

**help out** someone or something to give aid to someone or something in dealing with someone or something. □ Please help your father with your little sister. □ I helped the committee with the problem.

**help (someone) out** 1. to help someone do something; to help someone with a problem. □ I am trying to raise this window. Can you help me out? □ I’m always happy to help out a friend.

**help someone up** (from something) to help someone rise up from something; to help someone get up from something. □ She helped him up from the chair. □ Elaine helped up her grandmother who was stuck in the chair.

**help yourself** to take something oneself with- out asking permission. □ Sally: Can I have one of these doughnuts? Bill: Help yourself. □ Mother led the little troop of my friends to the kitchen table, which was covered with cups of juice and plates of cookies. “Help yourself,” she said.

**herd** someone or something together to bunch people or animals together. □ Let’s herd all the kids together and take them in the house for ice cream and cake. □ I herded all the puppies together and put them in a box while I cleaned their play area.

**here and now** the present, as opposed to the past or the future. □ I don’t care what’s happening tomorrow or next week! I care about the here and now. □ The past is dead. Let’s worry about the here and now.

**here and there** at this place and that; from place to place. □ We find rare books in used-book stores here and there. □ She didn’t make a systematic search. She just looked here and there.

**Here goes nothing.** Inf. I am beginning to do something that will fail or be poorly done. □ Sally stood on the diving board and said, “Here goes nothing.” □ As Ann walked onto the stage, she whispered, “Here goes nothing.”
Here (it) goes. Something is going to start.; I will start now.; I will do it now. ☐ I'm ready to start now. Here goes. ☐ Okay, it's my turn to kick the ball. Here it goes!

Here's looking at you. Go to Bottoms up!

Here's mud in your eye. Go to Bottoms up!

Here's to someone or something. an expression used as a toast to someone or something to wish someone or something well. ☐ Here's to Jim and Mary! May they be very happy! ☐ Here's to your new job!

Here's to you. We are going to experience the same thing again. Here today, (and) gone tomorrow.

We are hesitating over the final decision because we have something well. ☐ to suspend action about someone or something. Here today, (and) gone tomorrow. (Used to describe something that does not last—often an opportunity).

I will do it now. Something is going to start.; I will start now, but soon to be gone. (Used to describe something near my house don't stay in business very long—here today, now.; I will do it now.

Fig. 1. A high roller. ☐ Tom is really high on the idea of going to Yellowstone this summer. ☐ Tom is really high on the idea of going to Yellowstone this summer. ☐ I'm not high on going, but I will.

something

Fig. 1. A high roller. Fig. a gambler who bets heavily. ☐ They welcomed me at the casino because I had the same name as one of their high rollers.

*high as a kite and *high as the sky 1. Lit. very high. (*Also: as ~.) ☐ The tree grew as high as a kite. ☐ Our pet bird got outside and flew up high as the sky. 2. Fig. drunk or drugged. (*Also: as ~.) ☐ Bill drank beer until he got as high as a kite. ☐ The thieves were high as the sky on drugs.

high and dry Fig. safe; unbothered by difficulties; unscathed. (As if someone or something were safe from a flood. See also leave someone high and dry.) ☐ While the riot was going on down on the streets, I was high and dry in my apartment. ☐ I will hide the cake behind the screen too.

something in something to conceal something inside something. ☐ She hid her money in a book. ☐ Let's hide the cake in this closet.

hide from someone or an animal to conceal oneself from someone or an animal. ☐ Are you hiding from me? ☐ The rabbit was trying to hide from the fox.

hide one's face in shame Fig. to cover one's face because of shame or embarrassment. ☐ Mary was so embarrassed. She could only hide her face in shame. ☐ When Tom broke Ann's crystal vase, he wanted to hide his face in shame.

hide one's head in the sand Go to bury one's head in the sand.

hide one's light under a bushel Fig. to conceal one's good ideas or talents. (A biblical theme.) ☐ Jane has some good ideas, but she doesn't speak very often. She hides her light under a bushel. ☐ Don't hide your light under a bushel. Share your thoughts with other people.

hide out (from someone or something) to hide oneself so that one cannot be found by someone or something. ☐ Max was hiding out from the police in Detroit. ☐ Lefty is hiding out too.

hide someone or something away (some place) to conceal someone or something somewhere. ☐ Please hide Randy away where no one can find him. ☐ Rachel hid the cake away, hoping to save it for dessert. ☐ Mary hid away the candy so the kids wouldn't eat it all.

hide someone or something behind something to use something to conceal someone or something. ☐ We hid the guests for the surprise party behind a large Oriental screen. ☐ I will hide the cake behind the screen too.

hide someone in something to conceal something inside something. ☐ She hid her money in a book. ☐ Let's hide the cake in this closet.

high and dry Fig. safe; unbothered by difficulties; unscathed. (As if someone or something were safe from a flood. See also leave someone high and dry.) ☐ While the riot was going on down on the streets, I was high and dry in my apartment. ☐ I will hide the cake behind the screen too.

*high as a kite and *high as the sky 1. Lit. very high. (*Also: as ~.) ☐ The tree grew as high as a kite. ☐ Our pet bird got outside and flew up high as the sky. 2. Fig. drunk or drugged. (*Also: as ~.) ☐ Bill drank beer until he got as high as a kite. ☐ The thieves were high as the sky on drugs.

high as the sky Go to previous.

high man on the totem pole Fig. the person at the top of the hierarchy; the person in charge of an organization. ☐ I don't want to talk to a vice president. I demand to talk to the high man on the totem pole. ☐ Who's in charge around here? Who's high man on the totem pole?

high on something Sl. 1. excited or enthusiastic about something. ☐ Tom is really high on the idea of going to Yellowstone this summer. ☐ I'm not high on going, but I will. 2. intoxicated. ☐ John is acting as if he is high on something. Has he been doing drugs again?

a hidden agenda Fig. a secret plan; a concealed plan; a plan disguised as a plan with another purpose. ☐ I am sure that the chairman has a hidden agenda. I never did trust him anyway.

hide behind someone or something to conceal oneself behind someone or something. ☐ The child hid behind his father. ☐ Rachel hid behind a tree.

hew something down to fell something wooden, usually a tree. ☐ We will have to hew most of this forest down.

hew something out of something and hew something out of something to carve the shape of something out of something wooden. ☐ Dan hewed each of the posts out of a tree trunk. ☐ He hewed out a number of posts.

hew to something to conform to a rule or principle. ☐ I wish you would hew to the rules a little better. ☐ Sarah refuses to hew to the company policies.

a high roller Fig. a gambler who bets heavily. ☐ They welcomed me at the casino because I had the same name as one of their high rollers.

*the high sign Fig. a prearranged signal for going ahead with something. (Often refers to a hand signal or some other visual signal. *Typically: get ~; give someone ~.)
high-and-mighty

- **hint** something to someone to give a hint or clue to someone.  
  - I thought she was leaving. She hinted that to me.  
  - She wasn't hinting anything to you! You made it all up!

- **hip to** someone or something Inf. knowing about someone or something; adapting to someone or something.  
  - (Typically: be ~; get ~; become ~) 
  - The boss began to get hip to Mary and her deviousness. 
  - She finally began to get hip to what was going on.

- **hightail it out of** somewhere Rur. to run or ride a horse away from somewhere fast; to leave in a hurry. (Typically heard in western movies.)  
  - Here comes the sheriff. We'd better hightail it out of here.  
  - Look at that guy go. He really hightailed it out of town.

- **highway robbery** outrageous overpricing; a bill that is much higher than normally acceptable but must be paid.  
  - (As if one had been accosted and robbed on the open road in broad daylight.)  
  - Four thousand dollars! That's highway robbery for one piece of furniture!  
  - I won't pay it! It's highway robbery!

- **highways and byways** 1. major and minor roads.  
  - The city council voted to plant new trees along all the highways and byways of the town.  
  - Cliché routes and pathways, both major and minor.  
  - I hope I meet you again some day on life's highways and byways.

- **hike** something up! to raise something, such as prices, interest rates, a skirt, pants legs, etc.  
  - The grocery store is always hiking prices up.  
  - She hiked up her skirt so she could wade across the creek.

- **hind end** Rur. the rump of someone or an animal.  
  - If you say that again, I'll swat you right across the hind end.  
  - The mule slipped and came down right on her hind end.

- the **hind end of creation** Rur. a very remote place.  
  - I wish I lived in the city. I'm tired of living here in the hind end of creation.  
  - Joe moved out to a little shack at the hind end of creation.

- **hinder** someone from something to prevent someone from doing something.  
  - Please don't hinder me from my appointed tasks.  
  - You can't hinder me from doing what I want!

- **hindsight first** Rur. backwards.  
  - You've got your shirt on hindside first.  
  - You've got your shirt on hindside first.

- **hinge (up) on** someone or something Fig. to depend on someone or something; to depend on what someone or something does.  
  - (Up on) is formal and less commonly used than on.  
  - The success of the project hinges upon you and how well you do your job.  
  - How well the corn crop does all hinges on the weather.

- **hint at** something to refer to something; to insinuate something.  
  - What are you hinting at?  
  - I am not hinting at anything. I am telling you to do it!

- **hint for** something to give a hint that something is wanted.  
  - I could tell she was hinting for an invitation.  
  - Are you hinting for a second helping of fried chicken?
hit and miss. □ We handed out the free tickets hit or miss. Some people got one. Others got five or six.

hit at someone or something to strike at someone or something. □ The injured man hit at the nurses who were trying to help him. □ I hit at the wall to see how solid it was.

hit back (at someone or something) to strike someone or something back. □ Tom hit Fred, and Fred hit back at Tom. □ I have to hit back when someone hits me.

hit bottom Fig. to reach the lowest or worst point. □ Our profits have hit bottom. This is our worst year ever. □ When my life hit bottom, I began to feel much better. I knew that if there was going to be any change, it would be for the better.

hit home and strike home Fig. to really make sense; [for a comment] to make a very good point. □ Mary's criticism of my clothes hit home, so I changed. □ The teacher's comment struck home and the student vowed to work harder.

hit it off (with someone) Fig. to quickly become good friends with someone. □ Look how John hit it off with Mary. □ Yes, they really hit it off.

hit like a ton of bricks Go to like a ton of bricks.

hit on someone Inf. to flirt with someone; to make a pass at someone. □ The women were all hitting on George, but he didn't complain. □ I thought he was going to hit on me—but he didn't.

hit on something to discover something. □ She hit on a new scheme for removing the impurities from drinking water. □ I hit on it when I wasn't able to sleep one night.

hit one's stride Go to reach one's stride.

hit one where one lives and hit one close to home Fig. to affect one personally and intimately. □ Her comments really hit me where I live. Her words seemed to apply directly to me. □ I listened carefully and didn't think she hit close to home at all.

hit or miss Go to hit and miss.

hit out (at someone or something) (in something) to strike at someone or something in some state, such as anger, revenge, etc. □ The frightened child hit out at the teacher in sheer terror. □ He hit out in terror. □ Andy hit out at the threat.

hit out (for something or some place) Rur. to start out for something or some place. □ We hit out for the top of the hill early in the morning, and it was noon before we got there. □ We'll hit out about noon.

hit pay dirt 1. Fig. to discover something of value. (Alludes to discovering valuable ore.) □ Sally tried a number of different jobs until she hit pay dirt. □ I tried to borrow money from a lot of different people. They all said no. □ Then when I went to the bank, I hit pay dirt. 2. Fig. to get great riches. □ After years of poverty, the writer hit pay dirt with his third novel. □ Jane's doing well. She really hit pay dirt with her new business.

hit (rock) bottom Go to (rock) bottom.

hit someone Fig. [of a meaning] being understood by someone. □ I didn't understand what she was getting at until it suddenly hit me. She was asking for a ride home.

hit someone below the belt 1. Lit. [for a boxer] to strike an opponent below the belt. (An unfair blow.) □ The champ hit the contender below the belt and the crowd began to boo like fury. □ Fred was hit below the belt and suffered considerably. 2. Fig. to deal someone an unfair blow. □ That's not fair! You told them I was the one who ordered the wrong-size carpet. That's hitting me below the belt. □ Todd hit below the belt when he said it was all her fault because she had become ill during the trip.

hit someone hard Fig. to affect someone's emotions strongly. □ The death of his friend hit John hard. □ The investor was hit hard by the falling stock prices.

hit someone in something to strike someone on a particular part of the body. □ She hit him in the face by accident. □ Watch out or you'll hit yourself in the arm with the hammer.

hit someone like a ton of bricks Go to like a ton of bricks.

hit someone or an animal on something to strike someone or an animal in a particular place. □ The stone hit me on the leg. □ I hit the beaver on its side and it didn't seem to feel it. □ She hit herself on her left cheek.

hit someone (right) between the eyes 1. Lit. to strike someone between the eyes. □ The baseball hit her right between the eyes. 2. Fig. to become completely apparent; to surprise or impress someone. □ Suddenly, it hit me right between the eyes. John and Mary were in love. □ Then—as he was talking—the exact nature of the evil plan hit me right between the eyes. □ The realization of what had happened hit me right between the eyes.

hit someone up' (for something) to ask someone for a loan of money or for some other favor. □ The tramper hit up each tourist for a dollar. □ My brother hit up Harry for a couple of hundred bucks.

hit someone with something 1. Fig. to charge someone with an amount of money. □ The government hit us with a big fine. □ The tax people hit us with a huge tax bill. 2. Fig. to present someone with shocking or surprising news. □ He was shocked when she hit him with the news that she was leaving. □ Don't hit me with another piece of bad news!

hit something off! to begin something; to launch an event. □ She hit off the fair with a speech. □ The mayor hit the fair off by giving a brief address.

hit speeds of some amount Go to speeds of some amount.

hit the books and pound the books Inf. Fig. to study hard. □ I spent the weekend pounding the books. □ I gotta go home and hit the books. I have finals next week.

hit the booze Go to next.

hit the bottle and hit the booze Fig. Inf. to go on a drinking bout; to get drunk. □ Jed's hitting the bottle again. □ He's been hitting the booze for a week now.

hit the brakes 1. Lit. to step on a vehicle's brakes hard and fast. □ I came around the curve too fast and had to hit the brakes immediately. 2. Fig. to stop [something]. □ The project seemed to be getting nowhere so we hit the brakes before too much more money was spent.

hit the bricks and hit the pavement 1. Fig. Inf. to start walking; to go into the streets. □ I have a long way to go. I'd better hit the bricks. □ Go on! Hit the pavement! Get
hit the road

hit the pavement

Go to

hit the jackpot

hit the high spots

hit the hay

hit the ground running

hit the ceiling

hit the bull’s-eye

hit the road. I’ll see you.

hit the roof

Go to hit the ceiling.

hit the sack

Go to hit the hay.

hit the skids

Fig. to decline; to decrease in value or status.

hit the spot

Inf. to be exactly right; to be refreshing.

hit the trail

Inf. to leave. (As if one were hiking or riding a horse.)

hit town

Fig. to arrive in town. (The minute he hit town, he checked into a hotel and took a long nap.

hit (up)on someone or something

1. Lit. to strike or pound on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)

hit the fan

Inf. to become publicly known; to become a scandal. (From the phrase when the shit hit the fan.)

hit the hay and hit the sack

Fig. to go to bed.

hit the high spots

Fig. to do only the important, obvious, or good things.

hit the jackpot

1. Lit. to win a large amount of money gambling or in a lottery.

hit the nail (right) on the head

1. Lit. to strike a nail precisely on the head with a hammer.

hit the panic button and press the panic button; push the panic button

Fig. to panic suddenly.

hit the pavement

Go to hit the bricks.

hit the road

Fig. to depart; to begin one’s journey, especially on a road trip; to leave for home.

hit the road very early in the morning.

hit the roof

Go to hit the ceiling.

hit the sack

Go to hit the hay.

hit the skids

Fig. to decline; to decrease in value or status.

hit the spot

Inf. to be exactly right; to be refreshing.

hit the trail

Inf. to leave. (As if one were hiking or riding a horse.)

hit town

Fig. to arrive in town. (The minute he hit town, he checked into a hotel and took a long nap.

hit (up)on someone or something

1. Lit. to strike or pound on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)

hit the fan

Inf. to become publicly known; to become a scandal. (From the phrase when the shit hit the fan.)

hit the hay and hit the sack

Fig. to go to bed.

hit the high spots

Fig. to do only the important, obvious, or good things.

hit the jackpot

1. Lit. to win a large amount of money gambling or in a lottery.

hit the nail (right) on the head

1. Lit. to strike a nail precisely on the head with a hammer.

hit the panic button and press the panic button; push the panic button

Fig. to panic suddenly.

hit the pavement

Go to hit the bricks.

hit the road

Fig. to depart; to begin one’s journey, especially on a road trip; to leave for home.

hit the road very early in the morning.

hit the roof

Go to hit the ceiling.

hit the sack

Go to hit the hay.

hit the skids

Fig. to decline; to decrease in value or status.

hit the spot

Inf. to be exactly right; to be refreshing.

hit the trail

Inf. to leave. (As if one were hiking or riding a horse.)

hit town

Fig. to arrive in town. (The minute he hit town, he checked into a hotel and took a long nap.

hit (up)on someone or something

1. Lit. to strike or pound on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)

hit the fan

Inf. to become publicly known; to become a scandal. (From the phrase when the shit hit the fan.)

hit the hay and hit the sack

Fig. to go to bed.

hit the high spots

Fig. to do only the important, obvious, or good things.

hit the jackpot

1. Lit. to win a large amount of money gambling or in a lottery.

hit the nail (right) on the head

1. Lit. to strike a nail precisely on the head with a hammer.

hit the panic button and press the panic button; push the panic button

Fig. to panic suddenly.

hit the pavement

Go to hit the bricks.

hit the road

Fig. to depart; to begin one’s journey, especially on a road trip; to leave for home.

hit the road very early in the morning.

hit the roof

Go to hit the ceiling.

hit the sack

Go to hit the hay.

hit the skids

Fig. to decline; to decrease in value or status.

hit the spot

Inf. to be exactly right; to be refreshing.

hit the trail

Inf. to leave. (As if one were hiking or riding a horse.)

hit town

Fig. to arrive in town. (The minute he hit town, he checked into a hotel and took a long nap.

hit (up)on someone or something

1. Lit. to strike or pound on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)

hit the fan

Inf. to become publicly known; to become a scandal. (From the phrase when the shit hit the fan.)

hit the hay and hit the sack

Fig. to go to bed.

hit the high spots

Fig. to do only the important, obvious, or good things.

hit the jackpot

1. Lit. to win a large amount of money gambling or in a lottery.

hit the nail (right) on the head

1. Lit. to strike a nail precisely on the head with a hammer.

hit the panic button and press the panic button; push the panic button

Fig. to panic suddenly.

hit the pavement

Go to hit the bricks.

hit the road

Fig. to depart; to begin one’s journey, especially on a road trip; to leave for home.

hit the road very early in the morning.

hit the roof

Go to hit the ceiling.

hit the sack

Go to hit the hay.

hit the skids

Fig. to decline; to decrease in value or status.

hit the spot

Inf. to be exactly right; to be refreshing.

hit the trail

Inf. to leave. (As if one were hiking or riding a horse.)

hit town

Fig. to arrive in town. (The minute he hit town, he checked into a hotel and took a long nap.

hit (up)on someone or something

1. Lit. to strike or pound on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)

hit the fan

Inf. to become publicly known; to become a scandal. (From the phrase when the shit hit the fan.)

hit the hay and hit the sack

Fig. to go to bed.

hit the high spots

Fig. to do only the important, obvious, or good things.

hit the jackpot

1. Lit. to win a large amount of money gambling or in a lottery.

hit the nail (right) on the head

1. Lit. to strike a nail precisely on the head with a hammer.

hit the panic button and press the panic button; push the panic button

Fig. to panic suddenly.

hit the pavement

Go to hit the bricks.

hit the road

Fig. to depart; to begin one’s journey, especially on a road trip; to leave for home.
**hold one’s end up**

**hobnob with** someone or something to associate with someone or a group, especially with those more wealthy, famous, etc. □ I’m not used to hobnobbing with such luminaries. □ Walter is spending a lot of time hobnobbing with the very rich.

**Hobson’s choice** the choice between taking what is offered and getting nothing at all. (From the name of a stable owner in the seventeenth century who always hired out the horse nearest the door.) □ We didn’t really want that particular hotel, but it was a case of Hobson’s choice. We booked very late and there was nothing else left. □ If you want a yellow car, it’s Hobson’s choice. The garage has only one.

**hoa one’s own row** Rur. to mind one’s own business. □ Tom: You’re cutting up those carrots awful small. Jane: Hoe your own row! □ He didn’t get involved in other people’s fights. He just hoed his own row.

**hog wild** wild; out of control. □ I went hog wild at the sale and bought six new pairs of shoes. □ There were a dozen different desserts at the picnic. A person who liked sweets could go hog wild.

**hoist with one’s own petard** Fig. to be harmed or disadvantaged by an action of one’s own which was meant to harm someone else. (From a line in Shakespeare’s Hamlet.) □ She intended to murder her brother but was hoist with her own petard when she ate the poisoned food intended for him. □ The vandals were hoist with their own petard when they tried to make an emergency call from the pay phone they had broken.

**Hoist your sail when the wind is fair**. Prov. Begin a project when circumstances are the most favorable. □ Don’t ask your mother for permission now; she’s in a bad mood. Hoist your sail when the wind is fair. □ Wait until the economy has stabilized before trying to start your own business. Hoist your sail when the wind is fair.

**hold a grudge (against someone)** Go to bear a grudge (against someone).

**hold a meeting** to meet; to have a meeting (of an organization). □ We’ll have to hold a meeting to make a decision. □ Our club held a meeting to talk about future projects.

**hold all the aces** and **hold all the cards** to be in a favorable position; to be in a controlling position. (Alludes to having possession of all four aces or all the high cards in a card game.) □ How can I advance in my career when my competitor holds all the aces? □ If I held all the aces, I’d be able to do great things. □ I tried to get my points across, but Joan held all the cards and the board voted for her plan.

**hold all the cards** Go to previous.

**hold back (on something)** to withhold something; to give or take only a limited amount. □ Hold back on the gravy. I’m on a diet. □ That’s enough. Hold back. Save some for the others.

**hold by something** to stick by a promise. □ I hope that you will hold by our agreement. □ I will hold by everything I said.


**hold forth (on someone or something)** to speak at great length about someone or something. □ Sadie held forth on the virtues of home cooking. □ Sharon is holding forth, and everyone is paying close attention.

**hold good for someone or something** [for an offer] to remain open to someone or a group. □ Does your offer of help still hold good for us? □ Does it hold good for the entire membership?


**hold no brief for someone or something** not to tolerate someone or something; to be opposed to someone or something. □ I hold no brief for Wally and his friends. □ Rachel holds no brief for that kind of thing.

**hold off (from) doing something** to avoid doing something; to postpone doing something. □ Can you hold off from buying a new car for another few months? □ I will hold off firing him until next week.

**hold off (on someone or something)** to delay doing something concerning someone or something. □ Please hold off on Tom until we interview the other candidates. □ I will hold off on this job for a while.

**hold on** to be patient. □ Just hold on. Everything will work out in good time. □ If you will just hold on, everything will probably be all right.

**Hold on (a minute) and Hold on for a minute!** Stop right there! Wait a minute! (Minute can be replaced by moment, second, or other time periods.) □ Bob: Hold on, Tom. Tom: What? Bob: I want to talk to you. “Hold on!” hollered Tom. “You’re running off with my shopping cart!”

*a hold on someone* a strong and secure influence on someone. (“Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ The strange religion seemed to have a strong hold on its followers. □ The drug has a hold on the minds of those who use it.

**a hold on something** Go to a grip on something.

**hold (on) tight** to grasp (someone or something) tightly. □ Here we go on the merry-go-round! Hold on tight! □ The children were told to hold tight on the swings.

**hold on (to someone or something)** Go to hang on (to someone or something).

**Hold on to your hat**! Go to Hang on to your hat!

**hold one’s breath**

1. Lit. to stop breathing for a short period, on purpose. □ Do you hold your breath when you dive into the water? □ I can’t hold my breath for very long.

2. Fig. to wait or delay until something special happens. (Usually in the negative. See also Don’t hold your breath.) □ I expect the mail to be delivered soon, but I’m not holding my breath. It’s often late.

**hold one’s end of the bargain up** and **keep one’s end of the bargain up** Fig. to do one’s part as agreed; to attend to one’s responsibilities as agreed. □ If you don’t hold your end up, the whole project will fail. □ Tom has to learn to cooperate. He must keep up his end of the bargain.

**hold one’s end up** to carry one’s share of the burden; to do one’s share of the work. □ You’re not holding your end
hold one's fire

up. We’re having to do your share of the work. □ Get busy. You have to hold up your end.

hold one’s fire 1. Lit. to refrain from shooting (a gun, etc.). □ The sergeant told the soldiers to hold their fire. □ Please hold your fire until I get out of the way. 2. Fig. to postpone one’s criticism or commentary. □ Now, now, hold your fire until I’ve had a chance to explain. □ Hold your fire, Bill. You’re too quick to complain.

hold one’s ground To go stand one’s ground.

hold one’s head up¹ Fig. to be confident of the respect of other people; to hold up one’s head with pride rather than bowing one’s head. (A bowed head would indicate a lack of confidence.) □ I am so embarrassed. I will never be able to hold my head up again. □ Now I can hold up my head with pride.

hold one’s liquor Fig. to be able to drink alcohol in quantity without ill effects. □ Old Jed can sure hold his liquor—and a lot of it, too. □ I asked him to leave because he can’t hold his liquor.

hold one’s mouth the right way Fig. do something very carefully under optimal conditions. □ It was a tedious task. If I didn’t hold my mouth just the right way, I wouldn’t be able to do it.

hold one’s nose 1. Lit. to use one’s fingers to keep one’s nose closed to avoid a bad smell or to keep water out. □ The kid held his nose and jumped off the dock into the lake. 2. Fig. to attempt to ignore something unpleasant, illegal, or “rotten.” □ He hated doing it, but he held his nose and made the announcement everyone dreaded.

hold one’s own to do as well as anyone else. □ I can hold my own in a footrace any day. □ She was unable to hold her own, and she had to quit.

hold one’s peace to remain silent. □ Bill was unable to hold his peace any longer. “Don’t do it!” he cried. □ Quiet, John. Hold your peace for a little while longer.

hold one’s temper Go to keep one’s temper.

hold one’s tongue Fig. to refrain from speaking; to refrain from saying something unpleasant. □ I felt like scolding her, but I held my tongue. □ Hold your tongue, John. You can’t talk to me that way!

hold oneself together Fig. to maintain one’s calmness or sanity. □ I don’t know if I can hold myself together through another horrible day like this one. □ I don’t know how she held herself together through all her troubles.

hold out (against someone or something) to continue one’s defense against someone or something. □ We can hold out against them only a little while longer. □ Dave can hold out forever.

hold out (for someone or something) to strive to wait for someone or something. □ I will hold out for someone who can do the job better than the last person we interviewed. □ I want to hold out for a better offer.

hold out the olive branch Fig. to offer to end a dispute and be friendly; to offer reconciliation. (The olive branch is a symbol of peace and reconciliation. A biblical reference.) □ Jill was the first to hold out the olive branch after our argument. □ I always try to hold out the olive branch to someone I have offended. Life is too short for a person to bear grudges for very long.

Hold, please. Go to Hold the phone.

hold someone accountable (for something) and hold someone responsible (for something) to consider someone responsible for something; to blame something on someone. □ I hold you accountable for John’s well-being. □ I must hold you responsible for the missing money.

hold someone back Go to keep someone back.

hold someone for ransom to demand money for the return of a person who has been kidnapped. □ The kidnappers held me for ransom, but no one would pay. □ We will hold Timmy for ransom and hope that the police don’t find us.

hold someone hostage to keep someone as a hostage. □ The terrorists planned to hold everyone hostage in the airplane. □ My neighbor was held hostage in his own home by a robber.

hold someone or an animal down¹ 1. Lit. to keep someone, something, or an animal down. □ The heavy beam held him down, and he could not rise. □ The owner held down his pet while the vet treated the injured paw. 2. Fig. to prevent someone or something from advancing. □ I had a disability that held me down in life. □ Too much debt held down the company while others profited.

hold someone or something at bay Fig. to make someone, a group, or an animal stay at a safe distance. (Originally referred only to animals.) □ I held the attacker at bay while Mary got away and called the police. □ The dogs held the bear at bay while I got my gun loaded.

hold someone or something at something to keep someone or something at some distance, such as an arm’s length, respectful distance, comfortable distance, etc. □ I held the child at an arm’s length until he could be calmed. □ The police held the crowd at a distance from the injured man.

hold someone or something by something to grasp someone or something by a particular part. □ I held him by the shoulder while I talked to him. □ Donna held the dog by the collar.

hold someone or something in check Go to keep someone or something in check.

hold someone or something in high regard Fig. to think well of someone or something. □ All of us hold the vice president in high regard. □ We hold these policies in high regard.

hold someone or something in low regard Fig. to think poorly of someone or something. □ I’m afraid that Hazel holds you in low regard. □ I’m afraid we hold this establishment in low regard.

hold someone or something in reserve and keep someone or something in reserve Fig. to hold back someone or something for future needs. □ I am holding the frozen desserts in reserve, in case we run out of cake. □ We are holding Sharon in reserve. □ Keep a few good players in reserve.

hold someone or something off ¹ and keep someone or something off Lit. to do something physical to keep someone or something away; to stave someone or something off. □ Tom was trying to rob us, but we managed to hold him off. □ We held off the attackers. □ I couldn’t keep off the reporters any longer. 2. Fig. to make someone or something wait. □ I know a lot of people are waiting to see me.
hold something over someone’s head

Hold them off for a while longer. □ See what you can do to hold off the reporters.

hold someone or something out (of something) and hold someone or something aside from the rest; to prevent someone or something from participating. □ Her parents held her out of sports because of her health. □ They held out every player who had an injury.

hold someone or something over to retain someone or something for a period of time. □ The storm held John over for another day. □ The manager held over the hit movie for another week.

hold someone or something still Go to keep someone or something still.

hold someone or something together to keep a group of people or things together. □ She worked at two jobs in order to hold her family together. □ Our club was failing despite our efforts to hold it together.

hold someone or something up† to ridicule. Some noun or something for ridicule. □ Someone or something for repudiation.

hold up† one or something up† to scorn† someone or something for a period of time. □ Someone or something for repudiation.

hold something against someone Fig. to blame someone or something for a grudge against someone; to resent someone. □ Your brother is mean to me, but I can’t hold it against you. □ You’re holding something against me. What is it?

hold something against someone or something 1. Lit. to press something against someone, a group, or something. □ Max held the gun against the bank guard’s head and threatened to pull the trigger. □ Fred held the drill against the wall and turned it on. 2. Fig. to think badly of someone, a group, or something because of something. □ I am the one who dented your fender. I’m sorry, I hope you don’t hold it against me. □ I hold all this mess against the government.

hold something back† (from) something or someone; to prevent someone or a group from one or something. □ Animal from getting at or getting to someone or something. □ To hold back your dog.

hold something over someone’s head

Hold in your stomach. 

To hold in one’s stomach, gut, and to keep one’s emotions inside oneself. □ To keep something safe for someone. □ To keep news from someone.

hold something over someone’s head

Hold in your stomach.

To keep one’s emotions inside oneself. □ To keep something safe for someone. □ To keep news from someone.

hold something in† and keep something in† 1. and hold something inside ((of) one(self); keep something inside ((of) one(self)) to keep one’s emotions inside oneself. □ You really shouldn’t hold those feelings inside of you. □ I have kept all this inside myself too long. □ You shouldn’t hold in all that anger. 2. Lit. to hold in one’s stomach, gut, belly, etc. □ Hold your belly in so you don’t look like a blimp. □ Hold in your stomach.

hold something in abeyance to stall or postpone something. □ This is a good plan but not at this time. Let’s just hold it in abeyance until things get better. □ We will hold the matter in abeyance until we hear from you.

hold something in store for someone Go to in store (for someone).

hold something inside ((of) one(self)) Go to hold something in†.

hold something over someone’s head

Hold something over someone(s head) Fig. to have knowledge of something about a person and to use that knowledge to control the person. □ So I made a mistake when I six of them, and I’m going to hold you to your promise. □ It was difficult, but he held himself to the terms of the contract.

hold someone under someone’s thumb Go to under someone’s thumb.

hold someone up† to something to lift someone up to the level of something. □ I held up little Mary to the window so she could see out. □ She was held up to the window so she could see better.

hold someone against someone Fig. to blame something on someone; to bear a grudge against someone; to resent someone. □ Your brother is mean to me, but I can’t hold it against you. □ You’re holding something against me. What is it?
was young. Are you going to hold that over my head all my life? □ Please don’t hold that over me anymore.

**Hold something together** to keep the parts of an object together. □ Hold this broken vase together until I get back with the glue. □ What can I use to hold this together?

**Hold still** Go to keep still.

**Hold still (for someone or something)** and **keep still (for someone or something); stand still (for someone or something)** to remain motionless for someone or something. □ Hold still for the doctor and the shot won’t hurt. □ Please keep still for the doctor.

**Hold still for something** and **stand still for something** Fig. to tolerate or endure something. (Often in the negative.) □ I won’t stand still for that kind of behavior! □ She won’t hold still for that kind of talk.

**Hold terror for something** [for something] to be frightening to a person. □ The thought of flying to Rio by myself held great terror for me. □ Nothing holds terror for me. I am a daredevil.

**Hold the fort** Fig. to take care of a place while someone who is usually there is gone, such as a store or one’s home. (From western movies.) □ I’m going next door to visit Mrs. Jones. You stay here and hold the fort. □ You should open the store at eight o’clock and hold the fort until I get there ten.

**Hold the line (at something)** Fig. to tolerate or endure something. (Often in the negative.) □ I won’t stand still for that kind of behavior! □ She won’t hold still for that kind of talk.

**Hold the line (at someone or something)** Fig. not to exceed a certain limit regarding someone or something. □ Having your wife on the payroll is one thing, but no one else from the family—I will hold the line at her. □ We have to hold the line at this kind of expenditure. □ Okay, we’ll hold the line.

**Hold the phone.** 1. and **Hold the wire(, please).**; **Hold, please.; Hold the line(, please).**; **Hold the phone(, please).**; **Please hold.** Fig. Please wait on the telephone and do not hang up. (A phrase in use before telephone “hold” circuitry was in wide use.) □ Bill: Hold the wire, please. (Turning to Tom) Tom, the phone’s for you. Tom: Be right there. □ Rachel: Do you wish to speak to Mr. Jones or Mr. Franklin? Henry: Jones. Rachel: Thank you. Hold the line, please. □ Sue: Good afternoon, Acme Motors, hold please. Bill (hanging up): That makes me so mad! 2. Fig. Wait just a minute.; Don’t rush into something.

**Hold the purse strings** Go to control the purse strings. **Hold the wire(, please).** Go to **Hold the phone.**

**Hold together** [for something] to keep from falling apart. □ Don’t run the engine too fast because it won’t hold together. □ Do you think that this book will hold together much longer?

**Hold true** [for something] to be true; [for something] to remain true. □ Does this rule hold true all the time? □ Yes, it holds true no matter what.

**Hold under wraps** Go to under wraps.

**Hold up** 1. Lit. to endure; to last a long time. □ How long will this cloth hold up? □ I want my money back for this chair. It isn’t holding up well. 2. and **hold up (for someone or something)** to wait; to stop and wait for someone or something. □ Hold up for Wallace. He’s running hard to catch up to us. □ Hold up a minute.

**Hold up (for someone or something)** Go to hold up; wait up (for someone or something).

**Hold up (on someone or something)** to delay or postpone further action on someone or something. □ I know you are getting ready to choose someone, but hold up on Tom. There may be someone better. □ Hold up on the project, would you? □ We need to hold up for a while longer.

**Hold your horses!** and **Hold your tater!** Fig. Inf. Wait! □ Tom: Let’s go! Let’s go! Mary: Hold your horses. □ Hold your tater, now. Where did you say you are going?

**Hold your tater!** Go to previous.

**Hold your tongue!** Inf. You have said enough!; You have said enough rude things. (See also hold one’s tongue.) □ Bill: You’re seeing Tom a lot, aren’t you? You must be in love. Jane: Hold your tongue, Bill Franklin! □ After listening to the tirade against him for nearly four minutes, Tom cried out, “Hold your tongue!”

**hole in one** 1. Lit. an instance of hitting a golf ball from the tee to the hole in only one try. (From the game of golf.) □ John made a hole in one yesterday. □ I’ve never gotten a hole in one. 2. Fig. an instance of succeeding the first time. □ It worked the first time I tried it—a hole in one. □ Bob got a hole in one on that sale. A lady walked in the door, and he sold her a car in five minutes.

**a hole in the wall** Fig. a tiny shop, room, etc., not much wider than its doorway. □ I went into this little hole in the wall where they had the nicest little gifts. □ His office is just a hole in the wall.

**hole up (somewhere)** 1. to take shelter somewhere. □ During the blizzard, we hole up in a lean-to made of branches. □ Looks like bad weather coming. We’d better find a place to hole up. 2. to hide somewhere. □ The police are looking for me. I need somewhere to hole up. □ The outlaw holed up in a cave.

**holler something out** to yell something out. □ The guard hollered a warning out. □ They hollered out a warning.

**holler uncle** and **cry uncle; say uncle** Fig. to admit defeat. □ Joe kept pounding on Jim, trying to get him to holler uncle. □ He twisted my arm until I cried uncle.

**hollow something out** to make the inside of something hollow. □ Martha hollowed the book out and put her money inside. □ She hollowed out a book.

**Holy cow!** Inf. Wow! □ Holy cow! I never expected such a nice gift! □ Give me a chance! Holy cow, don’t rush me!

**Holy Joe** 1. a chaplain; a cleric; a clergyman. □ I went to see the holy Joe, and he was a lot of help. □ Old holy Joe wants to see all of us at services. 2. a very pious person. □ Martin looks stuffy, but he’s no holy Joe. □ Don’t let that holy Joe hear about what you’ve done.

**Holy mackere!** Inf. Wow! □ Holy mackere! What a beautiful day! □ Holy mackere! What’s this? A new car?

**Holy moley!** Inf. Wow! □ Holy moley! A whole quarter! □ Look, here’s another one! Holy moley!

**Home folks** Rur. one’s family, especially one’s parents. □ It sure is good to see the home folks again. □ Sally went to visit her folks.
**home free** safe and without problems. (Not necessarily about home or about money. *Typically: be ~; get ~.)

Home in on someone or something Fig. to aim directly at someone or something. She came into the room and homed in on the chocolate cake. She saw the cake and homed in.

Home is where the heart is. Prov. People long to be at home; your home is whatever place you long to be. I’ve had a lovely time visiting you, but home is where the heart is, and I think it’s time I went back. If home is where the heart is, then my home is my parents’ old house. I’ve never loved my own apartment the way I love their place.

Home on (to something) Fig. to aim directly at something; to fix some type of receiver on a signal source. The navigator homed onto the radio beam from the airport. The navigator located the beam and homed on.

Homely enough to stop a clock Rurr. ugly. She’s a sweet girl, but homely enough to stop a clock. No one asks Mary out, and no wonder. She’s homely enough to stop a clock.

Hone for someone or something Rurr. to long for someone or something. Tom: What’s wrong with Jane? Mary: She’s homing for her sweetheart. Jimmy was homing for the red bicycle in the toy store window.

Honest and aboveboard and open and aboveboard Fig. in the open; visible to the public; honest. You don’t keep it a secret. Let’s make sure that everything is honest and aboveboard. You can do whatever you wish, as long as you keep it honest and aboveboard. The inspector had to make sure that everything was open and aboveboard.

Honest to God. Go to next.

Honest to goodness. and Honest to God.; Honest to Pete. I speak the truth. (Some people may object to the use of God in this phrase.) Did he really say that? Honest to goodness? Honest to Pete, I’ve been to the South Pole.

Honest to Pete. Go to previous.

Honesty is the best policy. Prov. You should always tell the truth, even when it seems as if it would be useful to tell a lie. Fill: I borrowed Jane’s white blouse without asking her, and then I spilled tomato sauce on it. Should I tell her what happened, or should I just put the blouse back in her closet and hope she won’t notice? Jane: Honesty is the best policy.

The honeymoon is over. The early pleasant beginning (as at the start of a marriage) has ended. Okay, the honeymoon is over. It’s time to settle down and do some hard work. I knew the honeymoon was over at my new job when they started yelling at me to work faster.

Honk at someone or something to sound a horn at someone or something. Is someone honking at me? The motorists honked at the sheep that were clogging the roadway.

Honor someone as something to praise someone as something; to praise someone for being something. Aren’t you going to honor Kevin as a hero? We will honor Henry as the most promising scholar of the year.

Honor someone for something to praise someone for doing something. The committee agreed to honor Laurel for her role in the benefit dance. I want to honor you for your efforts on behalf of our cause.

Honor someone’s check to accept someone’s personal check in payment of an obligation. The clerk at the store wouldn’t honor my check. I had to pay cash. The bank didn’t honor your check when I tried to deposit it. Please give me cash.

Honor someone with something to show one’s respect for someone with something, such as a gift, party, ceremony, a response, etc. We would like to honor you with a little reception. We chose to honor you with a little gift.

Hooched (up) Sl. intoxicated. Sally is too hooched to drive. She got herself hooched up and couldn’t give her talk.

Hoodwink someone into something Fig. to deceive someone into doing something. She will try to hoodwink you into driving her to the airport. Watch out. You can’t hoodwink me into doing that!

Hoodwink someone out of something Fig. to get something away from someone by deception. Are you trying to hoodwink me out of my money? Max tried to hoodwink the old lady out of all her money.

Hoof it Inf. to walk. If nobody gives us a ride, we’ll have to hoof it. She hoofed it home from the dance in her high-heeled shoes.

Hook in (to something) to connect into something. We will hook into the water main tomorrow morning. We dug the pipes up and hooked in.

Hook, line, and sinker Fig. totally. She fell for our story hook, line, and sinker. They believed every word hook, line, and sinker.

Hook oneself on someone or something Fig. to become enamored of someone or something. I’m afraid I’ve hooked myself on Alice. He hooked himself on Bach organ music.

Hook someone on something Fig. to addict someone to a drug or alcohol. Careful, or you’ll hook yourself on those tranquilizers. Some friend at school hooked Roger on dope. Sharon has hooked herself on cocaine.

Hook someone or something up (to something) and hook someone or something up with someone or something 1. Lit. to attach someone or something to someone or something. The nurse hooked the patient up to the oxygen tubes. They hooked up the patient with the tubes.

Hook someone up (with someone) Fig. to arrange for someone to go out with someone. I hooked Alice up with Tom last year, and now they’re getting married.

Hook something down 1. Lit. to attach something and hold it down with a hook. Please hook the lid down so it doesn’t fall off. Please hook down the lid. 2. Sl. to toss something down to someone. Hook another can of beer down to me, will you? Hook down another can of beer.

3. Sl. to eat something quickly; to gobble something up. Wally hooked the first hamburger down and ordered another. He hooked down two more burgers in a few minutes.
hook something into something to connect something to something.

hook something on (to someone or something) and hook something on1 to attach something to someone or something by a hook.

hook something up2 to set something up and get it working. (The object is to be connected to a power supply, electronic network, telephone lines, etc.)  

hook up with someone 1. Fig. Inf. to meet with someone.

hop on(to someone or something) and hop on the bandwagon to jump close to someone or something by hopping.

hop off ((of) something) to jump off something.

hooked on something 1. Fig. addicted to a drug or something similar.

hooked on life. If we hook up with each other it’ll be easier to defeat the others. These two competitors have hooked up together and something is going to happen.

hiss until a performer leaves the stage.

a hop, skip, and a jump Fig. a short distance.

a hop, skip, and a jump from here. We can be there in two minutes.

hop in(to something) to jump into something; to get into something.

hop out of something 1. Fig. to jump out of something.

hop on the bandwagon Go to the bandwagon.

hop on(to something) to jump or get onto something that is moving. Sometimes you have to hop onto the cable car after it has started to move. I ran to the cable car and hopped on.

hop something up1 St. to make a machine, especially a car, run extra fast or give it extra power.

hop to it! Inf. Get started right now! Bill: I have to get these things stacked up before I go home. Bob: Then hop to it! You won’t get it done standing around here talking. “Hurry up! Hop to it!” urged Bill. “We’ve got to get this done!”

hop up to something (or someone) [for an animal] to come close to someone or something by hopping.

hope against (all) hope to have hope even when the situation appears to be hopeless. We hope against all hope that she’ll see the right thing to do and do it. There is little point in hoping against hope, except that it makes you feel better.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick. and Hope deferred maketh the heart sick. Go to previous.

hope for something to be optimistic that one’s wish for something will come true.

hop to it! Hurry up! Hop to it! urged Bill. “We’ve got to get this done!”

hope for the best but expect the worst. Don’t make yourself anxious worrying that it will be too difficult, but review as if you expect the exam to be extremely hard.

hop to it! Hope springs eternal in the human breast.

Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper. You know we all hope for the best. Mary is worried, but she hopes for the best.

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst. and Hope for the best but expect the worst. You should have a positive attitude, but make sure you are ready for disaster. While my father was in the hospital after his heart attack, we hoped for the best and prepared for the worst. When you study for a major exam, hope for the best but expect the worst. Don’t make yourself anxious worrying that it will be too difficult, but review as if you expect the exam to be extremely hard.

Hope springs eternal (in the human breast). People will continue to hope even though they have evidence that things cannot possibly turn out the way they want. (From Alexander Pope’s poem, “Essay on Man.”) Sometimes used to remark that you believe someone’s situation is hopeless, as in the first example.)

Hope springs eternal in the human breast. Alan: You’re not still trying to teach the dog to shake hands! Jane: Hope springs eternal.
horse of a different color

hot and bothered 1. Fig. excited; anxious. □ Now don’t get hot and bothered. Take it easy. □ John is hot and bothered about the tax increase. 2. Fig. amorous; interested in romance or sex. □ John gets hot and bothered whenever Mary comes into the room. □ The dog seems hot and bothered. I think it’s that time of the year again.

hot and heavy Fig. referring to serious passion or emotions. □ Things were getting a little hot and heavy so Ellen asked to be taken home. □ The movie had one hot and heavy scene after another. Pretty soon it got to be a joke.

*hot as fire and *hot as hell very hot; burning hot. (*Also: as ~. Use hell with caution.) □ I’m afraid Betsy has a high fever. Her forehead is hot as fire. □ It’s as hot as hell outside. It must be near 100 degrees.

hot as hell Go to previous.

Hot damn! Inf. Wow!; Hooray! (An exclamation of surprise and delight.) □ Hot damn! I just won a vacation trip to Florida!

Hot diggity (dog!) and Hot dog! Hot ziggety! Inf. an expression of excitement and delight. (These expressions have no meaning and no relationship to dogs or to wiener.) □ Rachel: I got an A! Hot diggity dog! Henry: Good for you! □ Tom: You won first place! Mary: Hot ziggety!

hot enough to burn a polar bear’s butt Rnr. very hot. (Used to describe weather.) □ Every day in August was hot enough to burn a polar bear’s butt. □ Even in October, it was hot enough to burn a polar bear’s butt.

hot off the press Fig. freshly printed; just released by a publisher. □ Here is a copy of the new Perry Hodder novel. It’s hot off the press.

hot on someone’s heels Go to on someone’s heels.

hot on something Fig. enthusiastic about something; very much interested in something; knowledgeable about something. □ Meg’s hot on animal rights. □ Jean is hot on modern ballet just now.

hot on the trail (of someone, some creature, or something) Fig. very close to finding or catching up with someone, some creature, or something. □ I am hot on the trail of the book that I have been seeking for months.

hot under the collar Fig. very angry. □ The boss was really hot under the collar when you told him you lost the contract. □ I get hot under the collar every time I think about it.

Hot ziggety! Go to Hot diggity (dog!)

a hotbed of something Fig. a nest of something; a gathering place of something. □ This office is a hotbed of lazy people. □ My class is a hotbed of nerds.

hotfoot it (off to) somewhere to go somewhere as fast as possible. □ I’ve got to hotfoot it off to school. □ When they heard the police sirens, the thieves hotfooted home.

hotfoot it out of somewhere to run away from a place. □ Did you see Tom hotfoot it out of the office when the boss came in? □ Things are looking bad. I think we had better hotfoot it out of here.

hound someone from some place and hound someone out (of something or some place) to chase someone out of some
place; to force someone out of something or some place.  □ They hounded Joel and his friends from the town. □ The sheriff hounded Tex out of town.  

hound someone or an animal **down** to pursue and capture someone or an animal.  □ I will hound the killer down if it takes me the rest of my life. □ I will hound down that killer if it takes years.  

hound someone **out (of something or some place)** Go to hound someone from some place.  

hound something **out of someone** Fig. to force someone to give information.  □ We are going to have to hound the information out of her. □ We hounded the combination to the safe out of them.  

A **house divided against itself cannot stand.** Prov. If the members of a group fight each other, the group will disintegrate. (Often the group under discussion is a family.) □ The leader of the newly formed union tried hard to reconcile the different factions within his organization, because he knew that a house divided against itself cannot stand.  

A **house moss** Go to curly dirt.  

a **house of correction** Euph. a prison. □ He was sentenced to five years in the county's house of correction. □ The Jones House of Correction was built in the 1950s, when violent crime was much less common here.  

a **house of ill fame** Go to next.  

a **house of ill repute** and a **house of ill fame** Euph. a house of prostitution. □ The sign says “Health Club,” but everyone knows it’s a house of ill repute. □ He made a lot of money by running a house of ill fame.  

*a **household name** and *a **household word** Fig. well known by everyone; commonly and widely known. (Typically: be ~; become ~; make something ~.) □ I want my invention to become a household word. □ Some kid named Perry Hodder has become a household name!  

a **household word** Go to previous.  

hover **around** (someone or something) to hang or wait around someone or something. □ The mugger hovered around the floating sailor. □ Uncle Jed hovered around the side door to the theater, waiting for a victim.  

hover **between** something and something else 1. Lit. to float or hang between things. □ The helicopter hovered between the buildings and lowered a rescue chair. □ The hummingbird hovered between the blossoms, sipping from one and then the other. 2. Fig. to waver between choosing one thing and another. □ I hovered between chocolate and vanilla. □ Tom: I have to leave now. Bill: How come? John: I just have to, that’s all.  

hover **over** someone or something 1. Lit. to remain suspended over someone or something. □ The rescue helicopter hovered over the floating sailor. □ A huge blimp hovered over the football stadium. 2. Fig. [for someone] to stay close to someone or something, waiting, ready to advise or interfere. □ Please don't hover over me, watching what I am doing. □ I have to hover over this project or someone will mess it up.  

**How about that!** Isn’t that surprising! □ A: My husband and I just celebrated our sixtieth anniversary. B: How about that!  


[how are] See also the entries beginning with How’re.  

**How (are) you doing?** a standard greeting inquiry. (The entry without are is informal and usually pronounced “How ya doin?”) □ Jane: How are you doing? Mary: I’m okay. What about you? Jane: Likewise. □ Sally: Sue, this is my little brother. Bill. Sue: How are you, Bill? Bill: Okay. How you doing?  


**How are you getting on?** How are you managing?; How are you doing? □ Jane: Well, Mary, how are you getting on? Mary: Things couldn't be better. □ Sue: Hey, John! How are you getting on? What’s it like with all the kids out of the house? John: Things are great, Sue!  

**How bout them apples?** and **How do you like them apples?** Rur. What do you think of that? (Often used to express admiration, as in the first example; bout is short for about.) □ Tom: I got first prize! Mary: Well! How bout them apples? □ Joe got a job as a newspaper reporter. How do you like them apples?  

**How can I serve you?** Go to How may I help you?  

**How come?** How did that come about?; Why? □ Sally: I have to go to the doctor. Mary: How come? Sally: I'm sick, silly. □ John: I have to leave now. Bill: How come? John: I just have to, that’s all. □ Henry: How come you always put your right shoe on first? Rachel: Do I have to have a reason for something like that?  

**How could you (do something)?** How could you bring yourself to do a thing like that? (No answer is expected.) □ Looking first at the broken lamp and then at the cat, Mary shouted, “How could you do that?” □ Tom: Then I punched him in the nose. Rachel: Oh, how could you?  

**How do you do.** a standard inquiry and response on greeting or meeting someone. (This expression never has rising question intonation, but the first instance of its use calls for a response. Sometimes the response does, in fact, explain how one is.) □ Sally: Hello. How do you do. Bob: How do you do. □ Mary: How do you do. So glad to meet you. Tom. Tom: Thank you. How are you? Mary: Just fine. Your brother tells me you like camping. Tom: Yes. Are you a camper? Mary: Sort of.  

**How do you know?** 1. How did you get that information? (A straightforward question. The stress in on know.) □ Bill: The train is about to pull into the station. Sue: How do you know? Bill: I hear it. □ Fred: I have to apologize for the coffee. It probably isn’t very good. Jane: How do you know? Fred: Well, I made it. 2. Inf. What makes you think you are correct?; Why do you think you have enough
information to make this judgment? (Contentious. The heaviest stress is on you.) □ Bill: This is the best recording made all year. Bob: How do you know? Bill: Well, I guess it’s just my opinion. □ Tom: Having a baby can be quite an ordeal. Mary: How do you know? Tom: I read a lot.


**How do you like that?** 1. Lit. Do you like that? Is that to your liking? □ Tom: There’s a bigger one over there. How do you like that? Bill: It’s better, but not quite what I want. □ Clerk: Here’s one without pleats. How do you like that? Fred: That’s perfect! 2. Fig. An expression said during administering punishment. □ “How do you like that?” growled Tom as he punched John in the stomach. □ Bill (being spanked): Ouch! Ow! No! Mother (spanking): How do you like that? Bill: Not much. Mother: It hurts me more than it hurts you. 3. Fig. An expression said to show surprise at someone’s bad or strange behavior or at some surprising event. □ Tom (shouting at Sue): Can it! Go away! Sue (looking at Mary, aghast): Well, how do you like that! Mary: Let’s get out of here! □ Fred: How do you like that? Sue: What’s the matter? Fred: My wallet’s gone.

**How do you like them apples?** To go to How bout them apples?

**How do you like this weather?** Someone said when greeting someone. (A direct answer is expected.) □ Henry: Hi, Bill. How do you like this weather? Bill: Lovely weather for ducks. Not too good for me, though. □ Alice: Gee, it’s hot! How do you like this weather? Rachel: You can have it!

**How does that grab you?** Inf. What do you think of that? (Pronounced more like HowZAT grab ya?.) □ Looks good, okay? How does that grab you? □ How does that grab you? Enough salt?

**How dumb do you think I am?** Inf. Your question is insulting. I am not stupid. (Shows agitation. An answer is not expected or desired.) □ Mary: Are you really going to sell your new car? Sally: Come on! How dumb do you think I am? □ Tom: Do you think you could sneak into that theater without paying? Bob: Good grief! How dumb do you think I am?

**How goes it?** Inf. How are you? How are things going? □ Nice to see you. How goes it? □ How goes it? Everything okay?

**How goes it (with you)?** and **How’s it going?** Inf. Hello, how are you? □ Hi, Mary. How goes it with you?

**How (have) you been?** A standard greeting inquiry. (See also **How you is?**) □ Bob: Hi, Fred! How have you been? Fred: Great! What about you? Bob: Fine. □ Bob: How you been? Sue: Okay, I guess. You okay? Bob: Yup.

[**[how is]**] See the entries beginning with how’s.

**How is someone fixed for something?** Is there enough of something? □ How are you fixed for ketchup? Do you have enough for the picnic?

**How is someone getting along?** How is someone feeling or progressing? □ How is your father getting along? Is he any better?

**How is someone making out?** How is someone doing? How is someone surviving or getting along? □ How are you making out since your retirement?

**How many times do I have to tell you?** Inf. A phrase admonishing someone who has forgotten instructions. □ Mother: How many times do I have to tell you? Do your homework! Bill: Mom! I hate school! □ Mary: Clean this place up! How many times do I have to tell you? Bill: I’ll do it! I’ll do it!

**How may I help you?** and **How can I help you?**; **How can I serve you?**; **May I help you?** □ Clerk: May I help you? Sue: I’m not ready to order yet. □ Clerk: May I help you? Jane: I’m looking for a gift for my aunt.


**How’s it going?** Go to How goes it (with you)?


**How’s that again?** Inf. Please say that again.; I did not hear it all. □ Sue: Would you like some coffee? Mary: How’s that again? Sue: I said, would you like some coffee? □ Tom: The car door is frozen closed. Bob: How’s that again? Tom: The car door is frozen closed.

**How’s the boy?** Go to How’s my boy?


How's the world (been) treating you?  Inf. How are you?  □ Hi, Jane. How's the world treating you?  □ How's the world been treating you, Bill?


How's your family?  Go to How's the family?

How should I know? and Don't ask me.  Inf. I do not know.; Why should I be expected to know? (Shows impatience or rudeness.) □ Bill: Why is the orca called the killer whale? Mary: How should I know? □ Sally: Where did I leave my glasses? Tom: Don't ask me.

How so? Please explain your remark. □ A: You have to bring all the lawn furniture in. B: How so?

How the mighty have fallen.  Prov. a jovial or mocking way of remarking that someone is doing something that he or she used to consider very demeaning. □ fill: Ever since Fred's wife left him, he has had to cook his own meals. Jane: Well! How the mighty have fallen! □ When Dan lost his money, he had to sell his expensive sports car. Now he drives an ugly old sedan. How the mighty have fallen.

how the other half lives  Fig. how poorer people live; how richer people live. □ Now that I am bankrupt I am beginning to understand how the other half lives. □ Most people don't care how the other half lives.

How will I know you?  Go to next.

How will I recognize you? and How will I know you? a question asked by one of two people who have agreed to meet for the first time in a large busy place. □ Tom: Okay, I'll meet you at the west door of the station. Mary: Fine. How will I recognize you? Tom: I'll be wearing dark glasses. □ Bill: I'll meet you at six. How will I recognize you? Mary: I'll be carrying a brown umbrella.

howdily and a half  Rur. a short distance. □ Tom: Is it far to the dime store? Jane: Just a howdily and a half. □ Her house was a howdily and a half from the place where I grew up.

howl at someone or something 1. Lit. [for a canine] to bay at someone or something. □ The dog howls at me when I play the trumpet. □ The wolves howled at the moon and created a terrible uproar. 2. and hoot at someone or something Fig. to yell out at someone or something. □ The audience howled at the actors and upset them greatly. □ We hooted at the singer until he stopped. 3. Fig. to laugh very hard at someone or something. □ Everyone just howled at Tom's joke. □ I hooted at the story Alice told.

howl someone down1 and hoot someone down1 Fig. to yell at or boo someone's performance; to force someone to stop talking by yelling or booing. □ The audience howled the inept magician down. □ They howled down the musician.

howl with something to yell or holler because of something, such as pain. □ Roger howled with pain as the needle went into his arm. □ Mary howled with grief when she saw what had happened to her roses.


huddle around someone or something to gather or bunch around someone or something. □ The girls huddled around Mary to hear what she had to say. □ The kids huddled around the cake and consumed it almost instantaneously.

huddle someone together to bunch people together. □ The scoutmaster huddled the boys together to give them a pep talk. □ Let's huddle everyone together to keep warm.

huddle (up) (together) to bunch up together. □ The children huddled up together to keep warm. □ They huddled up to keep warm. □ The newborn rabbits huddled together and squirmed hungrily.

a hue and cry  Fig. a loud public protest or opposition. (See also raise a hue and cry. ) □ There was a hue and cry when the city government tried to build houses on the playing field. □ The decision to close the local school started a real hue and cry.

huff and puff  Fig. to breathe very hard; to pant as one exerts effort. □ John came up the stairs huffing and puffing. □ He huffed and puffed and finally got up the steep hill.

hum with activity  Fig. [for a place] to be busy with activity. □ The kitchen hummed with activity as usual. □ Our main office was humming with activity during the busy season.

hunch over [for someone] to bend over. □ The wounded man hunched over and staggered to the window. □ He was hunched over with pain.

hunch something up1 to raise up or lift up some body part, usually the shoulders. □ He hunched his shoulders up in his effort to get warm. □ He hunched up his shoulders to keep warm.

hunch up to squeeze or pull the parts of one's body together. □ He hunched up in a corner to keep warm. □ Why is that child hunched up in the corner?

hung up (on someone or something) obsessed with someone or something; devoted to someone or something. □ John is really hung up on Mary. □ She's hung up, too. See how she smiles at him.

hunger after something  Fig. to crave for something, not necessarily food. □ I hunger after some old-fashioned gospel music. □ Mary hungered after something fattening, such as ice cream or even a baked potato with sour cream.

hunger for someone or something to desire someone or something; to yearn for someone or something. □ I hunger for you. I want you madly. □ He looked at the cake and you could see he was hungering for it. □ The prisoner was consumed with a hunger for freedom.

Hunger is the best sauce.  Prov. Everything tastes especially good when you are hungry, because you are so eager to eat it. □ After our twenty-mile hike, we stopped at a little roadside restaurant. It may have been that they made the most delicious food in the world there, or it may have been that hunger was the best sauce.

*hungry as a bear and *hungry as a hunter  Cliché very hungry. (Alt. as ~) □ I'm as hungry as a bear. I could eat anything! □ We'd better have a big meal ready by
hurt for someone or something

hurl some-thing or something into something to throw some-thing or something into something. □ She hurled the little boys into the storm cellar and went back to the house for the dog. □ Sharon hurled her belong-ings into the suit case and jammed it closed.

hurl some-thing or some-thing out of some-thing or some-thing out of some-thing. □ The manager hurled them out of the tavern. □ The manager hurled out the annoying peo-ple.

hurl some-thing around to throw something, such as words, around care-less-ly. □ Don’t just go hurling foul words around like they didn’t mean anything. □ You are just hurling around words!

hurl some-thing away (from some-thing or some-thing) to throw or push something away from some-thing or some-thing. □ She hurled the bricks away from the partially buried child. □ Hurl away the bricks as fast as you can.

hurry away and hurry off to leave in a hurry. □ I have to hurry away. Excuse me, please. It’s an emergency. □ Don’t hurry off. I need to talk to you.

hurry back (to some-thing or some-thing) to return to some-thing or some-thing immediately or as fast as possible. □ Oh, please hurry back to me as soon as you can. □ Hurry back!

hurry down (to somewhere) to descend rapidly. □ We need you down here in the basement. Hurry down. □ Please hurry down to the kitchen and help us.

hurry off Go to hurry away.

hurry on Go to hurry up.

hurry one on one’s way to help someone to hasten on. □ Mary hurried Joel on his way so he could catch his train. □ There is no need to hurry me on my way. I am leaving.

hurry some-thing or some-thing along to make some-thing or some-thing go faster. □ Go hurry your mother along. We’re almost late. □ Why don’t you hurry the meeting along?

hurry some-thing or some-thing in(to some-thing) to make some-thing or some-thing go into some-thing fast. □ She hurried the chickens into the coop and closed the door on them for the night. □ It was beginning to rain, so Jerry hurried the children in.

hurry some-thing or some-thing up to make some-thing or some-thing go or work faster. □ Please hurry them all up. We are expecting to have dinner very soon. □ See if you can hurry this project up a little.

hurry up and hurry on to move faster. □ Hurry up! You’re going to be late. □ Please hurry on. We have a lot to do today.

hurry up and wait Fig. to do some things in a series fast and then have to wait a long time to do the next things in the series. (Originally military.) □ That’s all we ever do. Rush to stand in line somewhere. We just hurry up and wait all day long. □ Hurry up and wait! That’s the army for you.

hurl some-thing or some-thing at some-thing or some-thing to throw some-thing or some-thing at someone or something. □ The huge man actually hurled me at the tree. □ Larry hurled his shoe at me.

hurl some-thing or some-thing down to throw or push some-thing or some-thing downward to the ground. □ Roger hurled the football down and it bounced away wildly. □ He hurled down the football in anger.

hurt as a hun-ter Go to previous.

hur-ry down (on some-thing) Fig. to squat down on one’s heels, a stool, a stone, etc. □ Jeff hunkered down on the pavement and watched the world go by. □ He hunkered down to take a rest.

hun-ker down to some-thing Fig. to apply oneself to some-thing, to get started working at some-thing. □ I hunkered down to my chores, hoping to get them done before noon. □ If you want to get a good grade on that report, you’d better hunker down to it.

hun-ker down (on some-thing) Fig. to squat down on one’s heels, a stool, a stone, etc. □ Jeff hunkered down on the pavement and watched the world go by. □ He hunkered down to take a rest.

hun-ker down to some-thing Fig. to apply oneself to some-thing, to get started working at some-thing. □ I hunkered down to my chores, hoping to get them done before noon. □ If you want to get a good grade on that report, you’d better hunker down to it.

define these words:

• hurl
• hurry
• hunt
• hunker
hurt someone’s feelings to cause someone emotional pain.

- It hurts my feelings when you talk that way. ☐ I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to hurt your feelings.

hurtin’ for something Rur. in need of something.

- I went to fetch a bottle of cough syrup. My sick child was hurtin’ for it. ☐ Jim was hurtin’ for a new set of tools.

hurtle through something to travel through something at great speed or with great force, possibly causing breakage.

- A brick hurtled through the window and fell on the floor.
- The rocket hurtled through space toward Mars.

a hush fell over someone or something Fig. a sudden silence enveloped something or a group.

- As the conductor raised his arms, a hush fell over the audience.
- The coach shouted and a hush fell over the locker room.

hush money Fig. money paid as a bribe to persuade someone to remain silent and not reveal certain information.

- Bob gave his younger sister hush money so that she wouldn’t tell Jane that he had gone to the movies with Sue.
- The crooks paid Fred hush money to keep their whereabouts secret.

hush someone up! 1. to make someone quiet.

- Please hush the children up. I have a telephone call.
- Hush up those kids!
- The gang was afraid the witness would testify and wanted to hush him up.
- Mr. Big told Sam to hush up Richard.

hush something up! Fig. to keep something a secret; to try to stop a rumor from spreading.

- We just couldn’t hush it up.
- We wanted to hush up the story, but there was no way to do it.

hush up to be quiet; to get quiet; to stop talking.

- You talk too much. Hush up! ☐ I want you to hush up and sit down!

Hush your mouth! Inf. Please be quiet. (Not very polite.)

- I’ve heard enough of that talk. Hush your mouth!
- Now, hush your mouth! You shouldn’t talk like that!

hustle and bustle Fig. confusion and business.

- I can’t stand the hustle and bustle of big cities.
- There is a lot of hustle and bustle in this office at the end of the fiscal year.

hustle up to hurry up.

- Hustle up, you guys. We have to get moving.
- Hustle up. We are almost late.

hygienically challenged Euph. [of a person] dirty. (Jocular.)

- Bill always smells terrible. He must be hygienically challenged.
- A couple of the kids in my class are, let us say, hygienically challenged.

hype someone or something (up) to promote, advertise, or boost someone or something, often excessively.

- No matter how much they hyped it up, it was still a very dull movie.
- Her agent hyped her up as a great actress.

hypothesize about something to speculate about something; to make guesses about something.

- Don’t waste time hypothesizing about what happened.
- There is no point in hypothesizing about what happened when we don’t know the actual truth.

hypothesize on something to conjecture on the origin or nature of something.

- We sat around hypothesizing on the origin of life.
I am not my brother’s keeper. and Am I my
brother’s keeper? Prov. You are not responsible
for another person’s doings or whereabouts. (Biblical.) □ Fred: Where’s Robert? Jane: Am I my brother’s keeper? □
Jill: How could you let Jane run off like that? Alan: I’m not
my brother’s keeper.

I am so sure! Inf. I am right! □ You are way rad! I am so
sure! □ This is too much. I am so sure!

(I) beg your pardon, but... and Begging your par-
don, but... Please excuse me, but. (A very polite and
formal way of interrupting, bringing something to someone’s
attention, or asking a question of a stranger.) □ Rachel:
Beg your pardon, but I think your right front tire is a little
low. Henry: Well, I guess it is. Thank you. □ John: Begging
your pardon, ma’am, but weren’t we on the same cruise ship
in Alaska last July? Rachel: Couldn’t have been me.

I believe so. Go to I guess (so).

I believe we’ve met. a phrase suggesting that one has
already met a person to whom one is being introduced. □
John: Alice, have you met Fred? Alice: Oh, yes, I believe we’ve
met. How are you, Fred? Fred: Hello, Alice. Good to see you
again. □ Alice: Tom, this is my cousin, Mary. Tom: I believe
we’ve met. Nice to see you again, Mary. Mary: Hello, Tom.
Good to see you again.

I can accept that. Inf. I accept your evaluation as valid.
□ Bob: Now, you’ll probably like doing the other job much
better. It doesn’t call for you to do the things you don’t do
well. Tom: I can accept that. □ Sue: On your evaluation this
time, I noted that you need to work on telephone manners
a little bit. Bill: I can accept that.

I can live with that. Inf. That is something I can get used
to; That is all right as far as I’m concerned. □ Sue: I want
to do this room in green. Bill: I can live with that. □ Clerk:
This one will cost twelve dollars more. Bob: I can live with
that. I’ll take it.

(I) can too. You are wrong, I can.; Don’t say I can’t,
because I can! (The response to (You cannot!)) □ Sue: I’m going
to the party. Mother: You can’t. Sue: I can too. Mother:
Cannot! Sue: Can too! □ “Can too!” protested Fred. “I can,
if you can!”

I can’t accept that. Inf. I do not believe what you said.;
I reject what you said. □ Sue: The mechanic says we need
a whole new engine. John: What? I can’t accept that! □ Tom:
You’re now going to work on the night shift. You don’t seem
to be able to get along with some of the people on the day
shift. Bob: I can’t accept that. It’s them, not me.

(I) can’t argue with that. Inf. I agree with what you
said.; It sounds like a good idea. □ Tom: This sure is good
cake. Bob: Can’t argue with that. □ Sue: What do you say
we go for a swim? Fred: I can’t argue with that.

(I) can’t beat that. and (I) can’t top that. Inf. I can-
don’t do better than that.; I cannot exceed that. □ Henry: That
was really great. I can’t beat that. Rachel: Yes, that was
really good. □ “What a great joke! I can’t top that,” said
Kate, still laughing.

I can’t believe (that)! That is unbelievable! □ Tom: What
a terrible earthquake! All the houses collapsed, one by one.
Jane: I can’t believe that! □ Bill: This lake is nearly twenty hun-
dred feet deep. Sue: I can’t believe that! Bill: Take my word
for it.

(I) can’t complain. and (I have) nothing to com-
plain about. Inf. a response to a greeting inquiry ask-
ing how one is or how things are going for one. □ Sue:
How are things going? Mary: I can’t complain. □ Mary: Hi,
Fred! How are you doing? Fred: Nothing to complain about.

I can’t get over something! Fig. I am just so amazed! (The
something can be a fact or a pronoun, such as that or it.
Also with just, as in the examples.) □ “I just can’t get over
the way everybody pitched in and helped,” said Alice. □ Bob:
The very idea, Sue and Tom doing something like that! Bill:
I can’t get over it!

(I) can’t help it. There is nothing I can do to help the sit-
uation.; That is the way it is.; There is nothing I can do.
(Often in answer to a criticism.) □ Mary: Your hair is a mess.
Sue: It’s windy. I can’t help it. □ Fred: I wish you’d quit
coughing all the time. Sally: I can’t help it. I wish I could
too.

(I) can’t rightly say. Rur. I do not know with any cer-
tainty. □ Fred: When do you think we’ll get there? Bill: Can’t
rightly say. □ Bob: Okay, how does this look to you? Bill: I
can’t rightly say. I’ve never seen anything like it before.

(I) can’t say (as) I do. Go to (I) can’t say that I do.

(I) can’t say (as) I have. Go to (I) can’t say that I have.

(I) can’t say for sure. Inf. I do not know with any cer-
tainty. □ Tom: When will the next train come through?
Jane: I can’t say for sure. □ Bob: How can the driver hit so
many potholes? Bill: Can’t say for sure. I know he doesn’t see
too well, though.

(I) can’t say’s I do. Go to (I) can’t say that I do.

(I) can’t say’s I have. Go to (I) can’t say that I have.

(I) can’t believe I do. and (I) can’t believe I have.; (I)
can’t say (as) I do.; (I) can’t say (as) I have. Fig. a vague response to a question
about whether one remembers, knows about, likes, etc.,
something or someone. (The say as and say’s are not stan-
dard English.) □ Jane: You remember Fred, don’t you? John:
Can’t say as I do. □ Bob: This is a fine looking car. Do you
like it? Bill: I can’t say I do.

(I) can’t say’s I have. and (I) can’t say’s I do.; (I)
can’t say’s I have.; (I) can’t say’s I have. Fig. a vague response to a ques-
tion about whether one has ever done something or
been somewhere. (A polite way of saying no.) □ Bill: Have
you ever been to a real opera? Bob: I can’t say as I have. □
Mary: Well, have you thought about going with me to Fairbanks? Fred: I can’t say I have, actually.

I can’t thank you enough. Fig. a polite expression of gratitude. □ Bill: Here’s the book I promised you. Sue: Oh, good. I can’t thank you enough. □ Tom: Well, here we are. Bill: Well, Tom. I can’t thank you enough. I really appreciate the ride.

I can’t top that. Go to (I) can’t beat that.

I changed my mind. I have reversed my previous decision or statement. □ Tom: I thought you were going to Atlanta today. Bill: I changed my mind. I’m leaving tomorrow. □ Mary: I thought that this room was going to be done in red. Sue: I changed my mind.

I could be better. Go to (Things) could be better.

I could be worse. Go to (Things) could be worse.

I couldn’t ask for more. Inf. Everything is fine, and there is no more that I could want. □ Bill: Are you happy? Sue: Oh, Bill. I couldn’t ask for more. □ Waiter: Is everything all right? Bill: Oh, yes, indeed. Couldn’t ask for more.

I couldn’t ask you to do that. That is a very kind offer, but I would not ask you to do it. (This is not a refusal of the offer.) □ Sally: Look, if you want, I’ll drive you to the airport. Mary: Oh, Sally. I couldn’t ask you to do that. □ Bill: I’ll lend you enough money to get you through the week. Sally: I couldn’t ask you to do that.

I couldn’t be better. Inf. I am fine. □ John: How are you? Jane: Couldn’t be better. □ Bill: I hope you’re completely well now. Mary: I couldn’t be better.

I couldn’t(n’t) care less. Inf. It doesn’t matter to me. (The less bears the heaviest stress in both versions. Despite the apparent contradiction, either reading of this—both the affirmative and negative—usually have the same meaning. The exception would be in a sentence where the could bears the heaviest stress: I could care less, [but I don’t.].) □ Tom: The rain is coming! The carpet will get wet! Mary: I couldn’t care less. □ Bill: I’m going to go in there and tell off the boss? John: I could care less.

I couldn’t help it. There was no way I could prevent it; I was unable to prevent something from happening; I was unable to control myself. □ Sally: You let the paint dry with brush marks in it. Mary: I couldn’t help it. I could help it. □ Fred: You got fingerprints all over the window. Mary: Sorry. Couldn’t help it.

I declare (to goodness)! Rur. What a surprise! □ I declare to goodness! You certainly have grown since I saw you. □ Tom: Jim and Sally are going to get married. Mary: Well, I declare!

I didn’t catch the name. and I didn’t catch your name. I don’t remember your name.; I didn’t hear your name when we were introduced. □ Bill: How do you like this weather? Bob: It’s not too good. By the way, I didn’t catch your name. I’m Bob Wilson. Bill: I’m Bill Franklin. Bob: Nice to meet you, Bill. □ Bob: Sorry, I didn’t catch the name. Bill: It’s Bill, Bill Franklin. And you? Bob: I’m Bob Wilson.

I didn’t hear you. Go to next.

I didn’t (quite) catch that (last) remark. and I didn’t get that: I didn’t hear you. I didn’t hear what you said, so would you please repeat it. □ John: What did you say? I didn’t quite catch that last remark. Jane: I said it’s really a hot day. □ Bill: Have a nice time, if you can. Sally: I didn’t get that. Bill: Have a nice time! Enjoy!

I do believe. a way of affirming or reaffirming one’s opinion. □ Jim’s in love with that gal, I do believe. □ Jane’s store will do well, I do believe.

I (do) declare! Inf. I am surprised to hear that! (Old-fashioned.) □ Mary: I’m the new president of my sorority! Grandmother: I declare! That’s very nice. □ A plane had landed right in the middle of the cornfield. The old farmer shook his head in disbelief. “I do declare!” he said over and over as he walked toward the plane.

I don’t believe it! an expression of amazement and disbelief. □ Bob: Tom was just elected president of the trade association! Mary: I don’t believe it! □ Bob: They’re going to build a Disney World in Moscow. Sally: I don’t believe it!

I don’t believe I’ve had the pleasure. Fig. an expression meaning I haven’t met you yet. □ Tom: I’m Tom Thomas. I don’t believe I’ve had the pleasure. Bill: Hello. I’m Bill Franklin. Tom: Nice to meet you, Bill. Bill: Likewise. □ Bob: Looks like rain. Fred: Sure does. Oh, I don’t believe I’ve had the pleasure. Bob: I’m Bob Bob Jones. Fred: My name is Fred Wilson. Glad to meet you.

I don’t believe this! Inf. What is happening right now is unbelievable! □ It’s snowing in July! I don’t believe this! □ I don’t believe this! It can’t be happening.

I don’t care. It doesn’t matter to me. □ Mary: Can I take these papers away? Tom: I don’t care. Do what you want. □ Bill: Should this room be white or yellow? Sally: I don’t care.

I (don’t) care if I do. Rur. Thank you.; I will. (See also I don’t mind if I do.) □ Tom: Have some more grits? Jane: Don’t care if I do. □ Charlie: Come on in and set a spell. Mary: Don’t care if I do.

I don’t have time to breathe. Go to next.

I don’t have time to catch my breath. and I don’t have time to breathe. Fig. I am very busy; I have been very busy. □ Henry: I’m so busy these days. I don’t have time to catch my breath. Rachel: Oh, I know what you mean. □ Sue: Would you mind finishing this for me? Bill: Sorry, Sue. I’m busy. I don’t have time to breathe.

I don’t know. a common expression of ignorance or of lacking an answer. □ Father: Why can’t you do better in school? Bill: I don’t know. □ Bill: Well, what are we going to do now? Sue: I don’t know.

I don’t mean maybe! Inf. I am very serious about my demand or order. □ Bob: Do I have to do this? Sue: Do it now, and I don’t mean maybe! □ Father: Get this place cleaned up! And I don’t mean maybe! John: All right! I’ll do it!

I (don’t) mind if I do. Yes, I would like to. □ Sally: Have some more coffee? Bob: Don’t mind if I do. □ Jane: Here are some lovely roses. Would you like to take a few blossoms with you? John: I don’t mind if I do.

I don’t mind telling you (something). I want you to know something. □ Tom: You have a beautiful garden. Mary: Thank you. But I don’t mind telling you, it’s an awful lot of work. □ I don’t mind telling you, I was as pleased as Punch when my daughter won the race.

(I) don't think so. Go to I guess not.

I don't understand (it). and I can't understand (it). I am confused and bewildered (by what has happened).
□ Bill: Everyone is leaving the party. Mary: I don't understand. It's still so early. □ Bob: The very idea, Sue and Tom doing something like that! Alice: It's very strange. I can't understand it.

I don't want to alarm you, but and I don't want to upset you, but an expression used to introduce bad or shocking news or gossip. □ Bill: I don't want to alarm you, but I see someone prowling around your car. Mary: Oh, goodness! I'll call the police! □ Bob: I don't want to upset you, but I have some bad news. Tom: Let me have it.

I don't want to sound like a busybody, but Fig. an expression used to introduce an opinion or suggestion.
□ Bob: I don't want to sound like a busybody, but didn't you intend to have your house painted? Bill: Well, I guess I did. □ Bob: I don't want to sound like a busybody, but some of your neighbors wonder if you could stop parking your car on your lawn. Sally: I'll thank you to mind your own business!

I don't want to upset you, but Go to I don't want to alarm you, but.

I don't want to wear out my welcome. Fig. a phrase said by a guest who doesn't want to be a burden to the host or hostess or to visit too often. □ Mary: Good night, Tom. You must come back again soon. Tom: Thank you. I'd love to. I don't want to wear out my welcome, though. □ Bob: We had a fine time. Glad you could come to our little gathering. Hope you can come again next week. Fred: I don't want to wear out my welcome, but I'd like to come again. Bob: Good. See you next week. Bye. Fred: Bye.

I don't wonder. Go to I'm not surprised.

I doubt it. I do not think so. □ Tom: Think it will rain today? Sue: I doubt it. □ Sally: Think you'll go to New York? Mary: I doubt it.

I doubt that. I do not believe that something is so. □ Bob: I'll be there exactly on time. Sue: I doubt that. □ John: Fred says he can't come to work because he's sick. Jane: I doubt that.

I expect Go to I guess.

I expect not. Go to I guess not.

I expect (so). Go to I guess (so).

I felt like a penny waiting for change. Rur. I felt worthless or helpless. □ When I lost the race, I felt like a penny waiting for change. □ My best girl went off with someone else. I felt like a penny waiting for change.

I guess and I expect; I suppose; I suspect 1. a phrase that introduces a supposition. (Frequently, in speech, suppose is reduced to 'spose, and expect and suspect are reduced to 'spect. The apostrophe is not always shown.) □ Bob: I guess it's going to rain. Bill: Oh, I don't know. Maybe so, maybe not. □ Alice: I expect you'll be wanting to leave pretty soon. John: Why? It's early yet. 2. a vague way of answering 'yes'. □ John: You want some more coffee? Jane: I 'spose. □ Alice: Ready to go? John: I spect.

I guess not. and (I) don't think so.; I expect not.; I suppose not.; I suspect not.; I think not. a vague statement of negation. (More polite or gentle than simply saying no. Frequently, in speech, suppose is reduced to 'spose, and expect and suspect are reduced to 'spect. The apostrophe is not always shown.) □ Bill: It's almost too late to go to the movie. Shall we try anyway? Mary: I guess not. □ Tom: Will it rain? Mary: ’spect not.

I guess (so). and I believe so.; I expect (so).; I suppose (so).; I suspect (so).; I think so. a vague expression of assent. (Frequently, in speech, suppose is reduced to 'spose, and expect and suspect are reduced to 'spect. The apostrophe is not always shown.) □ Bill: Will it rain today? Bob: I suppose so. □ Sue: Happy? Bill: ’spect. Sue: You don't sound happy. Bill: I guess not.

(I) had a good time. Go to (I) had a nice time.

I had a lovely time. and We had a lovely time. a polite expression of thanks to the host or hostess. □ Fred: Good-bye. I had a lovely time. Bill: Nice to have you. Do come again. □ Jane: We had a lovely time. Mary: Thank you and thanks for coming.

(I) had a nice time. and (I) had a good time. the standard good-bye and thank you said to a host or hostess by a departing guest. □ John: Thank you. I had a nice time. Sally: Don't stay away so long next time. Bye. □ Mary: Had a nice time. Bye. Got to run. Sue: Bye. Drive safely.

(I) hate to eat and run. Cliché an apologie made by someone who must leave a social event soon after eating. □ Bill: Well, I hate to eat and run, but it's getting late. Sue: Oh, you don't have to leave, do you? Bill: I think I really must. □ Mary: Oh, my goodness! I hate to eat and run, but I have to catch an early plane tomorrow. Bob: Do you have to go? Mary: Afraid so.

I have] See also the entries beginning with I’ve.

(I have) no problem with that. That is okay with me. (See also No problem.) □ Bob: Is it okay if I sign us up to play mixed doubles? Sally: I have no problem with that. □ Bill: It looks as though we will have to come back later. They're not open yet. Is that all right? Jane: No problem with that. When do they open?

(I have) nothing to complain about. Go to (I) can't complain.

(I) have to be moving along. and (I) have to move along. It is time for me to leave. □ Bill: Bye, now. Have to be moving along. Sally: See you later. □ Rachel: I have to be moving along. See you later. Andrew: Bye, now. □ Sally: It's late. I have to move along. Mary: If you must. Good-bye. See you tomorrow.

(I) have to go now. an expression announcing the need to leave. □ Fred: Bye, have to go now. Mary: See you later. Take it easy. □ Sue: Would you help me with this box? John: Sorry. I have to go now.

(I) have to move along. Go to (I) have to be moving along.

(I) have to push off. Go to (I) have to shove off.

(I) have to run along. an expression announcing the need to leave. □ Jane: It's late. I have to run along. Tom:
I just have this feeling. I have a premonition about this; I have a feeling about this. I really don’t know that something is wrong. I just have this feeling. I just have this feeling that she is not telling us the truth.

(i) just want(ed) to mention something. Go to next.

(i) just want(ed) to say something, and (i) just want(ed) to mention something.; (i) just want(ed) to tell you something, a sentence opener that eases into a statement or question. (Can be followed by words like say, ask, tell you, be, and come.) Rachel: I just wanted to say that we all loved your letter. Thank you so much. Andrew: Thanks. Glad you liked it. Rachel: I just wanted to tell you how sorry I am about your sister. Alice: Thanks. I appreciate it. Andrew: Just wanted to come by for a minute and say hello. Tom: Well, hello. Glad you dropped by.

I kid you not. Inf. I am not kidding you.; I am not trying to fool you. Bill: Whose car is this? Sally: It’s mine. It really is. I kid you not. “I kid you not,” said Tom, glowing. “I outran the whole lot of them.”

I know (just) what you mean. I know exactly what you are talking about, and I feel the same way about it. John: These final exams are just terrible. Bob: I know just what you mean. John: Why do we have to go through this? Mary: What a pain! I hate annual inventories. John: I know what you mean. It’s really boring.


I must say good night. an expression announcing the speaker’s intention of leaving for the night. Jane: It’s late. I must say good night. Bob: Can I see you again? Jane: Call me. Good night, Bob. Bob: Good night, Jane. Sue: I must say good night. Mary: Good night, then. See you tomorrow.

I need it yesterday. Inf. an answer to the question “When do you need this?” (Indicates that the need is urgent.) Bob: When do you need that urgent survey? Bill: I need it yesterday. Mary: Where’s the Wilson contract? Sue: Do you need it now? Mary: I need it yesterday! Where is it?

(i) never heard of such a thing! an expression of amazement and disbelief. (Compare this with Well, I never!) Bill: The company sent out a representative the same day I called to examine the new sofa and see what the problem was with the wobbly leg. Jane: I’ve never heard of such a thing! That’s very unusual. Bill: The tax office is now open on Sunday! Sue: Never heard of such a thing!

(i) never thought I’d see you here! I am surprised to see you here. Tom: Hi, Sue! I never thought I’d see you here! Sue: Hi, Tom. I was thinking the same thing about you.

Bill: Well, Tom Thomas. I never thought I’d see you here! Tom: Likewise. I didn’t know you liked opera.

I owe you one. Inf. Thank you, now I owe you a favor.; I owe you something similar in return. Bob: I put the extra copy of the book on your desk. Sue: Thanks, I owe you


I have to shove off. and I’ve got to be shoving off.; I’ve got to be shoving off.; (It’s) time to shove off. a phrase announcing one’s need to depart. Jane: Look at the time! I have to shove off! John: Bye, Jane. Jane: Time to shove off. I have to feed the cats. John: Bye, Jane. Fred: I have to push off. Bye. Jane: See you around. Bye.

I have to wash a few things out!. 1. Lit. I have to wash things by hand, such as socks and underwear. It have to wash a few things out before I go to bed. She has to wash out a few things. 2. Fig. I have to do something (that keeps me from spending time with you). Janie: Just take it easy. There’s no rush. Henry: I haven’t got all day. When are you going to finish with my car? Bob: As soon as I can.

I haven’t seen you in a long time. Fig. an expression of greeting, often said as part of a series. Mary: Hi, Fred! Haven’t seen you in a long time. Fred: Yeah. Long time no see. Tom: Well, John. Is that you? I haven’t seen you in a long time. John: Good to see you, Tom!


I hear what you’re saying. and I hear you. 1. I know exactly what you mean! John: The prices in this place are a bit steep. Jane: Man, I hear you! Bill: I think it’s about time for the whole management team to resign! Andrew: I hear what you’re saying. 2. an expression indicating that the speaker has heard, but implying that there is no agreement. Tom: Time has come to do something about that ailing dog of yours. Mary: I hear what you’re saying. Jane: It would be a good idea to have the house painted. John: I hear what you’re saying.

I hear you. Go to previous.

I hope all goes well. I hope there is success. Good luck on your operation tomorrow. I hope all goes well.

(i) hope not. a phrase expressing the desire and wish that something is not so. John: It looks like it’s going to rain. Jane: Hope not. John: The Wilsons said they might come over this evening. Jane: I hope not. I’ve got things to do.

(i) hope so. a phrase expressing the desire and wish that something is so. Bill: Is this the right house? Bob: Hope so. John: Will you be coming to dinner Friday? Sue: Yes, I hope so.

(i) hope to see you again (sometime). an expression said when taking leave of a person one has just met. Bill: Nice to meet you, Tom. Tom: Bye, Bill. Nice to meet you. Bob: I hope to see you again soon. See you around. Bob: Yes, I hope to see you again. Good-bye.
I promise you! Inf. I am telling you the truth! (Compare this with Trust me!) □ John: Things will work out, I promise you! Jane: Okay, but when? □ Sue: I’ll be there exactly when I said. Bob: Are you sure? Sue: I promise you, I’m telling the truth!

(I) read you loud and clear. 1. Lit. a response used by someone communicating by radio stating that the speaker understands the transmission clearly. (See also Do you read me?) □ Controller: This is Aurora Center, do you read me? Pilot: Yes, I read you loud and clear. □ Controller: Left two degrees. Do you read me? Pilot: Roger. Read you loud and clear. 2. Fig. I understand what you are telling me. (Used in general conversation, not in radio communication.) □ Bob: Okay, now, do you understand exactly what I said? Mary: I read you loud and clear. □ Mother: I don’t want to have to tell you again. Do you understand? Bill: I read you loud and clear.

(I) really must go. an expression announcing or repeating one’s intention to depart. □ Bob: It’s getting late. I really must go. Jane: Good night, then. See you tomorrow. □ Sally: I really must go. John: Do you really have to? It’s early yet.

I rest my case. 1. Lit. I have completed the presentation of my argument. (Said by a lawyer.) □ Clearly the defendant is guilty. I rest my case. 2. Fig. What you just heard sums up my point of view. □ Your remark just supported my position! I rest my case.

I spoke out of turn. Fig. I said the wrong thing; I should not have said what I did. (An apology.) □ Bill: You said I was the one who did it. Mary: I’m sorry. I spoke out of turn. I was mistaken. □ Bill: I seem to have said the wrong thing. Bob: You certainly did. Bill: I spoke out of turn, and I’m sorry.

I spoke too soon. 1. Fig. I am wrong; I spoke before I knew the facts. □ Bill: I know I said I would, but I spoke too soon. Sue: I thought so. □ John: You said that everything would be all right. Jane: I spoke too soon. That was before I learned that you had been arrested. 2. Fig. What I had said was just now contradicted. □ Bob: It’s beginning to brighten up. I guess it won’t rain after all. John: I’m glad to hear that. Bob: Whooops! I spoke too soon. I just felt a raindrop on my cheek. □ Bill: Thank heavens! Here’s John now. Bob: No, that’s Fred. Bill: I spoke too soon. He sure looked like John.

I suppose Go to I guess.

I suppose not. Go to I guess not.

I suppose (so). Go to I guess (so).

I suspect Go to I guess.

I suspect not. Go to I guess not.

I suspect (so). Go to I guess (so).

I swam! Rur. What a surprise! □ Well, I swam! I didn’t expect to see you here! □ Tom: I hear Charlie just won a thousand dollars! Jane: I swam!

I think not. Go to I guess not.

I think so. Go to I guess (so).

(I was) just wondering, a comment made after hearing a response to a previous question. (See examples for typical patterns.) □ John: Do you always keep your film in the refrigerator? Mary: Yes, why? John: I was just wondering. □ Bob: Did this cost a lot? Sue: I really don’t think you need to know that. Bob: Sorry. Just wondering.

I was up all night with a sick friend. an unlikely, but popular excuse for not being where one was supposed to be the night before. □ Bill: Where in the world were you last night? Mary: Well, I was up all night with a sick friend. □ Mr. Franklin said rather sheepishly, “Would you believe I was up with a sick friend?”

I wasn’t brought up in the woods to be scared by owls. Rur. I am not foolish or easily frightened. □ His threats don’t scare me. I wasn’t brought up in the woods to be scared by owls. □ Mary: You’ll be sorry you ever crossed me. Jane: I wasn’t brought up in the woods to be scared by owls.

[I will] See the entries beginning with I’ll.

I wish I’d said that. a comment of praise or admiration for someone’s clever remark. □ Mary: The weed of crime bears bitter fruit. Sue: I wish I’d said that. Mary: I wish I’d said it first. □ John: Tom is simply not able to see through the airy persiflage of Mary’s prolix declamation. Jane: I wish I’d said that. John: I’m sorry I did.

(I) wonder if a phrase introducing a hypothesis. □ Henry: I wonder if I could have another piece of cake. Sue: Sure. Help yourself. □ Andy: Wonder if it’s stopped raining yet. Rachel: Why don’t you look out the window? □ Andy: I wonder if I’ll pass algebra. Father: That thought is on all our minds.

(I) won’t breathe a word of it. and (I) won’t tell a soul. Fig. I will not tell anyone your secret. □ Bill: Don’t tell anybody, but Sally is getting married. Mary: I won’t breathe a word of it. □ Alice: The Jacksons are going to have to sell their house. Don’t spread it around. Mary: I won’t tell a soul.

I won’t give up without a fight. Fig. I will not give in easily. (Compare this with Don’t give up too easily.) □ Sue: Stick by your principles, Fred. Fred: Don’t worry, I won’t give up without a fight. □ Bob: The boss wants me to turn the Wilson project over to Tom. Sue: How can he do that? Bob: I don’t know. All I know is that I won’t give up without a fight.

(I) won’t tell a soul. Go to (I) won’t breathe a word of it.

[I would] See also the entries beginning with I’d.

(I) would if I could, but I can’t. I simply can’t do it. □ Jane: Can’t you fix this yourself? John: I would if I could, but I can’t. □ Bob: Can you go to the dance? Hardly anyone is going. Alice: Would if I could.

I would like you to meet someone, and I would like to introduce you to someone. an expression used to introduce one person to another. (The word someone can be used as the someone.) □ Mary: I would like you to meet my Uncle Bill. Sally: Hello, Uncle Bill. Nice to meet you. □ Tom: I would like to introduce you to Bill Franklin. John: Hello, Bill. Glad to meet you. Bill: Glad to meet you, John.

(I) wouldn’t bet on it, and (I) wouldn’t count on it. Fig. I do not believe that something will happen. (Also with that or some specific happening. See examples.) □ John: I’ll be a vice president in a year or two. Mary: I wouldn’t bet on that. □ John: I’ll pick up a turkey on the
day before Thanksgiving. Mary: Did you order one ahead of time? John: No. Mary: Then I wouldn’t count on it.

(I) wouldn’t count on it. Go to previous.

(I) wouldn’t if I were you. Fig. a polite way to advise someone not to do something. □ Mary: Do you think I should trade this car in on a new one? Sally: I wouldn’t if I were you. □ Bob: I’m going to plant nothing but corn this year. Sue: I wouldn’t if I were you. Bob: Why? Sue: It’s better to diversify.

(I) wouldn’t know. There is no way that I would know the answer to that question. □ John: When will the flight from Miami get in? Jane: Sorry, I wouldn’t know. □ Bob: Are there many fish in the Amazon River? Mary: Gee, I wouldn’t know.

I wouldn’t touch it with a ten-foot pole. Cliché I would not have anything to do with it under any circumstances. (Said about something you think is untrustworthy, as in the first example, or in response to a remark that seems to invite a nasty reply, as in the second example. The British version is “I would not touch it with a barge-pole.”) □ Jill: This advertisement says I can buy land in Florida for a small investment. Do you think I should? Jane: I wouldn’t touch it with a ten-foot pole. □ Jane: Can you believe this? Jill said she thinks I’m bossy. You don’t think I’m bossy, do you? Mary: I wouldn’t touch that with a ten-foot pole.

I wouldn’t wish that on a dog. Go to next.

I wouldn’t wish that on my worst enemy. and I wouldn’t wish that on a dog. Fig. I would not wish that to happen to even the worst or lowest person. □ A skunk sprayed him! I wouldn’t wish that on my worst enemy. □ What a hideous disease! I wouldn’t wish that on a dog.

ice over [for water] to cause something to become icy. □ I can’t wait for the river to ice over so we can do some ice fishing.

ice something down to cool something with ice. □ They are icing the champagne down now. □ They are icing down the champagne now.

ice something up to cause something to become icy. □ I hope the cold doesn’t ice the roads up. □ The wind and rain iced up the roads.

ice up to become icy. □ Are the roads icing up?

the icing on the cake Fig. an extra enhancement. □ Oh, wow! A tank full of gas in my new car. That’s icing on the cake! □ Your coming home for a few days was the icing on the cake.

(I’d be) happy to (do something). and Be happy to (do something). I would do it with pleasure. (The something is often replaced with a description of an activity.) □ John: I tried to get the book you wanted, but they didn’t have it. Shall I try another store? Mary: No, never mind. John: I’d be happy to give it a try. □ Alice: Would you fix this, please? John: Be happy to.

I’d bet money (on it). Fig. I am certain. □ Charlie: Do you think Joe’s planning to sell his house? Tom: I’d bet money on it. □ I’d bet money that Jane will get that job.


(I’d) better get on my horse. Inf. an expression indicating that it is time that one departed. □ John: It’s getting late. Better get on my horse. Rachel: Have a safe trip. See you tomorrow. □ “I’d better get on my horse. The sun’ll be down in an hour,” said Sue, sounding like a cowboy.

(I’d) better hit the road. Go to (it’s) time to hit the road.

I’d (just) as leave do something I would rather do something. □ Tom: Do you want to go to Joe’s party? Jane: We can if you want to, but I’d as leave not. □ I’d just as leave eat dinner at home tonight.

I’d (just) as soon (as) do something I would prefer to do something. □ Tom: Why don’t you give Joe a call? Jane: I’d as soon as you did it. □ I’d just as soon we didn’t stay here long.

I’d like (for) you to meet someone. an expression used to introduce someone to someone else. (The someone can be a person’s name, the name of a relationship, or the word someone.) □ Tom: Sue, I’d like you to meet my brother, Bill. Sue: Hi, Bill. How are you? Bill: Great! How are you? □ Bob: Hello, Fred. I’d like for you to meet someone. This is Bill. Fred: Hello, Bill. I’m glad to meet you. Bill: Hello, Fred. My pleasure.

I’d like (to have) a word with you. and Could I have a word with you? I need to speak to you briefly in private. (The alternate entry is also used with can or may in place of could.) □ Bob: Can I have a word with you? Sally: Sure. I’ll be with you in a minute. □ Sally: Tom? Tom: Yes. Sally: I’d like to have a word with you. Tom: Okay. What’s it about?

I’d like to speak to someone, please. the standard way of requesting to speak with a specific person on the telephone or in an office. □ Sue (answering the phone): Hello? Bill: Hello, this is Bill Franklin. I’d like to speak to Mary Gray. Sue: I’ll see if she’s in. □ “I’d like to speak to Tom,” said the voice at the other end of the line.

I’d rather face a firing squad than do something Fig. I would prefer to stand and be executed by gunfire than to do something. □ I’d rather face a firing squad than go shopping the day after Christmas.

identify (oneself) with someone or something to classify oneself with someone or something; to relate to someone or something; to see part of oneself represented in someone or something. □ I identify myself with the others. □ I identify with the birds and animals of the forest.

identify someone as someone 1. to determine that someone is a certain person. □ Can you identify Fred as the perpetrator? □ Fred was identified as the thief. 2. to reveal one’s identity or name. □ Will you identify the man as Tom? □ The stranger identified himself as a meter reader from the gas company.

identify someone or something by something to recognize someone or something because of something. □ Can you
An: If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.  

If anything should happen

If anything can go wrong, it will.  

If a thing is worth doing, it’s worth doing well.

idolize someone or something as something to worship or adore someone or something as being something.  

If a toady frog had wings, he wouldn’t bump his ass.  

If frogs had wheels, they wouldn’t bump their butts.  

If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him.  

If ifs and ands were pots and pans (there’d be no work for tinkers’ hands).  

If it ain’t chickens, it’s feathers.  

If it was a snake it woulda bit you.

If it was a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it would have bit you.

If it wasn’t a snake it woulda bit you.
if not if that is not [the case]; if that is not so. □ If not cleaned, the clock will stop running. □ He should be here at noon. If not, we will eat without him.

if one knows what's good for one Fig. one had better do what is expected of one. □ You'd better be on time if you know what's good for you. □ If you know what's good for you, you'll call and apologize.

if one's a day Fig. a phrase attached to an expression of someone's age. □ She's fifty if she's a day! □ I'm sure he's forty-five if he's a day.

if push comes to shove Go to when push comes to shove.

if so if that is [the case]; if that is so. □ She might be late. If so, we will eat without her. □ She is supposed to be all right. If so, we have nothing to worry about.

if that don't beat a pig a-pecking! Rur. That's amazing! □ Tom: A Republican won the Senate seat! Jane: If that don't beat a pig a-pecking! □ Mary: Jim lost twenty pounds in one month. Charlie: If that don't beat a pig a-pecking!

if that don't beat all! and That beats everything! Don't that (just) beat all! Rur. That surpasses everything! That is amazing! That takes the cake! (The grammar error, that don't is built into this catchphrase.) □ Tom: The mayor is kicking the baseball team out of the city. Bill: If that don't beat all! □ John: Now, here's a funny thing. South America used to be attached to Africa. Fred: That beats everything! John: Yeah.

if the going gets tough Go to when the going gets tough.

If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain. Prov. If things do not change the way you want them to, you must adjust to the way they are. (Mohammed is often used instead of Mahomet. Also the mountain has come to Mahomet, something or someone that you would not expect to travel has arrived. There are many variations of this proverb. See the examples.) □ The president won't see me so I will have to go to his office. If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain. □ If Caroline can't leave the hospital on her birthday, we'll have to take her birthday party to the hospital. If the mountain won't come to Mahomet, Mahomet will have to go to the mountain. □ It's true I don't usually leave my home, but if you can't come to see me, I'll have to come see you. The mountain will come to Mohammed.

If the shoe fits, wear it. Prov. An unflattering remark applies to you, so you should accept it. (Slightly rude.) □ Fred: Hey, Jill, how's your love life? Jill: I don't like busybodies. Fred: Are you calling me a busybody? Jane: If the shoe fits, wear it. □ Ellen: The professor told me I don't write well! Bill: If the shoe fits, Ellen.

if the truth were known Prov. if people knew how something really was, instead of how it appears to be. □ If the truth were known, people wouldn't shop at that store. Its owners aren't as honest as they seem. □ Sam: You're always polite to Fred, but you don't really like him, do you? Alan: Well, no, if the truth were known.

if (the) worst comes to (the) worst Prov. in the worst possible circumstances; if the worst possible thing should happen. □ We should be able to catch the four-thirty train, but if the worst comes to the worst, we could get a taxi and still get into town on time. □ Of course, I hope that your wife's health recovers, but if worst comes to worst, I want you to know that we'd be happy to have you stay with us.

If there's anything you need, don't hesitate to ask. a polite phrase offering help in finding something or by providing something. (Often said by a host or by someone helping someone settle into something. See also If you don't see what you want, please ask for it.) □ Mary: This looks very nice. I'll be quite comfortable here. Jane: If there's anything you need, don't hesitate to ask. □ “If there is anything you need, don't hesitate to ask,” said the room clerk.

If two ride on a horse, one must ride behind. Prov. When two people do something together, one of them will be the leader and the other will have to be subordinate. □ Jane: How come every time we get together, we always do what you want to do, and never do what I want to do! Ellen: Well, dear, if two ride on a horse, one must ride behind.

If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride. Prov. People make a lot of wishes, but wishing is useless. □ Jill: If I were Queen of the World, I would make sure that everyone had enough to eat. Jane: And if wishes were horses, then beggars would ride. □ Alan: I sure wish I had one of those expensive cameras. Jane: If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.

If you can't be good, be careful. Prov. If you are going to do immoral things, make sure they are not dangerous.; If you are going to do something immoral, make sure to keep it secret. (Sometimes used as a flippant way of saying good-bye.) □ Be a good girl on your vacation trip. Or if you can't be good, be careful. □ Ernest likes to close his letters with, “If you can't be good, be careful.”

If you can't beat them, join them. and If you can't lick 'em, join 'em. Prov. If you have to give up fighting some group because you can't win, band together with them. (The version with lick is informal.) □ Jill: I just got a kitten. Jane: I can't believe it! You used to hate people who owned cats. Jill: If you can't beat them, join them. □ Alan: I hear you're a Republican now. Fred: Yeah, I figured, if you can't lick 'em, join 'em.

If you can't lick 'em, join 'em. Go to previous.

If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. Prov. If the pressures of some situation are too much for you, you should leave that situation. (Somewhat insulting; implies that the person addressed cannot tolerate pressure.) □ Alan: I didn't think being a stockbroker could be so stressful. Fred: If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. □ Jill: This exercise class is too tough; the teacher should let us slow down. Jane: If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

If you don't like it, (you can) lump it. Prov. Things cannot be changed to suit your preferences. □ We're having fish for dinner tonight. And if you don't like it, you can lump it. □ We're going to go visit Aunt Sally this weekend. If you don't like it, lump it.

If you don't make mistakes, you don't make anything. Prov. If you try to do something, you will likely make mistakes.; The only way to make no mistakes is to avoid trying to do anything. (Can be used to console someone who has made a mistake.) □ Alan: I'm sorry
If you don't mind! 1. an expression that rebukes someone for some minor social violation. □ When Bill accidentally sat on Mary's purse, which she had placed in the seat next to her, she said, somewhat angrily, “If you don’t mind!” □ Bill (pushing his way in front of Mary in the checkout line): Excuse me. Mary: If you don't mind! I was here first! Bill: I’m in a hurry. Mary: So am I! 2. a polite way of introducing a request. □ Bill: If you don't mind, could you move a little to the left? Sally: No problem. (moving) Is that all right? Bill: Yeah. Great! Thanks! □ Jane: If you don't mind, could I have your broccoli? John: Help yourself. 3. a vague phrase answering yes to a question that asks whether one should do something. □ Tom: Do you want me to take these dirty dishes away? Mary: If you don't mind. □ Bill: Shall I close the door? Sally: If you don't mind.

If you don't see what you want, please ask (for it), and if you don't see what you want, just ask (for it). a polite phrase intended to help people get what they want. (See also If there’s anything you need, don’t hesitate to ask.) □ Clerk: May I help you? Sue: I'm just looking. Clerk: If you don't see what you want, please ask. □ Clerk: I hope you enjoy your stay at our resort. If you don't see what you want, just ask for it. Sally: Great! Thanks.

If you get my drift Fig. if you understand what I am saying or implying. (Akin to get someone's drift.) □ I've heard enough talk and seen enough inaction—if you get my drift.

If you know what's good for you Fig. if you know what will be to your benefit; if you know what will keep you out of trouble. □ Mary: I see that Jane has put a big dent in her car. Sue: You'll keep quiet about that if you know what's good for you. □ Sally: My teacher told me I had better improve my spelling. Bill: If you know what's good for you, you'd better do it too.

If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas. Prov. If you associate with bad people, you will acquire their faults. □ Granddaughter: It's not fair. I'm starting to get a bad reputation just because I'm friends with Suzy and she has a bad reputation. Grandmother: It's only natural. People think that if you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.

If you must All right, if you have to. □ Sally: It's late. I have to move along. Mary: If you must. Good-bye. See you tomorrow. □ Alice: I'm taking these things with me. Jane: If you must, all right. They can stay here, though.

If you play with fire, you get burned. Prov. If you do something dangerous, you will get hurt. □ Joe said, "I have no sympathy for race-car drivers who get injured. They should know that if you play with fire, you get burned." □ My mother always told us that experimenting with hard drugs was playing with fire.

If you please and if you would(, please) 1. a polite phrase indicating assent to a suggestion. □ Bill: Shall I unload the car? Jane: If you please. □ Sue: Do you want me to take you to the station? Bob: If you would, please. 2. a polite phrase introducing or following a request. □ John: If you please, the driveway needs sweeping. Jane: Here's the broom. Have at it. □ Jane: Take these down to the basement, if you would, please. John: Can't think of anything I'd rather do, sweetie.

If you run after two hares, you will catch neither. Prov. You cannot do two things successfully at the same time. □ Vanessa: If I want to pursue my acting career, I'll have to take more days off to go to auditions. But I want to get ahead in the office, too. Jane: If you run after two hares, you will catch neither.

If you want a thing done well, do it yourself. Prov. You cannot rely on other people to do things properly for you. (Sometimes right is used instead of well.) □ I asked my son to chop the vegetables for me, but he's cut them into chunks too small to use. I should have known: if you want a thing done well, do it yourself. □ Laura wouldn't trust professional auto mechanics, and so did all her own car repair. “If you want something done right, do it yourself,” she said.

If you want peace, (you must) prepare for war. Prov. If a country is well armed, its opponents will be less likely to attack it. □ Wilbur was always arguing with those of his friends who believed in disarmament. “Getting rid of our weapons won't promote peace,” he would say. “If you want peace, you must prepare for war.”

If you would be well served, serve yourself. Prov. You should do things for yourself, since you cannot trust other people to do them exactly the way you want. □ I would never hire a maid, because a maid wouldn't clean things the way I want them cleaned. Like they say: if you would be well served, serve yourself.

If you would(, please) Go to if you please.

If you’ll pardon the expression Fig. excuse the expression I am about to say or just said. □ This thing is—if you'll pardon the expression—loused up. □ I'm really jacked, if you'll pardon the expression.

If you’re born to be hanged, then you’ll never be drowned. Prov. If you escape one disaster, it must be because you are destined for a different kind of disaster. (Sometimes used to warn someone who has escaped drowning against gloating over good luck.) □ When their ship was trapped in a terrible storm, Ellen told her husband that she feared they would die. “Don’t worry,” he replied with a yawn, “if you’re born to be hanged, then you’ll never be drowned.”

If you've a mind to do something Rur. If you really want to do something. □ If you’ve a mind to run for class president, you’d best start making campaign posters. □ You can do just about anything if you’ve a mind to.

Ignorance is bliss. Prov. Not knowing is better than knowing and worrying. □ A: I never knew that the kid who mows our lawn has been in trouble with the police. B: Ignorance is bliss!

Ignorance (of the law) is no excuse (for breaking it). Prov. Even if you do not know that something is against the law, you can still be punished for doing it. (An ancient legal principle.) □ Police officer: I'm giving you a speeding ticket. Motorist: But I didn't know I was exceeding the speed limit! Police officer: Ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking it. □ Terry protested that he didn't know it was illegal to break the windows of an abandoned build-
I'll have the same. and The same for me. I would like the same thing that the last person chose. □ Waitress: What would you like? Tom: Hamburger, fries, and coffee. Jane: I'll have the same. □ John: For dessert, I'll have strawberry ice cream. Bill: I'll have the same.

I'll have to beg off. Fig. a polite expression used to turn down an informal invitation. □ Andrew: Thank you for inviting me, but I'll have to beg off. I have a conflict. Henry: I'm sorry to hear that. Maybe some other time. □ Bill: Do you think you can come to the party? Bob: I'll have to beg off. I have another engagement. Bill: Maybe some other time.

I'll have to let you go. Fig. It is time to end this phone conversation. □ Well, I'll let you go. It's getting late. □ I have to go to work early tomorrow, so I'll let you go.

I'll look you up when I'm in town. Fig. I will try to visit you or contact you the next time I am in town. □ Bill: I hope to see you again sometime. Mary: I'll look you up when I'm in town. □ Andrew: Good-bye, Fred. It's been nice talking to you. I'll look you up when I'm in town. Fred: See you around, dude.

I'll put a stop to that. I'll see that the just-mentioned undesirable activity is stopped. □ Fred: There are two boys fighting in the hall. Bob: I'll put a stop to that. □ Sue: The sales force is ignoring almost every customer in the older neighborhoods. Mary: I'll put a stop to that!

(I'll) see you in a little while. a phrase indicating that the speaker will see the person spoken to within a few hours at the most. □ John: I'll see you in a little while. Jane: Okay. Bye till later. □ Sally: I have to get dressed for tonight. Fred: I'll pick you up about nine. See you in a little while. Sally: See you.

I'll see you later. (See you) later. Good-bye until I see you again. □ John: Good-bye, Sally. I'll see you later. Sally: Until later, then. □ Bob: Time to go. Later. Mary: Later.

(I'll) see you next year. a good-bye expression said toward the end of one year. □ Bob: Happy New Year! Sue: You, too! See you next year. □ John: Bye. Sue: See you tomorrow. Mary: It's New Year's Eve. See you next year! John: Right! I'll see you next year!


I'll see you then. I will see you at the time we've just agreed upon. □ John: Can we meet at noon? Bill: Sure. See you then. Bye. John: Bye. □ John: I'll pick you up just after midnight. Sally: See you then.

I'll see you tomorrow. I will see you when we meet again tomorrow. (Typically said to someone whose daily schedule is the same as one's own.) □ Bob: Bye, Jane. Jane: Good night, Bob. Sue: See you tomorrow. □ Sue: See you tomorrow. Jane: Until tomorrow. Bye.


I'll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself. Fig. I do not care about your opinion of this matter.
Jane: This place is sort of drab. John: I’ll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself. □ Bill: Your whole family is sort of loud. John: I’ll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself.

I’ll thank you to mind your own business. Fig. a version of Mind your own business. (Shows a little anger.) □ Tom: How much did this cost? Jane: I’ll thank you to mind your own business. □ Bob: Is your house in your name or your brother’s? John: I’ll thank you to mind your own business.

(I’ll) try to catch you later. Go to next.

(I’ll) try to catch you some other time. and (I’ll) try to catch you later.; I’ll try to see you later. Fig. We do not have time to talk now, so I’ll try to talk to you or meet with you later. (An expression said when it is inconvenient for one or both parties to meet or converse.) □ Bill: I need to get your signature on this contract. Sue: I really don’t have a second to spare right now. Bill: Okay, I’ll try to catch you some other time. Sue: Later this afternoon would be fine. □ Bill: I’m sorry for the interruptions, Tom. Things are very busy right now. Tom: I’ll try to see you later.

ill will hostile feelings or intentions. □ I hope you do not have any ill will toward me because of our argument. □ Dave felt such ill will toward his family that he left his fortune to his best friend.

ill-disposed to doing something not friendly; not favorable; opposed. □ I am ill-disposed to doing hard labor. □ The police chief was ill-disposed to discussing the details of the case to the news reporters.

ill-gotten gains money or other possessions acquired in an dishonest or illegal fashion. □ Bill cheated at cards and is now living on his ill-gotten gains. □ Mary is enjoying her ill-gotten gains. She deceived an old lady into leaving her $5,000 in her will.

illuminate something with something 1. Lit. to light up something with something. □ The lights illuminated the monument with a bright glow. □ The monument was illuminated with mercury vapor lamps. 2. Fig. to clarify or elucidate something with explanation. □ Please try to illuminate this matter with an explanation. □ Could you illuminate your answer with a little more detail? 3. to decorate a manuscript with pictures or designs, as done in medieval monasteries. □ The monks spent all their days illuminating manuscripts with pictures. □ No one has the patience to illuminate books with tiny designs.

illustrate something with something 1. to provide pictorial examples for a book or other document. □ She illustrated her book with clever line drawings. □ We need someone to illustrate this book with drawings. 2. Fig. to use something to show how something works, how something is meant to be, or how to do something. □ Would you please illustrate how to do it with a drawing or two? □ I think I can illustrate what I mean with a little more explanation.

(I’m) afraid not. and ‘Fraid not. I believe, regrettably, that the answer is no. (The apostrophe is not always shown.) □ Rachel: Can I expect any help with this problem? Henry: I’m afraid not. □ Andrew: Will you be there when I get there? Bill: Afraid not.

(I’m) afraid so. and ‘Fraid so. I believe, regrettably, that the answer is yes. (The apostrophe is not always shown.) □ Alice: Do you have to go? John: Afraid so. □ Rachel: Can I expect some difficulty with Mr. Franklin? Bob: I’m afraid so.

I’m all ears. Go to I’m listening.

I’m awful at names. Go to I’m terrible at names.


I’m damned if I do and damned if I don’t. Fig. There are problems if I do something and problems if I don’t do it. □ I can’t win. I’m damned if I do and damned if I don’t. □ No matter whether I go or stay, I am in trouble. I’m damned if I do and damned if I don’t.

(I’m) delighted to have you (here). and (We’re) delighted to have you (here). You’re welcome here any time.; Glad you could come. (See also (It’s) good to have you here.) □ Bill: Thank you for inviting me for dinner, Mr. Franklin. Bill: I’m delighted to have you. □ We’re delighted to see you,” said Tom’s grandparents. “It’s so nice to have you here for a visit.”

(I’m) delighted to make your acquaintance. Fig. I am very glad to meet you. □ Tom: My name is Tom. I work in the advertising department. Mary: I’m Mary. I work in accounting. Delighted to make your acquaintance. Tom: Yeah. Good to meet you. □ Fred: Sue, this is Bob. He’ll be working with us on the Wilson project. Sue: I’m delighted to make your acquaintance, Bob. Bob: My pleasure.

(I’m) doing okay. 1. Inf. I’m just fine. □ Bob: How are you doing? Bill: Doing okay. And you? Bob: Things could be worse. □ Mary: How are things going? Sue: I’m doing fine, thanks. And you? Mary: Doing okay. 2. Inf. I’m doing as well as can be expected.; I’m feeling better. □ Mary: How are you feeling? Sue: I’m doing okay—as well as can be expected. □ Tom: I hope you’re feeling better. Sally: I’m doing okay, thanks.

I’m easy (to please). I accept that because I am not particular.; That’s okay with me. □ Tom: Hey, man! Do you care if we get a sausage pizza rather than mushroom? Bob: Fine with me. I’m easy. □ Mary: How do you like this music? Bob: It’s great, but I’m easy to please.


(I’m) glad to hear it. a phrase expressing pleasure at what the speaker has just said. □ Sally: We have a new car, finally. Mary: I’m glad to hear it. □ Tom: Is your sister feeling better? Bill: Oh, yes, thanks. Tom: Glad to hear it.

(I’m) glad you could come. and (We’re) glad you could come. a phrase said by the host or hostess [or both] to a guest. □ Tom: Thank you so much for having me. Sally: We’re glad you could come. John: Yes, we are. Bye. □ Bill: Bye. Sally: Bye, Bill. Glad you could come.
(I’m) glad you could drop by. and (We’re) glad you could drop by.; (I’m) glad you could stop by.; (We’re) glad you could stop by, a phrase said by the host or hostess (or both) to a guest who has appeared suddenly or has come for only a short visit. □ Tom: Good-bye. Had a nice time. Mary: Thank you for coming. Tom. Glad you could drop by. □ Tom: Thank you so much for having me. Sally: We’re glad you could drop by.


(I’m) having a wonderful time; wish you were here. Cliché a catchphrase that is thought to be written onto postcards by people who are away on vacation. □ John wrote on all his cards, “Having a wonderful time; wish you were here.” And he really meant it too. □ “I’m having a wonderful time; wish you were here,” said Tom, speaking on the phone to Mary, suddenly feeling very insincere.

I’m having quite a time. 1. Lit. I am having a very enjoyable time. □ John: Having fun? Jane: Oh, yes. I’m having quite a time. □ Bob: Do you like the seashore? Sally: Yes, I’m having quite a time. 2. Fig. I am having a very difficult time. □ Doctor: Well, what seems to be the problem? Mary: I’m having quite a time. It’s my back. Doctor: Let’s take a look at it. □ Father: How’s school? Bill: Pretty tough. I’m having quite a time. Calculus is killing me.

(I’m) having the time of my life. Fig. I am having the best time ever. □ Bill: Are you having a good time, Mary? Mary: Don’t worry about me. I’m having the time of my life. □ Mary: What do you think about this theme park? Bill: Having the time of my life. I don’t want to leave.

I’m history. Inf. Good-bye, I am leaving. □ I’m history. See you tomorrow. □ Later. I’m history.

(I’m) just getting by. an expression indicating that one is just surviving financially or otherwise. □ Bob: How are you doing, Tom? Tom: Just getting by. Bob: "I wish I could get a better job," remarked Tom. "I’m just getting by as it is."

I’m just looking. Go to I’m only looking.

(I’m) just minding my own business. Fig. an answer to a greeting inquiry asking what one is doing. (This answer also can carry the implication “Since I am minding my own business, why aren’t you minding your own business?”) □ Tom: Hey, man, what are you doing? Bill: Minding my own business. See you around. □ Sue: Hi, Mary. What have you been doing? Mary: I’m just minding my own business and trying to keep out of trouble.

(I’m) (just) plugging along. Inf. I am doing satisfactorily.; I am just managing to function. □ Bill: How are things going? Bob: I’m just plugging along. □ Sue: How are you doing, Fred? Fred: Just plugging along, thanks. And you? Sue: About the same.

(I’m) (just) thinking out loud. Fig. I’m saying things that might better remain as private thoughts. (A way of characterizing or introducing one’s opinions or thoughts. Also past tense.) □ Sue: What are you saying, anyway? Sounds like you’re scolding someone. Bob: Oh, sorry. I was just thinking out loud. □ Bob: Now, this goes over here. Bill: You want me to move that? Bob: Oh, no. Just thinking out loud.

I’m like you an expression introducing a statement of a similarity that the speaker shares with the person spoken to. □ Mary: And what do you think about this pair? Jane: I’m like you, I like the ones with lower heels. □ “I’m like you,” confided Fred. “I think everyone ought to pay the same amount.”

I’m listening. and I’m all ears. Inf. You have my attention, so you should talk. □ Bob: Look, old pal. I want to talk to you about something. Tom: I’m listening. □ Bill: I guess I owe you an apology. Jane: I’m all ears.

I’m not finished with you. I still have more to say to you. □ Bill started to turn away when he thought the scolding was finished. “I’m not finished with you,” bellowed his father. □ When the angry teacher paused briefly to catch his breath, Bob turned as if to go. “I’m not finished with you,” screamed the teacher, “Don’t leave here until I say you can!”

I’m not kidding. I am telling the truth.; I am not trying to fool you. □ Mary: Those guys are all suspects in the robbery. Sue: No! They can’t be! Mary: I’m not kidding! □ John (gesturing): The fish I caught was this big! Jane: I don’t believe it! John: I’m not kidding!

I’m not surprised. and I don’t wonder. It is not surprising.; It should not surprise anyone. □ Mary: All this talk about war has my cousin very worried. Sue: No doubt. At his age, I don’t wonder. □ John: All of the better-looking ones sold out right away. Jane: I’m not surprised.


I’m only looking, and I’m just looking. I am not a buyer, I am only examining your merchandise. (A phrase said to a shopkeeper or clerk who asks May I help you?) □ Clerk: May I help you? Mary: No, thanks. I’m only looking. □ Clerk: May I help you? Jane: I’m just looking, thank you.

I’m out of here, and I’m outa here. Inf. I am leaving this minute. □ In three minutes I’m outa here. □ I’m out of here. Bye.

(I’m) pleased to meet you. an expression said when introduced to someone. (See also (I’m) (very) glad to meet you.) □ Tom: I’m Tom Thomas. Bill: Pleased to meet you. I’m Bill Franklin. □ John: Have you met Sally Hill? Bill: I don’t believe I’ve had the pleasure. I’m pleased to meet you, Sally. Sally: My pleasure, Bill.

I’m (really) fed up (with someone or something). Fig. I have had enough of someone or something. Something must be done. □ Tom: This place is really dull. John: Yeah. I’m fed up with it. I’m out of here! □ Sally: Can’t you do anything right? Bill: I’m really fed up with your complaining! You’re always picking on me!

(I’m) sorry, an expression used to excuse oneself politely or apologize, especially when one has collided with someone, when one has offended someone, or to ask someone to repeat what has been said. □ “I’m sorry,” I said to the woman I bumped into. □ I’m sorry, what did you say? I couldn’t hear you.
I'm sorry to hear that. an expression of consolation or regret. □ John: My cat died last week. Jane: I'm sorry to hear that. □ Bill: I’m afraid I won’t be able to continue here as head teller. Bank manager: Sorry to hear that.

I'm sorry you asked (that). I regret that you asked about something I wanted to forget. □ Tom: What on earth is this hole in your suit jacket? Bill: I’m sorry you asked. I was feeding a squirrel and it bit through my pocket where the food was. □ Sally: Why is there only canned soup in the cupboard? John: Sorry you asked that. I just haven’t been to the grocery store in awhile. Sally: Want some soup?

I’m speechless. Fig. I am so surprised that I cannot think of anything to say. □ Mary: Fred and I eloped last week. Sally: I’m speechless. □ Tom: The mayor just died! Jane: What? I’m speechless!

I’m terrible at names. and I’m awful at names. I can’t seem to remember anyone’s name. (Said as an apology to someone whose name you have forgotten.) □ I’m terrible at names. Please tell me yours again. □ Haven’t we met already? I’m awful at names.

(I’m) (very) glad to meet you. a polite expression said to a person to whom one has just been introduced. (See also (I’m) pleased to meet you.) □ Mary: I’d like you to meet my brother, Tom. Bill: I’m very glad to meet you, Tom. □ Jane: Hi! I’m Jane. Bob: Glad to meet you. I’m Bob.

I’m with you. I agree with you.; I will join with you in (I’m) glad to meet you. □ Tom: What on earth is this hole in your suit jacket? Bill: I’m sorry you asked. I was feeding a squirrel and it bit through my pocket where the food was. □ Sally: Why is there only canned soup in the cupboard? John: Sorry you asked that. I just haven’t been to the grocery store in awhile. Sally: Want some soup?

immediate occupancy [of an apartment or house] ready to be moved into at this moment. □ This house is for immediate occupancy. You can move in today if you want. □ The apartment is empty, so that means immediate occupancy.

immerse someone or something in something 1. Lit. to submerge someone or something beneath the surface of a liquid; to soak someone or something in a liquid. □ The preacher immersed the baptism candidate in the water. □ We immersed all the dirty plates in the soapy water and left them to soak. □ She immersed herself in the bathwater.

import something (from something) [(in)to something] to buy and transport something from a foreign place into a country. □ We imported the carpets from the Orient into this country. □ They imported wine into this country from France. □ I imported this from Germany.

importate (up)on someone or something [for something] to have an effect on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ This plant closing will impact upon the local economy for years to come. □ The day's troubles impacted on Rachel quite seriously.

impale someone or something on something to put someone or something on a pointed object and press down. □ The crowd had impaled an effigy of the dictator on a sharpened stick. □ The waves almost impaled me on a submerged tree branch.

impound something to someone or something 1. to bestow a quality on someone or a group. □ That hat imparts an aura of grandeur to her presence. □ Walnut paneling imparts an expensive seriousness to a law office. 2. to tell something to someone or a group. □ My professor tried to impart her knowledge to us.

impress someone for something 1. to charge someone with doing something illegal. □ You can’t impeach her for just disagreeing! □ We tried to impeach Gus for failing to attend sessions. 2. to criticize or discredit someone for something. □ The opposition impeached him for his position in no uncertain terms. □ Liz was impeached by the press for her views.

impute (up)on someone or something to ascribe or attribute something to someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ This will not impute upon me at all. □ Will this matter impute on my policies in any way?

immunize someone against something to vaccinate someone against some disease; to do a medical procedure that causes a resistance or immunity to a disease to develop in a person. □ They wanted to immunize all the children against the measles. □ Have you been immunized against polio?

impute something to something to ascribe something to something. □ We imputed the blame to the sales manager. □ The个乡镇 was imputed to the manager's neglect.

impinge (up)on someone or something to affect or interfere with someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ This will not impinge upon my policies in any way?

implant something in(to) someone or something to embed something into someone or something. □ The surgeon implanted a pacemaker into Fred. □ They implanted the device in Fred’s chest.

implicate someone in something to suggest that someone is involved in something. □ The mayor was implicated in the bribery scandal. □ Jane’s essay implicated her teacher in the cheating scandal.

improve something to improve something. □ The candidate improved her answers. □ We improved the homeowner.

important milestone in someone’s life Go to a milestone in someone’s life.
impose something (up)on someone to force something on someone. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Don’t try to impose your ideas upon me! □ The colonists tried to impose their values on the indigenous peoples.

impose (up)on someone to be a bother to someone; to make a request of something to someone. (Often refers to being an overnight guest or having a meal at someone’s house. Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I don’t mean to impose upon you, but could you put me up for the night? □ Don’t worry, I won’t let you impose on me.

impress something with something 1. Lit. to saturate something with something; to penetrate something with some fluid. □ They impregnated the boards with a wood preservative. □ The process impregnated the fibers with a bright yellow dye. 2. Fig. to put something negative into something. □ You have impregnated the entire matter with unpleasantness. □ The whole scheme has been impregnated with needless flaws.

impress someone as someone to be memorable to someone as a particular type of person. □ She didn’t impress me as a particularly wise individual. □ Liz impressed us all as a skilled artisan.

impress someone by something to make someone notice one’s good qualities. □ You impress me by your willingness to serve. □ We were all impressed by your candor.

impress someone with someone or something to awe someone with someone or something. □ Are you trying to impress me with your wisdom? □ She impressed him with her friend, who was very tall.

impress something into something to press something into something. □ I impressed the key into the wax, making a perfect copy. □ Andy impressed his thumb into the pie.

impress something (up)on someone to press something on(to) someone. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You must impress these facts upon everyone you meet. □ She impressed its outline on the pine tabletop.

imprison someone in something to lock someone up in something. □ The authorities imprisoned him in a separate cell. □ Bob imprisoned Timmy in the closet for an hour.

improve (up)on something to make something better. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Do you really think you can improve upon this song? □ No one can improve on my favorite melody.

improvise on something [for a musician] to create a new piece of music on an existing musical theme. □ For an encore, the organist improvised on “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” □ She chose to improvise on an old folk theme.

impute something to someone or something to ascribe something to someone or something; to attribute something to someone or something. □ I didn’t mean to impute a bad intention to your company. □ The lawyer imputed perjury to the witness.

in a bad mood sad; depressed; grouchily; with low spirits. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; put someone ~.) □ He’s in a bad mood. He may yell at you. □ Please try to cheer me up. I’m in a bad mood.

in a bad way Go to in bad shape.

in a big way very much; intensely. □ I’m really interested in her in a big way. □ He plays to win—in a big way.

in a bind and *in a jam Fig. in a tight or difficult situation; stuck on a problem. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~; find oneself ~.) □ I’m in a bind. I owe a lot of money. □ Whenever I get into a jam, I ask my supervisor for help. □ When things get busy around here, we get in a bind. We could use another helper.

in a (blue) funk sad; depressed. □ I’ve been in a blue funk all week. □ Don’t get in a funk about your job. Things’ll get better.

*in a body Fig. as a group of people; as a group; in a group. (*Typically: arrive some place ~; go ~; leave ~; reach some place ~; travel ~.) □ The tour members always traveled in a body.

in a cold sweat in a state of fear. □ He stood there in a cold sweat, waiting for something bad to happen. □ I was in a cold sweat while they counted the ballots.

in a (constant) state of flux Go to in flux.

in a coon’s age and in a month of Sundays Rur. in a very long time. (The coon is a raccoon.) □ How are you? I haven’t seen you in a coon’s age. □ I haven’t had a piece of apple pie this good in a coon’s age.

in a dead heat Fig. [finishing a race] at exactly the same time; tied. □ The two horses finished the race in a dead heat. □ They ended the contest in a dead heat.

in a delicate condition Euph. pregnant. (Old-fashioned.) □ Are you sure you’re up for this hike? I know you’re in a delicate condition. □ She shouldn’t be lifting those boxes. She’s in a delicate condition.

in a dither confused; nervous; bothered. □ Mary is sort of in a dither lately. □ Don’t get yourself in a dither.

*in a family way and *in the family way Fig. pregnant. (*Typically: be ~; get someone ~.) □ I’ve heard that Mrs. Smith is in a family way. □ Our dog is in the family way.
in a (pretty) pickle Fig. in a mess; in trouble. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ John has gotten himself into a pickle. He has two dates for the party. □ Now we are in a pretty pickle. We are out of gas.

in a (tight) spot Fig. caught in a problem; in a jam. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ Mary is in a tight spot. Can you lend me twenty dollars? □ I'm in a spot too. I need $300.

in a twit upset; frantic. □ She's all in a twit because she lost her keys. □ Pete was in a twit and was quite rude to us.

in a (tight) circle Fig. in an excited and confused condition. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ John is in a twit because we're an hour late. □ Mary was in a twit when she couldn't find her keys.

in a stupor in a dazed condition; in a condition in which one cannot concentrate or think. □ The drunk driver walked away from the car accident in a stupor. □ In the morning, Mary remains in a stupor until she drinks coffee.

in a rut Fig. in a type of boring habitual behavior. (As when the wheels of a buggy travel in the ruts worn into the ground by other buggies making it easiest to go exactly the way all the other buggies have gone before. *Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ My life has gotten into a rut. □ I try not to get into a rut.

in a quandary uncertain about what to do; perplexed. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ Mary was in a quandary about what college to go to. □ I couldn't decide what to do. I was in such a quandary.

in a mess; in trouble. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ Mary is in a mess; in trouble. □ The TV set was in a shambles after John tried to fix it.

in a jam Go to a split second.

in a (real) pickle Fig. in a mess; out of trouble. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ John has gotten himself into a pickle. He has two dates for the party. □ Now we are in a pretty pickle. We are out of gas.

in a pickle Fig. in a bad situation. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ I really got myself into a fix. I owe a lot of money on my taxes. □ John is in a fix because he lost his wallet. □ John got into a fix.

in a lather Fig. flustered; excited and agitated. (*Typically: get [into] ~.) □ Now, calm down. Don't get in a lather. □ I always get in a lather when I'm late.

in a huff Fig. in an angry or offended manner. (*Typically: get [into] ~.) □ She came in a huff and ordered us to bring her something to eat.

in a fix Go to a (real) pickle.

in a jam Go to a split second.

in a stage whisper Fig. in a loud whisper that everyone can hear. □ John said in a stage whisper, "This play is boring." □ "When do we eat?" asked Billy in a stage whisper.

in a rut Fig. in a type of boring habitual behavior. (As when the wheels of a buggy travel in the ruts worn into the ground by other buggies making it easiest to go exactly the way all the other buggies have gone before. *Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ My life has gotten into a rut. □ I try not to get into a rut.

in a (tight) spot Fig. caught in a problem; in a jam. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ Mary is in a tight spot. Can you lend me twenty dollars? □ I'm in a spot too. I need $300.

in a twit upset; frantic. □ She's all in a twit because she lost her keys. □ Pete was in a twit and was quite rude to us.

in a Twitter in a giddy state; silly. □ Don't get yourself in a twitter. □ We were all in a twitter over the upcoming event.

in a (tight) circle Fig. in a situation in which the solution of one problem leads to a second problem, and the solution of the second problem brings back the first problem, etc. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ Life is so strange. I seem to be in a vicious circle most of the time. □ I put lemon in my tea to make it sour, then sugar to make it sweet. I'm in a vicious circle. □ Don't let your life get into a vicious circle.
in a word  Fig. said simply; concisely said. □ Mrs. Smith is—in a word—haughty. □ In a word, the play flopped.

in any case and in any event no matter what happens. □ I intend to be home by suppertime, but in any case by eight o’clock. □ In any event, I’ll see you this evening.

in any way, shape, or form Fig. in any manner. □ I refuse to tell a lie in any way, shape, or form!

in apple-pie order Fig. in very good order; very well organized. (*Typically: be ~; get something ~; put something ~.) □ Please put everything in apple-pie order before you leave. □ I always put my desk in apple-pie order every evening. □ I’ve put my entire life into apple-pie order.

in arrears [of debts; of an account] overdue. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Jane’s student-loan payments are in arrears. □ The accounts of the bankrupt company were in arrears.

in at (at) one ear and out (of) the other Prov. heard but not remembered. (Used to describe something that someone does not listen to.) □ Ellen: Did you tell Junior to be careful with the car when he drives it? Fred: Yes, but I think it went in one ear and out the other. □ The teacher felt that everything she told her students was in one ear and out the other.

in at the kill and in on the kill 1. Lit. present and participating in the killing of prey. □ The baby cheetah wanted to be in on the kill. 2. Fig. involved at the final moment of something in order to share in the spoils. □ At the end of the battle, everyone wanted to be in at the kill. □ The press packed the room, wanting to be in on the kill of the governor’s resignation.

in awe (of someone or something) fearful and respectful of someone or something. □ Everyone in the country was in awe of the king and queen. □ I love my new car. In fact, I’m in awe of it.

in bad faith Fig. without sincerity; with bad or dishonest intent; with duplicity. □ It appears that you acted in bad faith and didn’t live up to the terms of our agreement. □ If you do things in bad faith, you’ll get a bad reputation.

in bad shape and in a bad way 1. Lit. injured or debilitated in any manner. □ Fred had a little accident, and he’s in bad shape. 2. Tom needs exercise. He’s in bad shape. 2. pregnant. □ Jill’s in bad shape again. I hear. □ Yep, she’s in bad shape all right—about three months in bad shape. 3. Inf. intoxicated. □ Two glasses of that stuff and I’m in really bad shape. □ Fred is in bad shape. I think he’s going to toss his cookies.

in bad sorts in a bad humor. □ Bill is in bad sorts today. He’s very grouchy. □ I try to be extra nice to people when I’m in bad sorts.

in bad taste and in poor taste rude; vulgar; obscene. □ Mrs. Franklin felt that your joke was in bad taste. □ We found the play to be in poor taste, so we walked out in the middle of the second act.

in bad (with someone) in trouble with someone. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I tried not to get in bad with Wally. □ We got in bad with each other from the start.

in behalf of someone and in someone’s behalf; on behalf of someone; on someone’s behalf; in someone’s name [doing something] as someone’s agent; [doing something] in place of someone; for the benefit of someone. □ I’m writing in behalf of Mr. Smith, who has applied
for a job with your company. □ I’m calling on behalf of my client, who wishes to complain about your actions. □ I’m calling in her behalf. □ I’m acting on your behalf.

in between located in the middle of two things, states, or possibilities. □ The bath water is not hot or cold. It’s in between. □ A sandwich consists of two slices of bread with some other food in between.

*in black and white Fig. [of an agreement, contract, or statement] official, in writing or printing. (*Typically: be ~ ; get something ~ ) □ I have it in black and white that I’m entitled to three weeks of vacation each year.

in bloom Go to next.

in blossom and in bloom blooming; covered with blossoms. □ All the apple trees are in blossom now. □ When are the fruit trees in bloom in this part of the country?

in brief briefly; concisely. □ The whole story, in brief, is that Bob failed algebra because he did not study. □ Please tell me in brief why you want this job.

in broad daylight in the open light of day; clearly visible. □ The crime was committed in broad daylight. □ Bill stood there in broad daylight, but we never saw him.

in bulk in large quantities or amounts, rather than smaller, more convenient quantities or amounts. □ Jane always bought office supplies in bulk to save money. □ Dave purchased cereal in bulk because his family used so much of it.

in business operating; equipped or ready to operate. □ We’re in business now, and things are running smoothly. □ Now it works. Now we’re in business.

in cahoots (with someone) Rar. in conspiracy with someone; in league with someone. □ The mayor is in cahoots with the construction company that got the contract for the new building. □ Those two have been in cahoots before.

in care of someone [to be delivered to someone] through someone or by way of someone. (Indicates that mail is to be delivered to a person at some other person’s address.) □ Bill Jones is living at his father’s house. Address the letter to Bill in care of Mr. John Jones. □ Bill said, “Please send me my mail in care of my father at his address.”

in case of something if a problem occurs; if something happens; in the event that something happens. □ What do we do in case of fire? □ In case of an accident, call the police.

in case (something happens) in the event that something takes place. □ She carries an umbrella in case it rains. □ I have some aspirin in my office in case I get a headache. □ He keeps a fire extinguisher in his car, just in case.

in character Fig. typical of someone’s behavior. □ For Tom to shout that way wasn’t at all in character. He’s usually quite pleasant. □ It was quite in character for Sally to walk away angry.

in charge (of someone or something) in control of someone or something; having the responsibility for someone or something. □ Who is in charge of this office? □ Do you like being in charge?

in clover Fig. having good fortune; in a very good situation, especially financially. □ If I get this contract, I’ll be in clover for the rest of my life. □ I have very little money saved, so when I retire I won’t exactly be in clover.

in cold blood Fig. without feeling; with cruel intent. (Frequently said of a crime, especially murder.) □ The killer walked up and shot the woman in cold blood. □ How insulting! For a person to say something like that in cold blood is just horrible.

in cold storage dead; in a state of death. (Alludes to the actual storage of certain things, such as fur coats, in cold storerooms.) □ Tom gets paid for putting his subjects in cold storage. □ Poor old Jed is in cold storage.

in concert (with someone) Fig. in cooperation with someone; with the aid of someone. □ Mrs. Smith planned the party in concert with her sister. □ In concert they planned a lovely event.

in condition and in(to) shape in good health; strong and healthy; fit. □ Bob exercises frequently, so he’s in condition. □ If I were in shape, I could run faster and farther. □ I’m really overweight. I have to try to get into shape.

in consequence (of something) as a result of something; because of something. □ In consequence of the storm, there was no electricity. □ The wind blew down the wires. In consequence, we had no electricity.

in consideration of something in return for something; as a result of something. □ In consideration of your many years of service, we are pleased to present you with this gold watch. □ In consideration of your efforts, here is a check for $3,000.

in contact (with someone or something) communicating with someone or a group; to share information with someone or a group. □ I have been in contact with our supplier, who will deliver the part next week. □ I am in contact with the Senate committee now.

in contempt (of court) showing disrespect for a judge or courtroom procedures. □ The bailiff ejected the lawyer who was held in contempt. □ The judge found the juror in contempt of court when she screamed at the attorney.

in control of someone or something 1. in charge of someone or something. □ Who is in control of this place? □ I am not in control of her. She works for another department. 2. to have someone or something mastered or subdued; to have achieved management of someone or something. □ You should be in control of your dog at all times. □ The attendant was instructed to be in control of his patient at all times.

in creation Go to on earth.

in custody (of someone or something) and in someone’s or something’s custody being kept guarded by legal authorities. □ The suspect was in the sheriff’s custody awaiting a trial. □ The prisoner is in the custody of the state. □ The police have two suspects in custody.

in debt having debts; having much debt; owing money. □ Mary is deeply in debt. □ I am in debt to the bank for my car loan.

in deep 1. Fig. deeply involved (with someone or something). □ Mary and Sam are in deep. □ Wilbur got deep with the mob. 2. Fig. deeply in debt. (Often with with or to). □ Willie is in deep with his bookie. □ I’m in deep to the department store.

in deep water Fig. in a dangerous or vulnerable situation; in a serious situation, especially one that is too difficult or is beyond the level of one’s abilities; in trouble. □ John is having trouble with back taxes. He’s in deep water. □ Bill
in defiance (of someone or something) against someone’s will or against instructions; in bold resistance to someone or someone’s orders. □ Jane spent the afternoon in the park in defiance of her mother’s instructions. □ She did it in defiance of her mother. □ She has done a number of things in defiance lately.

in denial in a state of refusing to believe something that is true. □ Mary was in denial about her illness and refused treatment. □ Tom doesn’t think he’s an alcoholic because he’s still in denial.

in detail with lots of details; giving all the details. (Often used with an adjective showing the level of detail, such as great, enormous, etc., as in the second example.) □ I explained the policy to the customer in detail. □ We planned the entire project in great detail.

in dire straits Fig. in a very serious, bad circumstance. □ We are nearly broke and need money for medicine. We are in dire straits.

in disguise hidden behind a disguise; looking like something else. □ Santa Claus was really the little child’s father in disguise. □ What I thought was terrible turned out to be a blessing in disguise!

in drag wearing the clothing of the opposite sex. (Usually refers to a man wearing women’s clothing.) □ Two actors in drag did a skit about life on the farm. □ Gary looks better in drag than he does in a suit.

in droves in large numbers; bit by bit. □ I’ll have to pay you what I owe you in droves and drabs. □ The whole story is being revealed in droves.

in a (constant) state of flux in constant change; ever-changing. □ I can’t describe my job because it’s in a constant state of flux. □ The price of gold is in flux.

in focus 1. Lit. [of an image] seen clearly and sharply. (“Typically: be ~; get into ~; get something [into] ~.) □ I have the slide in focus and can see the bacteria clearly. 2. Lit. [for optics, such as lenses, or an optical device, such as a microscope] to be aligned to allow something to be seen clearly and sharply. □ I’ve adjusted the telescope; Mars is now in focus. 3. Fig. [of problems, solutions, appraisals of people or things] perceived or understood clearly. (“Typically: be ~; get into ~; get something [into] ~.) □ Now that things are in focus, I feel better about the world.

in for something due to receive a surprise; due to receive punishment. (When the something is it, the it usually means punishment.) □ I hope I’m not in for any surprises when I get home. □ Tommy, you broke my baseball bat. You’re really in for it! □ If I ever catch that chicken thief, he’ll be in for it for sure.

in flux and in a (constant) state of flux in constant change; ever-changing. □ I can’t describe my job because it’s in a constant state of flux. □ The price of gold is in flux.

in for something due to receive a surprise; due to receive punishment. (When the something is it, the it usually means punishment.) □ I hope I’m not in for any surprises when I get home. □ Tommy, you broke my baseball bat. You’re really in for it! □ If I ever catch that chicken thief, he’ll be in for it for sure.

in full force 1. [of a rule or law] currently valid or in effect. (“Typically: be ~.) □ Is this rule in force now? □ The constitution is still in force. 2. Fig. in a very large group. (“Typically: arrive ~; attack ~.) □ The entire group arrived in force. □ The mosquitoes will attack in force this evening.
in full flight fleeing at great speed; escaping rapidly. □ The robbers were in full flight before the bank manager even called the sheriff.

*in full swing and *in high gear Fig. at the peak of activity; moving fast or efficiently. (*Typically: be ~; move [into] ~; get [into] ~.) □ In the summer months, things really get into full swing around here. □ We go skiing in the mountains each winter. Things are in high gear there in November.

in general referring to the entire class being discussed; speaking of the entire range of possibilities; in most situations or circumstances. □ I like vegetables in general, but not beets. □ In general, I prefer a hotel room on a lower floor, but will take a higher room if it's special.

in glowing terms Fig. using words of praise; using complimentary expressions. □ The college president described his accomplishments in glowing terms and awarded him with an honorary degree.

in good condition Go to in good shape.

in good faith Fig. with good and honest intent; with sincerity. □ We are convinced you were acting in good faith, even though you made a serious error. □ I think you didn't sign the contract in good faith. You never intended to carry out our agreement.

in good hands Fig. in the safe, competent care of someone. □ Don't worry. Your children are in good hands. Sally is an experienced baby-sitter. □ Your car is in good hands. My mechanics are factory-trained.

in good repair Fig. operating well; well taken care of. (Usually said of a thing rather than a person.) □ The house is in good repair and ought to attract a number of potential buyers. □ If the car were in good repair, it would run more smoothly.

*in good shape and *in good condition physically and functionally sound and sturdy. (Used for both people and things. *Typically: be ~; get ~; keep ~.) □ This car isn't in good shape. I'd like to have one that's in better condition. □ Mary is in good condition. She exercises and eats right to stay healthy. □ You have to make an effort to get into good shape.

in good spirits Fig. happy and cheerful; positive and looking toward the future, despite unhappy circumstances. □ The patient is in good spirits and that will speed her recovery. □ Tom wasn't in very good spirits after he heard the bad news.

in good time Go to in due course.

*in (good) (with someone) in someone's favor. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I hope I can get in good with the teacher. I need an A in the course. □ Mary is always trying to get in with the people who are in charge.

in great demand wanted by many people. □ Liz is in great demand as a singer. □ Mary's paintings are in great demand.

in great haste very fast; in a big hurry. □ John always did his homework in great haste. □ Why not take time and do it right? Don't do everything in great haste.

*in hand in one's possession or control. (*Typically: be ~; have something ~.) □ It's in hand. I have it right here. □ The papers are in hand. Have no fear.

*in harm's way Fig. liable to be harmed; subject to potential causes of harm. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; put someone ~.) □ Soldiers are expected to know what to do when they are in harm's way.

*in harmony (with someone or something) 1. Lit. in musical concord with someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ This part is in harmony with the tenor's solo. □ The tenor part is not in harmony with the accompaniment. 2. Fig. agreeable or compatible with someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ This is in complete harmony with our earlier discussions. □ Fred's position is quite clear. What you have said is not in harmony with Fred.

*in heat in a period of sexual excitement; in estrus. (Estrus is the period of time in which females are most willing to breed. This expression is usually used for animals. It has been used for humans in a joking sense. *Typically: be ~; get [into] ~; go [into] ~.) □ Our dog is in heat. □ She goes into heat every year at this time.

in high cotton and in tall cotton Rur. to be doing very well; successful. □ Jim's in high cotton ever since he got that raise. □ Tom: How's your sister? Mary: She's in high cotton. Just bought a nice new house. □ We were in tall cotton until the IRS caught up with us.

in high dudgeon Fig. feeling or exhibiting great resentment; taking great offense at something. (Often with leave.) □ After the rude remarks, the person who was insulted left in high dudgeon. □ Dennis strode from the room in high dudgeon, and we knew he would get his revenge eventually.

*in high gear 1. [of a machine, such as a car] set in its highest gear, giving the greatest speed. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~; move [into] ~.) □ When my car is in high gear, it goes very fast. □ You can't start out in high gear. You must work up through the low ones. 2. Go to in full swing.

in (high) hopes of something Fig. expecting something. □ I was in hopes of getting there early. □ We are in high hopes that John and Mary will have a girl.

in hindsight Go to in retrospect.

in hock in debt. □ After buying the luxury car, Bob was in hock for years.

in hog heaven Fig. very happy; having a wonderful time. □ Bill's a fan of Clark Gable, so when the movie theater had a Clark Gable movie festival, Bill was in hog heaven. □ Jane loves to quilt, so she was in hog heaven when they opened that new store for quilters.

in honor of someone or something showing respect or admiration for someone or something. □ Our club gave a party in honor of the club's president. □ I wrote a poem in honor of John and Mary's marriage.

in horror with intense shock or disgust. □ Mike stepped back from the rattlesnake in horror. □ The jogger recoiled in horror when she came upon a body in the park.

*in hot water (with someone) (about someone or something) Fig. in trouble. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ You are going to get into hot water with Rebecca about
in ink

that. □ Amy got into hot water about Todd with Rebecca. □ John got himself into hot water by being late.

in ink written or signed with a pen that uses ink, not with a pencil. □ You should write your report in ink. □ You must sign your checks in ink.

in its entirety and in their entirety completely; until completely done or gone. □ I watched the basketball game in its entirety. □ My friends and I ate the two large pizzas in their entirety.

in its prime Go to in one’s prime.

in jeopardy to be at risk; to be at peril. □ John puts himself in jeopardy every time he goes skydiving. □ I was in jeopardy when my car broke down on the deserted road.

in (just) a minute Go to next.

in (just) a second and in (just) a minute in a very short period of time. □ I’ll be there in a second. □ I’ll be with you in just a minute. I’m on the phone.

in keeping (with something) and in line with something in accord or harmony with something; following the rules of something. □ In keeping with your instructions, I’ve canceled your order. □ I’m disappointed with your behavior. It really wasn’t in line with what it should be.

in kind of a woman] experiencing the pains and exertion in labor

in its prime Go to in one’s prime.

in jeopardy to be at risk; to be at peril. □ John puts himself in jeopardy every time he goes skydiving. □ I was in jeopardy when my car broke down on the deserted road.

in (just) a minute Go to next.

in (just) a second and in (just) a minute in a very short period of time. □ I’ll be there in a second. □ I’ll be with you in just a minute. I’m on the phone.

in keeping (with something) and in line with something in accord or harmony with something; following the rules of something. □ In keeping with your instructions, I’ve canceled your order. □ I’m disappointed with your behavior. It really wasn’t in line with what it should be.

in kind of a woman] experiencing the pains and exertion in labor

in its prime Go to in one’s prime.

in jeopardy to be at risk; to be at peril. □ John puts himself in jeopardy every time he goes skydiving. □ I was in jeopardy when my car broke down on the deserted road.

in (just) a minute Go to next.

in (just) a second and in (just) a minute in a very short period of time. □ I’ll be there in a second. □ I’ll be with you in just a minute. I’m on the phone.

in keeping (with something) and in line with something in accord or harmony with something; following the rules of something. □ In keeping with your instructions, I’ve canceled your order. □ I’m disappointed with your behavior. It really wasn’t in line with what it should be.

in kind of a woman] experiencing the pains and exertion in labor

in its prime Go to in one’s prime.

in jeopardy to be at risk; to be at peril. □ John puts himself in jeopardy every time he goes skydiving. □ I was in jeopardy when my car broke down on the deserted road.

in (just) a minute Go to next.

in (just) a second and in (just) a minute in a very short period of time. □ I’ll be there in a second. □ I’ll be with you in just a minute. I’m on the phone.

in keeping (with something) and in line with something in accord or harmony with something; following the rules of something. □ In keeping with your instructions, I’ve canceled your order. □ I’m disappointed with your behavior. It really wasn’t in line with what it should be.

in kind of a woman] experiencing the pains and exertion in labor

in its prime Go to in one’s prime.

in jeopardy to be at risk; to be at peril. □ John puts himself in jeopardy every time he goes skydiving. □ I was in jeopardy when my car broke down on the deserted road.

in (just) a minute Go to next.

in (just) a second and in (just) a minute in a very short period of time. □ I’ll be there in a second. □ I’ll be with you in just a minute. I’m on the phone.

in keeping (with something) and in line with something in accord or harmony with something; following the rules of something. □ In keeping with your instructions, I’ve canceled your order. □ I’m disappointed with your behavior. It really wasn’t in line with what it should be.

in kind of a woman] experiencing the pains and exertion in labor

in its prime Go to in one’s prime.

in jeopardy to be at risk; to be at peril. □ John puts himself in jeopardy every time he goes skydiving. □ I was in jeopardy when my car broke down on the deserted road.
in no time (at all) very quickly. (Compare this with in less than no time.) ② I'll be there in no time. ② It won't take long. I'll be finished in no time at all.

in no time flat Go to in nothing flat.

in no uncertain terms Cliché in very specific and direct language. ② I was so mad. I told her in no uncertain terms to leave and never come back. ② I told him in no uncertain terms to stop calling me.

in nothing flat and in no time flat Fig. very quickly; in much less time than expected. ② Of course I can get there in a hurry. I'll be there in nothing flat. ② We covered the distance between New York and Philadelphia in nothing flat. ② The waiter brought our food in no time flat.

*in on something 1. involved with something, such as an organization or an idea; informed about special plans. (*Typically: be ~; come ~; get ~; let someone ~.) ② There is a party upstairs, and I want to get in on it. ② I want to get in on your club's activities. ② Mary and Jane know a secret, but they won't let me in on it. 2. receiving a share of something. (*Typically: be ~; come ~; get ~; let someone ~.) ② I want to get in on the ground floor, in on the act.

*in on the ground floor Fig. involved at the very beginning of something. (Alludes to riding in an elevator that will become increasingly crowded as it ascends. You will be able to get in on the ground floor of most easily at low level. *Typically: be ~; get ~; let someone ~.) ② If you are starting a new project, I want to get in on the ground floor. ② Invest now so you can get in on the ground floor.

*in on the act Fig. involved in something with someone else. (Often refers to an unwelcome attempt to join someone's performance. *Typically: be ~; get ~; let someone ~.) ② Everybody wants to get in on the act. ② Why are you trying to get in on the act?

*in on the ground floor Fig. involved at the very beginning of something. (Alludes to riding in an elevator that will become increasingly crowded as it ascends. You will be able to get in on the ground floor of most easily at low level. *Typically: be ~; get ~; let someone ~.) ② If you are starting a new project, I want to get in on the ground floor. ② Invest now so you can get in on the ground floor.

*in on the act Fig. involved in something with someone else. (Often refers to an unwelcome attempt to join someone's performance. *Typically: be ~; get ~; let someone ~.) ② Everybody wants to get in on the act. ② Why are you trying to get in on the act?

*in on the ground floor Fig. involved at the very beginning of something. (Alludes to riding in an elevator that will become increasingly crowded as it ascends. You will be able to get in on the ground floor of most easily at low level. *Typically: be ~; get ~; let someone ~.) ② If you are starting a new project, I want to get in on the ground floor. ② Invest now so you can get in on the ground floor.

in on the kill Go to in at the kill.

in one fell swoop Go to at one fell swoop.

*in one's birthday suit Fig. naked; nude. (In the "clothes" in which one was born. *Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) ② I've heard that John sleeps in his birthday suit. ② We used to go down to the river and swim in our birthday suits.

in one's blood Go to in the blood.

in one's book Fig. according to one's own opinion. ② He's okay in my book. ② In my book, this is the best that money can buy.

in one's cups Euph. drunk. ② She doesn't make much sense when she's in her cups. ② The speaker—who was in his cups — could hardly be understood.

in one's element Fig. in a natural or comfortable situation or environment. ② Sally is in her element when she's working with algebra or calculus. ② Bob loves to work with color and texture. When he's painting, he's in his element.

in one's glory Fig. at one's happiest or best. ② When I go to the beach on vacation, I'm in my glory. ② Sally is a good teacher. She's in her glory in the classroom.

in one's mind's eye Fig. in one's mind or imagination. (Alludes to visualizing something in one's mind.) ② In my mind's eye, I can see trouble ahead. ② In her mind's eye, she could see a beautiful building beside the river. She decided to design such a building.

in one's opinion according to one's belief or judgment. ② In my opinion, that is a very ugly picture. ② That isn't a good idea in my opinion.

in one's or its prime Fig. at one's or its peak or best time. ② Our dog—which is in its prime—is very active. ② The building was in its prime back in the Fifties, but it has not been well maintained. ② I could work long hours when I was in my prime.

in one's (own) backyard Fig. very close to one, where one lives, or where one is. ② That kind of thing is quite rare. Imagine it happening right in your backyard. ② You always think of something like that happening to someone else. You never expect to find it in your own backyard.

in one's (own) (best) interest(s) to one's advantage; as a benefit to oneself. ② It is not in your own interests to share your ideas with Jack. He will say that they are his. ② Jane thought it was in the best interest of her friend to tell her mother about his illness.

in one's own way 1. as the best one can do; using a personal and individual strategy. ② I don't know the answer to the problem, but perhaps I can help in my own way. ② She couldn't go to war and carry a gun, but she helped the war effort in her own way. 2. in the special way that one wishes or demands. ② I don't like doing it your way. I want to do it in my own way. ② I prefer to do it in my own way.

in one's right mind Fig. sane; rational and sensible. (Often in the negative.) ② That was a stupid thing to do. You're not in your right mind. ② You can't be in your right mind! That sounds crazy!

in one's salad days Fig. in one's youth. (Usually formal or literary. Comparing the greenness of a salad with the greenness, or freshness and inexperience, of youth.) ② I recall the joys I experienced on school vacations in my salad days. ② In our salad days, we were apt to get into all sorts of mischief on the weekends.

in one's second childhood Fig. of an adult] interested in things or people that normally interest children. ② My father bought himself a toy train, and my mother said he was in his second childhood. ② Whenever I go to the river and throw stones, I feel as if I'm in my second childhood.

in one's spare time in one's extra time; in the time not reserved for work or doing something else. ② I write novels in my spare time. ② I'll try to paint the house in my spare time.

*in one's Sunday best Rur. in one's best clothes; in the clothes one wears to church. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) ② All the children were dressed up in their Sunday best. ② I like to be in my Sunday best whenever I go out. ② Let's get into our Sunday best and go out for dinner.

in opposition to someone or something against someone or something; opposing someone or something. ② You'll find that I'm firmly in opposition to any further expenditures. ② The council and the mayor are usually in opposition.

*in orbit 1. Lit. [of something] circling a heavenly body. (*Typically: be ~; put something [into] ~.) ② The moon is in orbit around the earth. ② They put the satellite into orbit. 2. Fig. ecstatic; thrilled; emotionally high.
in order

*in order properly arranged. (*Typically: get something ~; have something ~; put something ~.) □ Please get your desk in order. □ I wish you would put things in order!

in order to do something for the purpose of doing something; as a means of doing something. □ I went to college in order further my education. □ I gave John three dollars in order to buy lunch.

in other words a phrase introducing a restatement of what has just been said. □ Henry: Sure I want to do it, but how much do I get paid? Andrew: In other words, you’re just doing it for the money. □ Bill: Well, I suppose I really should prepare my entourage for departure. Bob: In other words, you’re leaving? Bill: One could say that, I suppose. Bob: Why didn’t one?

*in over one’s head (with someone or something) 1. Lit. in water that is deeper than one is tall. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Johnny! Don’t go out too far! You are in over your head. 2. Fig. too deeply involved with someone or something, beyond what one can deal with. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ They are all in over their heads with this money business. 3. Fig. having more difficulties than one can manage. □ Calculus is very hard for me. □ I’m in over my head.

in park [of an automobile transmission] having the gears locked so the automobile cannot move. □ The driver stopped the car and placed it in park. □ You have to be in park in order to start this car.

in part partly; to a lesser degree or extent. □ I was not there, in part because of my disagreement about the purpose of the meeting. I also had a previous appointment. □ I hope to win, in part because I want the prize money.

in particular specifically; especially. □ I’m not going anywhere in particular. □ Of the three ideas, there is one I like in particular.

in passing casually; said or mentioned as an aside. □ I just heard your name in passing. I didn’t hear more than that. □ The lecturer referred to George Washington in passing.

in pencil written or signed with a pencil. □ Why did you write your report in pencil? □ You can’t sign a check in pencil!

in perpetuity for an indefinitely long period of time; eternally. □ My trust fund generates income in perpetuity. □ The right for the road to cross my land was granted in perpetuity to the county.

in person [of someone] actually physically present in a place rather than appearing in a film, on a television or computer screen, on a telephone, or through a radio broadcast. □ All the famous movie stars were there in person. □ You must appear in our office in person to collect the money that is due to you.

*in perspective within a reasonable view or appraisal. (*Typically: be ~; get something ~; have something ~; put something [into] ~.) □ Let’s try to keep everything in perspective. □ If we put the matter into perspective, I think we can discuss it reasonably.

*in place in (someone’s or something’s) proper place or location. (*Typically: be ~; put something [into] ~.) □ The maid came into the room and put everything into place. □ It’s good to see everything in place again.

in place of someone or something instead of someone or something; as a substitute for someone or something. □ I changed my mind. I want a red one in place of the blue one. □ John came to help in place of Max, who was sick.

in plain English Go to next.

*in plain language and *in plain English Fig. in simple, clear, and straightforward language. (*Typically: be ~; put something [into] ~; say something ~; write something ~.) □ That’s too confusing. Please say it again in plain English. □ Tell me again in plain language.

*in play 1. Lit. [of a ball, in a game] under the effect of the rules of the game. (*Typically: be ~; get back ~; put something back ~.) □ The ball is in play again and the activity is furious. □ The ball is not in play yet. 2. Fig. [of a company or its stock] in the process of being bought out by another company. (*Typically: be ~; put something ~.) □ The company I bought stock in is now in play. □ This stock is in play.

in point of fact just to point out a fact; in fact. □ In point of fact, I am not late. You are simply too early.

in poor taste Go to in bad taste.

*in power in control; in charge. (*Typically: be ~; come [into] ~; get [into] ~.) □ Who is in power now? □ No one is in power. □ The provisional government came into power six months ago.

in practice 1. in the actual doing of something; in reality. □ Our policy is to be very particular, but in practice we don’t care that much. □ The instructions say not to set it too high. In practice I always set it as high as possible. 2. well-rehearsed; well-practiced; well-exercised. □ The swimmer wasn’t in practice and almost drowned. □ I play the piano for a living, and I have to keep in practice.

in press [of a book or other document] in the process of being printed. □ This book is in press. It won’t be available for at least two months. □ This book has been in press for a long time.

in print [of a book, magazine, newspaper, or other written material] to be available from the publisher. □ Ten thousand copies of the first edition remain in print. □ The publisher listed all of its books in print.

in private privately; without others present. □ I’d like to speak to you in private. □ I enjoy spending the evening in private.

in progress under way; happening; developing or moving right now. □ Don’t enter the studio. There’s a show in progress. □ We now return you to the regularly scheduled show in progress.

in proportion showing the correct size or proportion relative to something else. □ That man’s large head is not in proportion to his small body. □ The cartoonist drew the dog in proportion to its surroundings.

in public in a place or way so that other people can see or know about something. □ It’s illegal to walk naked in public. □ John always tries to embarrass me whenever we’re in public.
in pursuit of something chasing after something. Bill spends most of his time in pursuit of money. Every year Bob goes into the countryside in pursuit of butterflies.

in quest of someone or something and in search of someone or something seeking or hunting something; trying to find something. They went into town in quest of a reasonably priced restaurant. Monday morning I’ll go out in search of a job.

in rags Fig. in worn-out and torn clothing. Oh, look at my clothing. I can’t go to the party in rags! I think the new casual fashions make you look as if you’re in rags.

in rare form 1. Fig. well prepared for a good performance; at one’s best. The goalie is in rare form today; that’s his third great save already. We are not exactly in rare form on Monday mornings. 2. Inf. intoxicated. Gert is in rare form, but she’ll have time to sleep it off. When Harry was finally in rare form, he slid beneath the table.

in reality viewing things realistically; really. Jane dreamed it was snowing, but in reality, it was very warm. John looks happy, but in reality, he is miserable.

in receipt of something in a state of having received something. (Used in business correspondence.) We are in receipt of your letter of request. When we are in receipt of your check for the full balance, we will mark your bill as paid.

in recent memory Fig. the period of time in which things are still remembered and discussed. Never in recent memory has there been this much snow! I haven’t been this happy in recent memory!

in reduced circumstances Exph. in poverty. After Frederick lost his position, we lived in reduced circumstances while waiting for my inheritance.

in reference to someone or something and with reference to someone or something concerning or about someone or something; in connection with someone or something. What shall we do in reference to Bill and his problem? With reference to what problem?

in regard to someone or something Go to with regard to someone or something.

in rehearsal a stage of development in the production of a play, opera, or concert, involving many rehearsals. The play is in rehearsal now and will open next month. While the opera was in rehearsal, the star developed a hatred for the director.

in relation to someone or something relating to someone or something; in connection with someone or something. I mention this fact in relation to your proposed trip. Let’s discuss Bill in relation to his future with this company.

in remission of a serious disease not worsening or progressing. While the disease was in remission, John got to leave the hospital. The doctor said my cancer was in remission.

in retrospect and in hindsight reconsidering the past with the knowledge one now has. In retrospect, I would have gone to a better college. David realized, in hindsight, that he should have finished school.

in return for (someone or something) by way of giving something back; as a way of paying someone back for something; as part of an exchange. I helped Tom yesterday, and he helped me in return for my efforts. I paid $20 and received four tickets in return.

in round figures Go to next.

*in round numbers and *in round figures as an estimated number; a figure that has been rounded off. (Typically: be ~; express something ~; write something ~.) Please tell me in round numbers what it’ll cost. I don’t need the exact amount. Just give it to me in round figures.

*in ruins in a state of destruction. (Typically: be ~; lay ~; leave something ~.) The enemy army left the cities they attacked in ruins. The crops laid in ruins after the flood.

in search of someone or something Go to in quest of someone or something.

in season 1. [of a game animal] subject to legal hunting. You cannot shoot ducks. They are not in season. 2. [of a female animal] ready to breed; in estrus; in heat. The cat’s in season again. 3. to be currently available for selling. Some foods and other things are available only at certain seasons. Oysters are available in season. Oysters are available in season.

in secret secretly. They planned in secret to blow up the bridge. I will tell her in secret so no one else will hear.

in service [of something] operating or operable. (See also put something in(to) service.) Is this elevator in service?

in session [of a court, congress, or other organization] operating or functioning. Use of cameras is forbidden while the meeting is in session. The spectators must remain quiet while court is in session.

in seventh heaven Fig. in a very happy state. Ann was really in seventh heaven when she got a car of her own. I’d be in seventh heaven if I had a million dollars.

in shape Go to in condition.

in short stated briefly. At the end of the financial report, the board president said, “In short, we are okay.” My remarks, in short, indicate that we are in good financial shape.

in short order very quickly. I can straighten out this mess in short order. The maids came in and cleaned the place up in short order.

in short supply Fig. scarce. Fresh vegetables are in short supply in the winter. Yellow cars are in short supply because everyone likes them and buys them. At this time of the year, fresh vegetables go into short supply.

in sight 1. Lit. within the range of vision; visible. The goal is in sight. The end of the road is in sight. Fig. known; expected. The end of the project is finally in sight.

in so many words Fig. exactly; explicitly; in plain, clear language. I told her in so many words to leave me alone.

in some neck of the woods Rur. in some vicinity or neighborhood; in some remote place. (The some is usually this, that, your, their, etc. Can be used to refer to some specific section of a forest.) I think that the Smiths live in your neck of the woods. What’s happening over in that neck of the woods?
in some respects and in many respects with regard to some or many details. □ In some respects, Anne’s comments are similar to yours. □ The three proposals are quite different in many respects.

in some transaction for someone having value for someone; having a benefit for someone. (Usually a question: What’s in it for me?) □ What is this deal for me? □ There is a lot of money in it for you.

in someone else’s place Go to next.

in someone else’s shoes and in someone else’s place Fig. seeing or experiencing something from someone else’s point of view. (See also in a bind and the examples.) □ You might feel different if you were in her shoes. □ Pretend you’re in Tom’s place, and then try to figure out why he acts the way he does.

in someone’s behalf Go to in behalf of someone.

in someone’s care Go to in the care of someone.

in someone’s face Si. in a provocative attitude, as if ready to fight or argue. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Ted’s a real pain. He likes to get in your face. He’ll argue about anything. □ I know you are angry, but don’t get in my face. I had nothing to do with it.

in someone’s favor 1. to someone’s advantage or credit. (Especially in sports scores, as in the examples.) □ The score was ten to twelve in our favor. □ At the end of the second half, the score was forty to three in the other team’s favor. 2. *in someone’s favor liked by someone; approved of by someone. (Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ John might be able to help me. I hope I’m currently in his favor. □ My mother is mad at me. I’m certainly not in her favor. □ I’ll try to get into her favor.

in someone’s good graces Fig. in good with someone; in someone’s favor. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I’m not in her good graces so I shouldn’t be the one to ask her.

in someone’s hair 1. Lit. tangled in someone’s hair. (Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ My bubble gum got in my hair and I had to cut it out. 2. Fig. annoying someone. (Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ You can watch what I am doing, but don’t get in my hair. □ I wish you wouldn’t get in my hair when I’m trying to do something.

in someone’s name 1. in someone’s ownership; as someone’s property. □ The house is in my name. I own all of it. □ The car is in our names. 2. Go to in behalf of someone.

in someone’s or something’s way and in the way of someone or something Fig. in the pathway or movement of someone or something. □ Don’t get in my way. □ That car is in the way of the bus and all the other traffic.

in someone’s possession held by someone; owned by someone. (Typically: be ~; come [into] ~.) □ The book is now in my possession. □ How long has this object been in your possession?

in someone’s prayers [of someone] remembered and called by name when someone prays. □ I am sorry to hear of your sickness. You will be in our prayers. □ The whole family is in my prayers because they have suffered so much.

in someone’s way 1. Lit. in the pathway of someone. (Typically: be ~; get [into] ~; stand ~.) □ Don’t get in Bob’s way while he is bringing groceries in front of the car. 2. and in the way of someone’s plans Fig. interfering with a person in the pursuit of plans or intentions; hindering someone’s plans. (Typically: be ~; get ~; stand ~.) □ I am going to leave home. Please don’t get in my way. □ She intends to become a lawyer and no one had better get in her way. □ I would never get into the way of her plans.

in spades in the best or most extreme way possible; extravagantly. □ He flunked the test in spades. □ He succeeded at life in spades—honors degree, great career, rich wife, lovely children, and early retirement.

in spite of someone or something without regard to someone or something; even though another course had been prescribed; ignoring a warning. □ In spite of her orders to stay, I left. □ In spite of the bad weather, I had fun on vacation.

in step (with someone) Fig. [marching or dancing] in cadence with another person. (Typically: be ~; get [into] ~; march ~; keep ~.) □ Please keep in step with Jane. □ You two, back there. You aren’t in step.

in step (with something) and in time (with something) Fig. keeping in cadence with music. □ John, your violin isn’t in step with the beat. Sit up straight and try it again. □ I’m trying to play in time.

in stitches Fig. laughing very hard. □ Charlie had us in stitches with all his jokes. □ The movie sure was funny. I was in stitches!

in stock to have merchandise available and ready for sale. □ Do you have extra-large sizes in stock? □ Of course, we have all sizes and colors in stock.

in storage in a place where things are stored or kept. □ Mary placed her winter clothes in storage during the summer. □ John’s furniture is in storage while he is in the army.

in store (for someone) awaiting someone in the future. (Typically: be ~; hold something ~; lie ~.) □ None of us knows what lies in store for us tomorrow. □ Some good lies in store for me, I think.

in style 1. Lit. in fashion; fashionable. □ This old coat isn’t in style anymore. □ I don’t care if it’s not in style. It’s warm. □ I hope this coat comes into style again. 2. Fig. in elegance; in luxury. □ If I had a million dollars, I could really live in style. □ If he saves his money, someday he’ll be able to live in style.

in surgery to be involved in surgery. (Can refer to a doctor, nurse, or patients.) □ Dr. Smith is in surgery now. □ The patient is still in surgery.

in tall cotton Go to in high cotton.

in tandem [of two or more things] in single file. □ We marched to the door in tandem. □ They rode along in tandem.

in tatters Fig. in torn pieces of cloth. □ The poor man’s clothes hung in tatters. □ The flag was in tatters after the storm.

in terms of something regarding something; concerning something. □ I don’t know what to do in terms of John’s problem. □ Now, in terms of your proposal, don’t you think you’re asking for too much?
in the absence of someone or something while someone or something isn’t here; without someone or something. □ *In the absence of the cook, I’ll prepare dinner. □ In the absence of opposition, she won easily.

d *in the act of doing something while doing something. □ There he was, in the act of opening the door. □ I tripped while in the act of climbing.

d in the affirmative in the form of an answer that means yes. □ The soldier answered in the affirmative by nodding his head “yes.” □ My manager’s response was in the affirmative.

in the air Fig. everywhere; all about. □ There is such a feeling of joy in the air. □ We felt a sense of tension in the air.

*in the altogether and *in the buff; *in the nude; *in the raw Fig. naked; nude. (*Typically: *be ~; *get [into] ~; *sleep ~.) □ The museum has a painting of some ladies in the buff. □ Mary felt a little shy about getting into the altogether. □ Bill says he sleeps in the raw.

in the back in the back part of a building; in the back room of a building. □ I don’t have your size here, but perhaps I can find it in the back. □ He’s not in the shop right now. I’ll see if he’s in the back.

*in the back of someone’s mind Fig. remembered by someone, but not very important; vaguely remembered by someone. (*Typically: *have something ~; *keep something ~; *leave something ~; *put something ~; *remain ~; *stay ~.) □ You should put this problem in the back of your mind and concentrate on other things.

in the bag 1. Fig. cinched; achieved. (*Typically: *be ~; *have something ~.) □ It’s in the bag—as good as done. □ The election is in the bag unless the voters find out about my past. 2. Fig. Inf. intoxicated. (*Typically: *be ~; *get [into] ~; *get someone or something [into] ~.) □ You’re in the clear. Go ahead and back up. □ Once the deer got into the clear, it ran away. 2. Fig. to be innocent; not to be guilty. (*Typically: *be ~; *get [into] ~; *get someone or something [into] ~.) □ Don’t worry, Tom. I’m sure you’re in the clear. □ I’ll feel better when I get into the clear.

in the ballpark Fig. within certain boundaries; [of an estimate] close to what is expected. □ Your estimate is not even in the ballpark. Please try again.

*in the best of health very healthy. (*Typically: *be ~; *get oneself ~.) □ Bill is in the best of health. He eats well and exercises. □ I haven’t been in the best of health. I think I have the flu.

in the black Fig. not in debt; in a financially profitable condition. (As opposed to in the red.) □ I wish my wishes were in the black. □ Sally moved the company into the black.

in the blood and in one’s blood Fig. built into one’s personality or character. □ John’s a great runner. It’s in his blood. □ The whole family is very athletic. It’s in the blood.

*in the boonies and *in the boonies in a rural area; far away from a city or population. (*Typically: *be ~; *camp ~; *live ~; *stay ~.) □ Perry lives out in the boonies with his parents.

in the buff Go to previous.

in the altogether Fig. uninformed about someone or something; ignorant about someone or something. (*Typically: *be ~; *keep someone ~; *stay ~.) □ I’m in the dark about who is in charge around here. □ I can’t imagine why they are keeping me in the dark. □ She’s in the dark about how this machine works.
in the doghouse 

*in the doghouse* Fig. in trouble; in (someone's) disfavor. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; find oneself ~; put someone [into] ~.*)  

in the doldrums Fig. sluggish; inactive; in low spirits. (*Typically: be ~; put someone [into] ~.*)  

in the drink Fig. in the water; in the ocean. (*Typically: be ~; fall ~; throw someone ~.*)  

in the driver's seat Fig. in control; in charge of things. (As if one were driving and controlling the vehicle.)  

in the event of something if something happens; on the chance that something happens.  

in the event of his late arrival, please call me.  

in the event of rain, the parade is canceled.  

in the family way Go to in a family way.  

in the fast lane Fig. in a very active or possible risky manner. (See also life in the fast lane. *Typically: be ~; live ~; move ~; stay ~.*)  

in the final analysis and in the last analysis in truth; when all the facts are known; when the truth becomes known. (Usually used when someone is speculating about what the final outcome will be.)  

in the final analysis, it is usually the children who suffer most in a situation like this.  

in the last analysis, you simply do not want to do as you are told!  

in the first instance Go to in next.  

in the first place and in the first instance initially; to begin with.  

in the forefront (of something) Go to at the forefront (of something).  

in the foreground Sl. attuned to something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*)  

in the gutter Fig. [of a person] in a low state; poor and homeless. (*Typically: be ~; fall [into] ~; put someone [into] ~.*)  

in the hole Fig. in debt. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; go ~; put someone ~.*)  

in the (home)stretch Fig. in the last stage of a process. (From horse racing. *Typically: be ~; get ~.*)  

in the hopper Fig. in process; in line to be processed. (A hopper is a chute for incoming work or material to be processed.)  

in the interest of saving time in order to hurry things along; in order to save time.  

in the interest of saving time, I'd like to save questions for the end of my talk.  

in the interest of something as an advantage or benefit to someone or something; in order to advance or improve someone or something.  

in the interest of health, people are asked not to smoke.  

in the hot seat Go to on the hot seat.  

in the interim (between things) in the meantime; in the time between the ending of something and the beginning of something else.  

in the interim between her morning and afternoon classes, Susan rushed home to get a book she had forgotten.  

in the know knowledgeable.  

in the know, I have no knowledge of how to work this machine.  

in the lap of luxury Cliché in luxurious surroundings.  

in the long haul Go to over the long haul.  

in the long run Go to over the long haul.  

in the main basically; generally.  

in the main, Sally: What details need attention? Mary: Just a few things here and there. Like on page 27.
in the pink (of condition) and in the pink (of health) Fig. very good health; in very good condition, physically and emotionally. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ He recovered completely from his surgery and has been in the pink ever since. □ She was lively and active and in the pink of condition.

in the pipeline Fig. backed up somewhere in a process; in process; in a queue. □ There’s a lot of goods still in the pipeline. That means no more new orders will be shipped for a while. □ Your papers are in the pipeline somewhere. You’ll just have to wait.

in the poorhouse 1. Lit. in (a historical) communal dwelling for impoverished persons. (*Typically: live ~; end up ~.) □ He couldn’t pay his debts and had to live in the poorhouse. 2. Fig. in a state of poverty. (*Typically: live ~; end up ~.) □ If I lose my job, we’ll end up in the poorhouse.

in the prime of life Fig. in the best and most productive and healthy period of life. □ The good health of one’s youth can carry over into the prime of life. □ He was struck down by a heart attack in the prime of life.

in the public eye Fig. publicly; visible to all; conspicuous. (*Typically: be ~; find oneself ~; get [into] ~.) □ Elected officials find themselves constantly in the public eye. □ The mayor made it a practice to get into the public eye as much as possible.

in the raw Go to in the altogether.

in the rear located in the space or area behind someone or something. □ The waiter told me that the bathrooms were in the rear. □ All deliveries must be made in the rear.

in the red Fig. losing money. (*Typically: be ~; go [into] ~; as opposed to in the black.) □ State government has been operating in the red for five straight years. □ What with all those car repairs, we’re going to be in the red this month.

in the right correct; morally or legally correct. □ I know I’m in the right. □ You are not in the right on this point.

in the right place at the right time in the location where something good is to happen exactly when it happens. □ I got a good deal on a car because I was in the right place at the right time. □ Unless you are in the right place at the right time, you won’t get a chance to meet a movie star.

in the road 1. Lit. on the roadway. □ What’s that in the road ahead? 2. Fig. in the way; obstructing the way. □ You are always in the road. Move aside.

in the running Fig. in competition; competing and having a chance to win. (See also in a bind and the examples.) □ Is Tom still in the running? Does he still have a chance to be elected? □ I don’t know about Tom, but Gladys is definitely still in the running.

in the same boat (as someone) in the same situation; having the same problem. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ Tom: I’m broke. Can you lend me twenty dollars? Bill: Sorry. I’m in the same boat. □ Jane and Mary are both in the same boat. They have been called for jury duty.

in the same breath [stated or said] almost at the same time. □ He told me I was lazy, but then in the same breath he said I was doing a good job. □ The teacher said that the students were working hard and, in the same breath, that they were not working hard enough.

in the second place secondly; in addition. (Usually said after one has said in the first place.) □ In the first place, you don’t have enough money to buy one. In the second place, you don’t need one. □ In the first place, I don’t have the time. In the second place, I’m not interested.
in the short haul Go to over the short haul.

in the short run Go to over the short haul.

*in the soup Fig. in a bad situation. (Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ Now I'm really in the soup. I broke Mrs. Franklin's window. □ I make a lot of mistakes. It's easy for me to get into the soup.

in the spotlight 1. Fig. in the beam of a spotlight, as on a stage. □ The singer was in the spotlight but the band was almost in the dark. 2. and in the limelight Fig. at the center of attention. (Limelight refers to an obsolete type of spotlight, and the word occurs only in this phrase.) □ John will do almost anything to get himself into the limelight. □ I love being in the spotlight. □ All elected officials spend a lot of time in the limelight.

*in the swim of things Fig. involved in or participating in events or happenings. (Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ I've been ill, but soon I'll be back in the swim of things. □ I can't wait to settle down and get into the swim of things.

*in the trust of someone under the responsibility or in the care of someone. (Typically: be ~; leave someone or something ~; place someone or something ~.) □ The state placed the orphan in the trust of the foster parents. □ Our bonds are left in the trust of our broker.

in the twinkling of an eye and in the wink of an eye Fig. very quickly. □ In the twinkling of an eye, the deer had disappeared into the forest. □ I gave Bill ten dollars and, in the twinkling of an eye, he spent it.

in the unlikely event of something and in the unlikely event that something happens—which will probably not happen—actually happens. □ In the unlikely event of my getting the job, I'll have to buy a car to almost in the dark.

in the very nick of time and made my flight.

in the spotlight 1.

in the spotlight 2.

in the spotlight 3.

in the spotlight 4.

in the spotlight 5.

in the spotlight 6.

in the spotlight 7.

in the spotlight 8.

in the spotlight 9.

in the spotlight 10.

in the spotlight 11.

in the spotlight 12.

in the spotlight 13.

in the spotlight 14.

in the spotlight 15.

in the spotlight 16.

in the spotlight 17.

in the spotlight 18.

in the spotlight 19.

in the spotlight 20.

in the spotlight 21.

in the spotlight 22.

in the spotlight 23.

in the spotlight 24.

in the spotlight 25.

in the spotlight 26.

in the spotlight 27.

in the spotlight 28.

in the spotlight 29.

in the spotlight 30.

in the spotlight 31.

in the spotlight 32.

in the spotlight 33.

in the spotlight 34.

in the spotlight 35.

in the spotlight 36.

in the spotlight 37.

in the spotlight 38.

in the spotlight 39.

in the spotlight 40.

in the spotlight 41.

in the spotlight 42.

in the spotlight 43.

in the spotlight 44.

in the spotlight 45.

in the spotlight 46.

in the spotlight 47.

in the spotlight 48.

in the spotlight 49.

in the spotlight 50.

in the spotlight 51.

in the spotlight 52.

in the spotlight 53.

in the spotlight 54.

in the spotlight 55.

in the spotlight 56.

in the spotlight 57.

in the spotlight 58.

in the spotlight 59.

in the spotlight 60.

in the spotlight 61.

in the spotlight 62.

in the spotlight 63.

in the spotlight 64.

in the spotlight 65.

in the spotlight 66.

in the spotlight 67.

in the spotlight 68.

in the spotlight 69.

in the spotlight 70.

in the spotlight 71.

in the spotlight 72.

in the spotlight 73.

in the spotlight 74.

in the spotlight 75.

in the spotlight 76.

in the spotlight 77.

in the spotlight 78.

in the spotlight 79.

in the spotlight 80.

in the spotlight 81.

in the spotlight 82.

in the spotlight 83.

in the spotlight 84.

in the spotlight 85.

in the spotlight 86.

in the spotlight 87.

in the spotlight 88.

in the spotlight 89.

in the spotlight 90.

in the spotlight 91.

in the spotlight 92.

in the spotlight 93.

in the spotlight 94.

in the spotlight 95.

in the spotlight 96.

in the spotlight 97.

in the spotlight 98.

in the spotlight 99.

in the spotlight 100.

in the spotlight 101.

in the spotlight 102.

in the spotlight 103.

in the spotlight 104.

in the spotlight 105.

in the spotlight 106.

in the spotlight 107.

in the spotlight 108.

in the spotlight 109.

in the spotlight 110.

in the spotlight 111.

in the spotlight 112.

in the spotlight 113.

in the spotlight 114.

in the spotlight 115.

in the spotlight 116.

in the spotlight 117.

in the spotlight 118.

in the spotlight 119.

in the spotlight 120.

in the spotlight 121.

in the spotlight 122.

in the spotlight 123.

in the spotlight 124.

in the spotlight 125.

in the spotlight 126.

in the spotlight 127.

in the spotlight 128.

in the spotlight 129.

in the spotlight 130.

in the spotlight 131.

in the spotlight 132.

in the spotlight 133.

in the spotlight 134.

in the spotlight 135.

in the spotlight 136.

in the spotlight 137.

in the spotlight 138.

in the spotlight 139.

in the spotlight 140.

in the spotlight 141.

in the spotlight 142.

in the spotlight 143.

in the spotlight 144.

in the spotlight 145.

in the spotlight 146.

in the spotlight 147.

in the spotlight 148.

in the spotlight 149.

in the spotlight 150.

in the spotlight 151.

in the spotlight 152.

in the spotlight 153.

in the spotlight 154.

in the spotlight 155.

in the spotlight 156.

in the spotlight 157.
in touch with someone or something 1. Fig. in communication with someone or a group. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Are you in touch with your brother, or have you two grown apart? □ I am in touch with the person whom you asked about. 2. Fig. sympathetic or sensitive to someone or something, having good contact or rapport with someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ We talk to each other, but we’re not really in touch with each other.

in tow closely following; under someone’s control. □ The nanny walked into the park with three children in tow. □ The manager was meeting with her staff in tow.

in transit while in the process of being transported. □ Dave is in transit from London to Chicago. □ The new stereo is now in transit from the manufacturer.

in triplicate [of a document] produced in three copies. □ Mr. Smith asked me to copy his notes in triplicate. □ I completed each form in triplicate.

in trouble 1. in danger; in difficulty; due for punishment. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ If you don’t be quiet, you’re going to be in trouble. □ The company was in trouble for months, and then went bankrupt. 2. Euph. pregnant and unmarried. (*Typically: be ~; get [into] ~.) □ They had to get married. She was in trouble. □ She’ll be in trouble before long, if she doesn’t quit running around like that.

in tune in a state where musical notes are at their proper intervals so that none are flat or sharp. □ Your piano is in tune. □ The choir members all sang in tune.

in use [of some facility or device] occupied or busy. □ Sorry, this room is in use. □ How long will it be in use?

in vain for no purpose; [done] as a failure. □ They rushed her to the hospital, but they did it in vain. □ We tried in vain to get her there on time.

in view of something in consideration of something; because of something. □ In view of the high cost of gasoline, I sold my car. □ I won’t invite John to the meeting in view of his attitude.

incite someone to something to excite or provoke someone to something. □ The radicals tried to incite the students to
incline away (from someone or something)

violence. □ The students were incited to violent behavior by the lecturer.

incline away (from someone or something) to lean or slope away from someone or something. □ I inclined away from her to avoid her alcohol breath. □ The land inclined away from the house.

incline forward to lean forward; to slant forward. □ The earthquake-ravaged building inclined forward a little bit more and looked as if it was going to fall. □ My chair inclined forward and I kept feeling as if I were going to fall off.

incline something forward to lean something forward; to make something slant forward. □ I inclined the light forward a little bit, so you can see better. □ The fence had been inclined slightly forward to make it harder to climb.

incline toward something or someone 1. to lean or slant toward someone or something. □ The piece of scenery inclined toward Roger very slowly and he jumped out of the way just in time. □ The tree inclined toward the direction of the wind. 2. to favor or “lean” toward choosing someone or something. □ I don’t know which to choose. I incline toward Terri but I also favor Amy. □ I’m inclining toward chocolate.

inclined to do something to tend to do something; to lean toward doing something. □ Tom is inclined to tell jokes when he is with a group of people. □ I’m inclined to go to the beach tomorrow if it doesn’t rain.

include someone in (something) to invite someone to participate in something. □ Let’s include Terri in the planning session. □ Without asking, Henry included himself in the group going on a picnic.

include someone or something among something to count someone or something as a member of a group or collection. □ I am happy to include you among my friends. □ Do you include chocolate among your favorite flavors?

include someone out of (something) Fig. to exclude someone from something. (Jocular.) □ I’m not interested in your games. Include me out of them. □ Include me out too.

include something in the bargain Go to throw something into the bargain.

incorporate someone or something in(to) something to build someone or something into something; to combine someone or something into something. □ We want to incorporate you into our sales force very soon. □ The prince had incorporated himself into the main governing body.

increase by leaps and bounds Fig. to increase or grow by large increments. (See also gain by leaps and bounds.) □ The price of our stock is increasing by leaps and bounds.

increase in something to grow or expand in some quality. □ He increased in stature and wisdom. □ The tree increased in size every year.

increase something by something to enlarge something by an amount or degree. □ They increased the size of the house by two hundred square feet. □ The engine size on the new model has been increased by a small amount.

increase something (from something) (to something) to enlarge something from something to something bigger; to enlarge something from one size to a larger size. □ We plan to increase sales from four million to six million dollars. □ I increased my bid to two thousand from one thousand.

increment something by something to increase a sum by a supplement [of a certain figure]. □ Increment the numbering by ten so that 1, 2, 3 becomes 10, 20, 30. □ The base number was incremented by 4.

inculcate someone with something to touch or impress someone with some specific knowledge. □ The teacher sought to inculcate the students with the knowledge they needed. □ Her parents inculcated her with good manners.

inculcate something in(to) someone to instill specific knowledge into someone; to teach something to someone so that it will be remembered. □ They inculcated good manners into their children all their lives. □ We tried to inculcate good morals into our students.

incumbent (up)on someone to do something obligatory for someone to do something. □ It is incumbent upon me to inform you that you are up for review. □ It was incumbent on Mary to mail her application before June 1st.

indemnify someone or something against something to agree to protect someone or something against something, such as damage or a lawsuit. □ Their employer indemnified them against legal action. □ We indemnified the publisher against legal trouble.

indicate something to someone to signify something to someone. (By speech, writing, or some other sign.) □ Karen indicated her agreement to the lawyer. □ Fred indicated his assent to me.

indict someone for something [for a legal body] to arraign someone for a crime or name someone formally as the one accused of a crime. □ The grand jury indicted her for murder. □ Then they indicted Max for grand larceny.

indoctrinate someone into something to teach someone the ways of a group or some activity. □ The staff sought to indoctrinate Walter into the ways of office procedure. □ Todd indoctrinated Ken into camp life.

indoctrinate someone with something to teach someone the official or fundamental knowledge about something. □ They indoctrinated all their spies with the importance of being loyal to the death. □ Ken indoctrinated Todd with revolutionary thinking.

induce labor in someone to cause the onset of childbirth in a mother-to-be. □ They decided to induce labor in the mother-to-be. □ They decided not to induce labor in Alice.

induct someone into something 1. to conscript someone into the armed services; to bring a nonvolunteer into the armed services. □ They inducted Wally into the army in a little ceremony. 2. to draft someone into something. □ They inducted a number of new members into the group. 3. to install someone in an office or position. □ They inducted her into the presidency. □ The college inducted a new president into office last week.

indulge in something 1. to take pleasure in doing something; to do something habitually. □ No, I don’t indulge in contact sports anymore. □ We don’t indulge in strenuous activity. 2. to choose to eat a certain food or drink something, usually alcohol. □ I don’t usually indulge in hard spirits, but just this once. □ I indulge in chocolate until I can’t hold any more.
indulge someone with something to grant someone the favor or privilege of something. □ Please indulge me with this one favor. □ He always indulged himself with dinner at a nice restaurant when he went into town.

*infatuated with someone or something to be in love with someone or something. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ She is infatuated with John. □ John is infatuated with chocolate ice cream.

infect someone with something 1. to transmit disease-causing organisms to someone. (Someone includes oneself.) □ Please don't infect me with your cold germs. □ Somehow, she infected herself with the virus she was studying. 2. to affect someone with something, such as excitement, joy, desires, etc. □ Her explosive laughter infected everyone with good spirits.

infer something from something to reach a conclusion from something; to deduce facts from something, such as someone’s words, a situation, etc. □ What can we infer from the experience we have just had? □ You should not infer anything from Sue’s remarks.

*infested with something to be contaminated with a swarm or throng of some pest. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ All the campers are infested with lice. □ The dog is infested with ticks.

infiltrate into something 1. to permeate something; to filter into something. □ The sour smell infiltrated into everything in the refrigerator. □ The paint smell infiltrated into every room in the house. 2. and infiltrate something to penetrate a group, secretly, for the purposes of spying or influencing the activities of the group. □ The spy infiltrated into the enemy headquarters. □ They infiltrated into the government.

inflate something with something 1. Lit. to fill up something with air or some other gas. □ Jerry has to inflate all the balloons with helium. □ Ken inflated the balloons with gas. 2. Fig. to make a sum appear larger by including additional irrelevant amounts. □ I think that she has inflated her expense report with too many miles of travel. □ Don’t inflate your expense report with extra costs.

inflict someone (upon) someone to burden someone with the care or keeping of someone else. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Please don’t inflict Bob upon me. □ My brother inflicted his children on us for the weekend. □ Well, I certainly don’t want to inflict myself on you for the weekend, but I do need a place to stay.

inflict something (upon) someone or something to impose something, such as pain, a burden, a problem, etc., on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I hate to inflict an additional burden upon you, but someone has to clean the oven. □ Please don’t inflict that on me.

inform on someone to tell the authorities about someone; to tattle on someone. □ I am going to have to inform on you. □ Liz informed on Ken to their mother.

inform someone about something or something to tell someone about someone or something. □ How is my friend Tom getting on? I asked you to inform me about him from time to time. □ Please inform me about the state of the contract for the book.

inform someone of something to tell someone a fact. □ Please inform Sally of my decision. □ Sally has been informed of your decision.

inform someone on someone to tattle (on someone) (to someone). □ I will inform the teacher on you! □ Billy informed his mother on Bobby.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infuse something with something to teach someone a body of knowledge or a perspective on a body of knowledge. □ The schools sought to infuse the children with a sense of history. □ Children should be infused with a respect for the rights of others.

infuse something into something to make something mix into some liquid. □ He infused the mixture with a strong solution of soap. □ He infused the mixture into the water very slowly.

infuse something with something to make something mix into some liquid. □ He infused the mixture with a strong solution of soap. □ He infused the mixture into the water very slowly.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infuse something into something to mix something into something. □ You should infuse this mixture into the tea. □ The tea was infused into the water very slowly.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.

infringe (upon) something to interfere with the rights of someone or with someone’s property rights; to encroach on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are infringing upon my right to free speech. □ I am not infringing on your property. I’m in my own yard.
inquire after someone to ask about the well-being of someone. □ Jerry inquired after you when I saw him at the store today. □ I will inquire after his wife the next time I see him.

inquire for someone to ask to see someone. □ Mr. Franklin, there is a man out here inquiring for you. What shall I tell him? □ Who is inquiring for me?

inquire into something to look into something; to investigate something by asking questions. □ I will inquire into your complaint. It sounds as if something is wrong. □ We have not inquired into it yet.

inquire something of someone to ask some information of someone. □ I need to inquire something of you. □ May I inquire something personal of you?

inquire within to ask questions of a person inside [some place, such as a store or office]. (Formula. On a sign posted outside.) □ “Help wanted. Inquire within,” read the sign on the door. □ If you want to apply, you must inquire within.

the ins and outs (of something) the correct and successful way to do something; the special things that one needs to know to do something. □ I don’t understand the ins and outs of politics. □ Jane knows the ins and outs of repairing computers.

inscribe something with something to engrave something with a dedication or gift to someone. (Emphasis is on the act of inscribing.) □ It was a lovely watch. I asked them to inscribe it into the back, so I could remember the occasion. □ My initials were inscribed into the wristband.

inscribe something on(to) something to write or engrave certain information on something. (Emphasis is on the message that is inscribed.) □ The jeweler inscribed Amy’s good wishes onto the watch. □ I inscribed my name on my tools.

inscribe something with something to engrave something with a message. □ Could you please inscribe this trophy with the information on this sheet of paper? □ I inscribed the bracelet with her name.

insert something between something and something else to put something in between two things. □ Insert this marker between pages ten and eleven. □ A marker was inserted between the pages.

insert something in(to) something to push or stick something into something. □ Insert the card into the slot and pull the lever. □ Insert the coins in the machine. □ I need to insert another paragraph into this article.

inside a week in less than a week. □ We must get all this sorted out inside a week; all right? □ We’ve got inside a week to get it right.

inside information information known only by those most involved with the issue; secret information relating to an organization. □ I have some inside information about the Smith Company.

an inside joke a joke that only certain people understand; a joke understood only by people who know certain facts and context. □ What you said must be an inside joke. It makes no sense to me.

infect something into someone, something, or some creature
the **inside story** an explanation known only by those most involved with the issue. □ Well, I’ve heard the inside story, and it isn’t what you were told at all!  

*the **inside track** Fig. an advantage (over someone) gained through special connections, special knowledge, or favoritism. *(Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~) □ If I could get the inside track, I could win the contract. □ The boss likes me. Since I’ve got the inside track, I’ll probably be the new office manager.

**insinuate** oneself into something to work oneself into a group or situation. □ She had sought for years to insinuate herself into Terry’s organization. □ Must you always insinuate yourself into my set of friends?

**insinuate** something to someone to hint at something to someone; to imply something to someone. □ I want to instill that into you.  

**insinuate** something to someone to hint at something to someone; to imply something to someone. □ You think I am interested in you for your money! Is that what you are insinuating to me? □ Is that what you are insinuating to me?

**insist (upon)** someone or something to demand something. *(Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I insist on it too.**

**inspire** someone with something to use something to inspire someone; to stimulate or encourage someone with something. □ The president inspired us all with patriotic speeches. □ She inspired us all with her story of heroism.

**inspire** something in someone to stimulate a particular quality in someone. □ You do not particularly inspire trust in me. □ She inspires fear in me.

**install** someone as something to inaugurate or launch someone into the role of something. □ The board installed Jerry as the new parliamentarian. □ She installed herself as the boss of the kitchen and wouldn’t allow anyone else in.

**install** something in something to insert or build something into something. □ We are going to install a trash compactor in our kitchen. □ The doctors installed a pacemaker in Donald.

**instigate** someone to do something to prompt someone to do something; to urge or cause someone to do something. □ Are you the one who instigated Terry to start all this trouble? □ Did you instigate the children to do this?

**instill** someone with something to imbue or impress something into someone. □ Her story instilled us all with courage. □ She instilled us with courage.

**instill** something in(to) someone to impress something into someone’s mind. □ You need to remember your manners. I want to instill that into you. □ Good manners were instilled in me at home.

**instill** something in(to) something to add something to a situation. □ The presence of the mayor instilled a legitimacy into the proceedings. □ Sharon sought to instill a little levity in the meeting.

**institute** something against someone or something to initiate something against someone or something. □ The hospital decided to institute proceedings against her for failing to pay her bill. □ The prosecutor instituted a case against the county board.

**instruct** someone in something to teach someone about something. □ Amy will instruct you in the way to hang paper. □ The manager instructed Ken in the best method of entering data into the computer.

**instrumental in** doing something playing an important part in doing something. □ John was instrumental in getting the contract to build the new building. □ Our senator was instrumental in defeating the bill.

**insulate** someone or something against something to protect someone or something against the effect of someone or something. □ Use an extra blanket to insulate the baby against the cold. □ John is a bad influence on the children, and I’ve taken care to insulate them against him. □ We insulated the children from the effects of John and his bad habits.

**insure against** something to guard or protect against something. □ You must insure against theft and fire. □ I will insure against all risks.

**insure** someone or something (against something) to provide insurance for someone or something against certain perils up to a certain amount of money. □ I insured my wife against accidental death for $100,000. □ We insured the car for its current value against all losses.

**insure** someone or something with something to provide insurance for someone or something from a specific company. □ I insured Amy with a fine old insurance company. □ We insured the car with Acme Insurance in Adamsville.

**integrate** someone or something into something to combine someone or something into something; to work someone or something into something. □ We sought to integrate Amy into the everyday affairs of the company. □ We sought to integrate the new family into the ways of the community.

**integrate** someone with someone to mix people together; to unify people into one group. □ The new regional YMCA will help Hispanics integrate with others in our community. □ They integrated themselves with the people already in attendance.

**integrate** something with something to merge things together; to join things into one. □ I want to integrate the accounting department with the auditing department to save a little money. □ They integrated their department with mine.

**intend** something as something to mean something to serve as something. □ We intend this money as a gift. Do not even think about paying it back. □ This money is intended as a gift.

**intend** something for someone or something to mean for someone or something to get something. □ I intended this one for you. I’m sorry I failed to give it to you in time. □ Aunt Em intended this cake for the county fair, but you can have it instead.

**intent on** doing something determined to do something. □ The prisoner was intent on escaping.

**inter** someone in something to bury someone in something or in some place. □ They chose to inter her in the family burial plot. □ She was interred in the vault with the rest of the family.

**interact with** someone to converse with and exchange ideas with someone. □ In act two, I want Terri to interact with Amy a little more. They act as if they never even met each other. □ The students will interact with one another in their study projects.
interact with something to have a reciprocal action with something; to react with something. (Often refers to the negative consequences of interaction.) □ Will this drug interact with coffee? □ This drug will not interact with your current medication.

intercede (for someone) (with someone or something) to intervene on behalf of someone with someone or a group; to plead someone's case with someone or a group. □ I will intercede for Charlotte with the council. □ Tom interceded with Fred for Sharon, who was too shy to speak for herself.

interchange someone with someone else to exchange one person for another. □ I interchanged Sally with Roger for the honor of being first speaker. □ Roger has been interchanged with Sally.

interchange something with something to exchange one thing for another. □ Please interchange the orange one with the purple one. □ The orange one has been interchanged with the red one.

interest someone in something to arouse the interest of someone in something or someone. □ Yes, I can recommend someone for you to hire. Could I interest you in Tom? He's one of our best workers. □ Can I interest you in checking out a book from the library?

interest someone in something to cause someone to wish to purchase something. □ Could I interest you in something with a little more style to it? □ Can I interest you in some additional insurance on your life?

interface someone or something with someone or something to bring about a complex connection of people and things, in any combination. (Originally having to do with computers.) □ Let's interface Walter with the staff from the main office. □ I want to interface my data with Sam, who has some relevant statistics from prior years.

interface with someone or something to develop a connection or interaction with someone or something. □ Call Walter and set up a meeting so we can interface with him. □ This computer is meant to interface with as many as five others just like it.

interfere in something to meddle in something; to become involved in someone else's business. □ Don't interfere in my business! □ Are you interfering in this matter again?

interfere with someone or something to meddle with something or someone's affairs. □ Please do not interfere with us. □ Are you interfering with my project?

interject someone into something to force someone into something, usually into someone else's business. □ I am going to have to interject Fred into this matter before it gets out of hand. □ I hate to interject myself into your affairs, but I have something to say.

interject something into something to volunteer information or a comment into a conversation. □ We can always count on Liz to interject something sensible into our discussions. □ At last, something sensible has been interjected into our discussions.

interlace something with something to weave something into something else. □ I will interlace some silver thread with the white yarn. □ The manufacturer had interlaced a silver thread into the yarn.

intermarry with someone [for members of a group] to marry into another group, race, or clan. □ Our people don't intermarry with people of that clan. □ They do not intermarry with other groups on purpose.

intermingle something with something to mingle or merge things with things. □ Don't intermingle the U.S. mail with the interoffice mail. □ The office mail had been intermingled with the regular mail!

intermingle with someone to mingle or merge with people. □ The mugger intermingled with the people on the street and could not be recognized. □ Let's intermingle with the guests.

intervene in something to detain or imprison a person in something. □ The government interned the enemy prisoners in the camps for a few months. □ He was interned in a prison camp during the war.

intertwine something with something to tangle or twist something together with something else. □ She intertwined the flowers with the sprigs of greenery, making a
lovely wreath. □ The flowers were intertwined with sprigs of greenery.

**intertwine with something** to twist together with something else. □ The vines intertwined with the ropes and cables that had once held the beached raft together. □ The cables from the two cranes intertwined with each other, causing a serious accident.

**intervene between someone and someone else** to intervene between someone and someone else. □ I decided to intervene between Ralph and his brother, who were arguing endlessly. □ There was no point in intervening between Bill and Bob.

**intervene in something** to get involved in something. □ I will have to intervene in this matter. It’s getting out of hand. □ I want to intervene in this before it becomes a major problem.

**intervene with someone or something** to step into a matter concerning someone or something. □ Megan said she would intervene with the bank manager on our behalf. □ Do I need to intervene with this process?

**interview someone for something** [for an employer] to discuss employment in a particular job with a person seeking employment. □ We will interview her for the manager’s job. □ We will interview the rest of them for the position tomorrow.

**interview with someone for something** [for a person seeking employment] to discuss employment in a particular job with an employer. □ She interviewed with the civic opera company for a job in the business department. □ I interviewed with Roger for the job.

**intimate apparel** Euph. women’s underwear. □ “You’ll find brass and body shapers in the intimate apparel,” said the salesclerk at the department store. □ The catalog features intimate apparel for the grande dame.

**intimate something to someone** to suggest or imply something to someone. □ What are you intimating to me? □ I intimated nothing at all to you.

*intimate with someone* Euph. having sexual intercourse with someone. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*) □ He had never been intimate with a woman before. □ They were intimate with each other for the first time that night.

**intimidate someone into something** to threaten or frighten someone into doing something. □ Do you think you can intimidate me into working for you? □ We weren’t intimidated into doing it.

**intimidate someone with something** to threaten or frighten someone with something. □ Please don’t try to intimidate me with your silly threats! □ We hadn’t been intimidated with their threats.

**in(to) a jam** Fig. in(to) a difficult situation. □ Mary cannot keep track of the many times Dave got himself into a jam. □ I found myself in a jam when my car overheated on the highway.

**into being** into existence. □ The new law brought more problems into being. □ That idea came into being centuries ago.

**in(to) someone’s clutches** Fig. in the control of someone who has power or authority over someone else. □ Snow White fell into the clutches of the evil witch. □ Once you’re in my clutches, I’ll ruin you.

**intoxicate someone with something or something Fig.** to enthrall or entrance someone with someone or something. (See also intoxicate someone with something.) □ She intoxicated him with her smiling eyes. □ The king intoxicated the dignitaries with his beautiful daughter, whom he offered in marriage to the bravest of them all.

**intoxicate someone with something** to make someone drunk with alcohol. □ I think that the plaintiff set out to intoxicate the defendant with liquor and then fake a crime. □ Jed set out to intoxicate Max with gin and then rob him. □ Alice intoxicated herself with too much whiskey.

**intrigue someone with someone or something** to fascinate someone with someone or something. □ Walter intrigued the baby with his keys and funny faces. □ The king intrigued the guests with a seductive dancer who had trained in the Far East.

**intrigue (with someone) (against someone)** to conspire with someone against someone. □ You are guilty of intriguing with an enemy against the government. □ I did not intrigue against anyone.

**introduce someone into something** to bring someone into something; to launch someone into something. □ Tony introduced Wally into his club. □ You do not wish to make me introduce myself into local social life, do you?

**introduce someone to someone** to make someone acquainted with someone else. □ I would like to introduce you to my cousin, Rudolph. □ Allow me to introduce myself to you.

**introduce something into something** to bring something into something or some place; to bring something into something as an innovation. □ The decorator introduced a little bit of bright red into the conference room. □ After I introduced the new procedures into the factory, production increased enormously.

**intrude into something** to get involved in something that is someone else’s business. □ I don’t want to intrude into your affairs, but I see that you’re short of money. □ Please don’t intrude into this matter.

**intrude oneself into something** to work oneself into some matter that is someone else’s business. □ I hate to intrude myself into your conversation, but don’t I know you? □ Please do not intrude yourself into this matter.

**intrude (upon) someone or something to something** to encroach on someone or something or matters that concern only someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I didn’t mean to intrude upon you. □ Please don’t intrude on our meeting. Please wait outside.

**inundate someone or something with something** 1. Lit. to flood someone or something with fluid. □ The river inundated the fields with three feet of water. □ The storm inundated us with heavy rain. 2. Fig. to overwhelm someone with someone or something. □ They inundated us with mail. □ The children inundated us with requests for their favorite songs. □ The citizens inundated the legislature with demands for jobs.

**inure someone or something to something** to accustom someone to someone or something. □ We wanted to inure you to this kind of problem, but here it is and you must face it.
invasion of (someone's) privacy

inveigle someone out of something to deceive someone into giving something up.

invest in someone or something to put resources into someone or something in hopes of increasing the value of the person or thing.

invest with something or someone to endow someone with something, such as power or privilege.

iron out something 1. Lit. to use a flatiron to make cloth flat or smooth.

is all Rur. That is all and nothing more.; That is all I meant to say and there are no further implications. (Often used to end a sentence.) I'm not mad at you. I'm just disappointed, is all. Jane's not a bad kid. She's headstrong, is all.

invoke something (up)on someone or something to call something, such as judgment, power, wrath of God, etc., to deal with someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) The duke invoked the wrath of God upon his enemies—to no avail. Walter invoked divine assistance on the proceedings, which weren't going very well.

involving someone in something to draw someone into a matter or problem.

involves someone with something or someone to cause someone to associate with someone or something.

involves with something or some organization to get involved with something or someone, such as a club, organization, or group. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; become ~.) Bill got involved with a volunteer organization. Mary is very much involved with her club activities.

iron something out 1. Lit. to use a flatiron to make cloth flat or smooth.

is anything going on? Inf. Is there anything exciting or interesting happening here? Andrew: Hey, man! Anything going on? Henry: No. This place is dull as can be. Bob: Come in, Tom. Tom: Is anything going on? Bob: No. You've come on a very ordinary day.


is it) cold enough for you? Inf. a greeting inquiry made during very cold weather. Bob: Hi, Bill! Is it cold enough for you? Bill: It's unbelievable! John: Glad to see you. Is it cold enough for you? Bill: Oh, yes! This is awful!
(Is it) hot enough for you? Inf. a greeting inquiry made during very hot weather. □ Bob: Hi, Bill! Is it hot enough for you? Bill: Yup. □ John: Nice to see you here! Is it hot enough for you? Bill: Good grief, yes! This is awful!

Is someone there? a way of requesting to talk to someone in particular over the telephone. (This is not just a request to find out where someone is. The someone is usually a person’s name.) □ Tom: Hello? Mary: Hello. Is Bill there? Tom: No. Can I take a message? □ Tom: Hello? Mary: Hello. Is Tom there? Tom: Speaking.

Is that everything? Go to (Will there be) anything else?

Is that right? Go to next.

Is that so? and Is that right? 1. Is what you said correct? (With rising question intonation.) □ Henry: These are the ones we need. Andrew: Is that right? They don’t look so good to me. □ Fred: Tom is the one who came in late. Rachel: Is that so? It looked like Bill to me. 2. What is that you say, but I do not believe you. (No rising question intonation. Slightly rude.) □ Mary: You are making a mess of this. Alice: Is that so? And I suppose that you’re perfect? □ Bob: I found your performance to be weak in a number of places. Henry: Is that right? I suppose you could have done better?

Is there any truth to something? Is something true? Is what I have heard true? (no truth to in the negative.) □ Is there any truth to the gossip that Harry is leaving school? □ No, there is no truth to that at all.

Is there anything else? Go to (Will there be) anything else?

Is there anyone I can wash up? Is there something else? Go to Where can I wash up?

Is there any place I can wash up? Go to Where can I wash up?

(Is) this (seat) taken? an inquiry made by a person in a theater, auditorium, etc., asking someone already seated whether an adjacent seat is available or already taken. Finally, Bill came to a row where there was an empty seat. Bill leaned over to the person sitting beside the empty seat and whispered, “Is this seat taken?” □ Fred: ’Scuse me. This taken? Alice: No. Help yourself.

isolate someone or something from someone or something to keep people or things separated from one another, in any combination. □ They isolated everyone from Sam, who was ill with malaria. □ We isolated the children from the source of the disease.

issue a call for something to make a public invitation or request for something. □ The prime minister issued a call for peace. □ The person who organized the writing contest issued a call for entries.

issue (forth) from some place to go out or come out of a place. □ The news releases issued forth from the pressroom on a regular basis. □ Clear water issued from the side of the hill.

issue from something to come out or flow out of something. □ A delicious perfume issued from Sally’s hair as she passed. □ A wonderful aroma issued from the kitchen as the bread baked.

issue someone with something to provide someone with something; to distribute something to someone. □ We issued them with the clothes they needed for the trip. □ Everyone was issued with supplies.

issue something as something to release or send out something as something. □ They issued this month’s magazine as a special double issue. □ The publisher issued this month’s magazine as the very last one.

issue something to someone to distribute or dispense something to someone. □ The front office issued new assignments to everyone today. □ New keys were issued to everyone.

It ain’t fittin’. Hur. It is not right; It is inappropriate. □ It ain’t fittin’ for the bridegroom to see his bride before the ceremony. □ Young folks shouldn’t talk back to their elders. It ain’t fittin’.

(It) beats me. and (It’s) got me beat.; You got me beat. Inf. I do not know the answer; I cannot figure it out. The question has me stumped. (The stress is on me.) □ Bill: When are we supposed to go over to Tom? Bill: Beats me. □ Sally: What’s the largest river in the world? Bob: You got me beat.

it behooves one to do something Cliché it is necessary for one to do something; it is incumbent (up)on someone to do something. □ It behooves me to report the crime. □ It behooves you to pay for the window that you broke.

It blows my mind! Sl. It really amazes and shocks me. □ Bill: Did you hear about Tom’s winning the lottery? Sue: Yes, it blows my mind! □ John: Look at all that paper! What a waste of trees! Jane: It blows my mind!

(It) can’t be helped. and (It) couldn’t be helped. Nothing can be done to help the situation.; The situation could not have been avoided. □ John: The accident has blocked traffic in two directions. Jane: It can’t be helped. They have to get the people out of the cars and send them to the hospital. □ Bill: My goodness, the lawn looks dead! Sue: It can’t be helped. There’s no rain and water is rationed. □ John: I’m sorry I broke your figurine. Sue: It couldn’t be helped. John: I’ll replace it. Sue: That would be nice. □ Bill: I’m sorry I’m late. I hope it didn’t mess things up. Bob: It can’t be helped.

(It) couldn’t be better. and (Things) couldn’t be better. Everything is fine. □ John: How are things going? Jane: Couldn’t be better. □ Bill: I hope everything is okay with your new job. Mary: Things couldn’t be better.

(It) couldn’t be helped. Go to (It) can’t be helped.

It cuts two ways. Inf. There are two sides to the situation. □ You have to help, too. It cuts two ways. □ It cuts two ways, you know. It can’t always all be my fault.

(It) doesn’t bother me any. and (It) doesn’t bother me at all. It does not trouble me at all.; It doesn’t bother me; In the negative.) □ John: Can I take some of these papers home with me? Jane: No, you can’t. □ Sue: Can I have two of
It doesn’t quite suit me.

It is a wise child that knows its own father. Prov.

It is a long lane that has no turning. Prov.

It has no turning. I’m sure things will change soon.

It figures. (It) don’t make me no nevermind. (It) don’t cut no squares (with someone). (It) don’t cut no ice (with someone). (It) don’t bother me none.

It figures.

It doesn’t cut no ice (with someone), and (It) don’t cut no squares (with someone). Rur. (It) doesn’t influence me. □ That excuse don’t cut no ice with me. □ I’m tired of you coming home drunk. Your fancy apologies don’t cut no squares.

It doesn’t quite suit me. Go to (It) don’t square (with someone).

(It) don’t cut no squares (with someone) Go to previous.

(It) don’t make me no nevermind. Go to (It) makes no difference to me.

It makes sense.; It confirms what one might have guessed.; I’m not surprised. □ Bob: Tom was the one who broke the window. Bill: It figures. He’s very careless. □ Ann: Mary was the last one to arrive. Sally: It figures. She’s always late.

It has someone’s name on it. Fig. It belongs to someone.; It is meant for someone. □ A: Is that an extra piece of cake? B: Yes, and it has your name on it.

It hasn’t been easy. and Things haven’t been easy. Things have been difficult, but I have gotten through. □ Bill: I’m so sorry about all your troubles. I hope things are all right now. Bob: It hasn’t been easy, but things are okay now. □ John: How are you getting on after your dog died? Bill: Things haven’t been easy.

It is a long lane that has no turning. Prov. Bad times cannot continue forever.; Things will soon improve. □ Nancy: It’s been six months, and neither one of us can find work. I’m afraid we’re going to lose everything. Bill: Don’t despair, honey. It is a long lane that has no turning. □ Your luck has been bad for a long time, but it is a long lane that has no turning. I’m sure things will change soon.

It is a poor heart that never rejoices. and It is a sad heart that never rejoices. Prov. Even a habitually sad person cannot be sad all the time. (Sometimes used to indicate that a habitually sad person is happy about something.) □ Jill: I’ve never seen Sam smile before, but today, at his retirement party, he smiled. Jane: It is a poor heart that never rejoices.

It is a wise child that knows its own father. Prov. You can never have certain proof that a certain man is your father. (Implies that the child in question might be illegitimate.) □ It is a wise child that knows its own father, but Emily is so much like her dad that there’s very little uncertainty.

It is all over with someone. and It is all over for someone. Euph. Someone is about to die.; Someone has just died. □ I am afraid it is all over with Aunt Sarah. Her last surgery did not go well at all. □ The doctor told us that it was all over for Daddy. We sat for a moment in shock.

It is better to be born lucky than rich. Prov. If you are born rich, you may lose your money, but if you are born lucky, you will always get what you need or want just by chance. □ Maybe your family doesn’t have a lot of money, but you are lucky, you know. And it’s better to be born lucky than rich.

It is better to give than to receive. and It is more blessed to give than to receive. Prov. It is more virtuous to give things than to get them. (Biblical.) □ Susan told her children, “Instead of thinking so much about what you want for your birthday, think about what to give your brothers and sisters for their birthdays. Remember, it is better to give than to receive.” □ Our charity encourages you to share the good things you have. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive. Prov. You should enjoy the process of doing something, rather than anticipate the result of doing it. □ Bill: I can’t wait till I get my high school diploma. Fred: You should concentrate on enjoying high school instead. It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.

It is better to wear out than to rust out. Prov. It is better to work until you die than to be idle just because you are old. □ Nancy: Grandma, you shouldn’t work so hard. You’re not young anymore, you know. Grandmother: Thanks for your concern, dear, but I plan to keep working. It’s better to wear out than to rust out. □ Bill: You really ought to relax. I’m afraid you’ll kill yourself with too much work. Nancy: So what? It’s better to wear out than to rust out.

It is easier to tear down than to build up. Prov. Destroying things is easier than building them. □ Jill: That poor politician—he served honestly and well for all those years and now his career is ruined by one little scandal. Jane: It is easier to tear down than to build up.

It is easy to be wise after the event. Prov. After you see the consequences of a decision, it is easy to tell if the decision was good, but it is also too late, since the consequences have already happened. □ Jill: I should never have invited Aunt Betsy to stay with me; I haven’t had a peaceful moment since she got here. Jane: Well, it’s easy to be wise after the event.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Go to It is better to give than to receive.

It is never too late to learn. and You are never too old to learn. Prov. You can always learn something new.

It is never too late to mend. Prov. It is never too late to apologize for something you have done or try to repair something you have done wrong. □ Sue: I still miss Tony, but it’s been a year since our big fight and we haven’t spoken to each other since. Mother: Well, it’s never too late to mend; why don’t you call him up and apologize?

It is not work that kills, but worry. Prov. Working hard will not hurt you, but worrying too much is bad for your health. □ Nancy: You’ve been working so many hours every day, I’m afraid you’ll get sick. Bill: It’s not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills. Prov. Trying to do too much too fast is bad for you. □ Nancy: I hate college. Bill: Why? Is the subject material too difficult? Nancy: No, they just expect me to learn too much of it too fast. It is the pace that kills.

It isn’t worth it. 1. Its value does not justify the action you propose. □ Mary: Should I write a letter in support of your request? Sue: No, don’t bother. It isn’t worth it. □ John: Do you suppose we should report that man to the police? Jane: No, it isn’t worth it. 2. Its importance does not justify the concern you are showing. □ Tom: I’m so sorry about your roses all dying. Mary: Not to worry. It isn’t worth it. They were sort of sickly anyway. □ John: Should I have this coat cleaned? The stain isn’t coming out. Sue: It isn’t worth it. I only wear it when I shovel snow anyway.

It isn’t worth the trouble. Don’t bother. It isn’t worth it. □ Tom: Shall I wrap all this stuff back up? Mary: No. It’s not worth the trouble. Just stuff it in a paper bag. □ Jane: Do you want me to try to save this little bit of cake? John: Oh, no! It’s not worth the trouble. I’ll just eat it.

(it) just goes to show (you) (something). That incident or story has an important moral or message. □ Tom: The tax people finally caught up with Henry. Sally: See! It just goes to show. □ Angry at the young grocery clerk, Sally muttered, "Young people. They expect too much. It just goes to show you how society has broken down.”

(it) (just) goes without saying. Cliché something is so obvious that it need not be said. □ It goes without saying that you are to wear formal clothing to the White House dinner. □ Of course you must be on time. That goes without saying.

(it) makes me no difference. Go to next.

(it) makes no difference to me. and (it) makes me no difference.; (it) makes me no nevermind.; (it) don’t make me no nevermind. Inf. I really do not care, one way or the other. (The first one is standard, the others are colloquial.) □ Bill: Mind if I sit here? Tom: Makes no difference to me. □ Bill: What would you say if I ate the last piece of cake? Bob: Don’t make me no nevermind.

(it) never hurts to ask. Go to (it) doesn’t hurt to ask.

It never rains but it pours. Prov. Good (or bad) things do not just happen a few at a time, but in large numbers all at once. □ Fred: I can’t believe this. This morning I had a flat tire. When I went to the garage to get the tire patched, I discovered I didn’t have any money, and I couldn’t even charge it because my credit card’s expired. Jane: It never rains but it pours.

It (only) stands to reason. It is only reasonable to hold a certain opinion. □ It stands to reason that most people will not buy a new car if they don’t think they can pay for it. □ I think he will come back to pick up his check. It only stands to reason.

(it) (really) doesn’t matter to me. I do not care. □ Andrew: What shall I do? What shall I do? Alice: Do whatever you like. Jump off a bridge. Go live in the jungle. It really doesn’t matter to me. □ Tom: I’m leaving you. Mary and I have decided that we’re in love. Sue: So, go ahead. It doesn’t matter to me. I don’t care what you do.

It’s a (dead) cinch. Fig. It’s a very easy task. (Dead means absolutely.) □ Tom: Did you figure out how to change the tire? Jane: Yep! It was a cinch. □ Altering clothes patterns is difficult for me, but for Mary, it’s a dead cinch.

It’s a deal. Okay; It is agreed. □ You want to sell me your stereo for $100? It’s a deal. □ Bill: Let’s go to dinner together tonight. Mary: It’s a deal.

It’s a jungle out there. The real world is severe.; It’s hard to get by in everyday life. □ A: Gee, people are so rude in this town. B: Yup, it’s a jungle out there.

It’s a snap. Inf. It’s really easy to do. □ Nothing to it. It’s a snap. A baby could do it.

It’s a toss-up. Inf. It’s hard to tell the winner, and it could be won by either player or either team. □ The game’s almost over, and it’s a toss-up.

It’s about time! Inf. It is almost too late!; I’ve been waiting a long time! (Said with impatience.) □ So you finally got here! It’s about time! □ They finally paid me my money. It’s about time!

It’s (all) Greek to me. Go to Greek to someone.

It’s all over but the shouting. Fig. Cliché It is decided and concluded.; It is essentially decided and finished. (Meaning that though there may be more to some process, the outcome is clear. An elaboration of all over, which means “finished.”) □ The last goal was made with only 4 seconds to go in the game. “Well, it’s all over but the shouting,” said the coach. □ Tom worked hard in college and passed his last test with an A. When he saw the grade, he said, “It’s all over but the shouting.”

It’s all someone needs. Go to That’s all someone needs.

It’s always darkest just before the dawn. See The darkest hour is just before the dawn.

It’s an ill bird that fouls its own nest. Prov. Only a foolish or dishonorable person would bring dishonor to his or her self or his or her surroundings.; Only a bad person would ruin the place where he or she lives. (See also foul one’s own nest.) □ I don’t like my new neighbor. Not only does he never mow his lawn, he covers it with all kinds of trash. It’s an ill bird that fouls its own nest.

It’s an ill wind that blows nobody (any) good. Prov. Even misfortune can benefit someone or something.; A calamity for one person usually benefits somebody else.

The tremendous hailstorm left gaping holes in most of the roofs in town, so many families were homeless. The roofing companies, however, made plenty of money fixing those holes. It’s an ill wind that blows nobody any good.

It’s anybody’s guess No one knows, so anyone’s guess is as good as anyone else’s. □ A: When will the messenger be here? B: It’s anybody’s guess.

It’s been. Inf. a phrase said on leaving a party or other gathering. (A shortening of It’s been lovely or some similar expression.) □ Mary: Well, it’s been. We really have to go, though. Andy: So glad you could come over. Bye. □ Fred: Bye, you guys. See you. Sally: It’s been. Really it has. Toodle-oo.

It’s been a slice! SL. It’s been good. □ Good-bye and thank you. It’s been a slice! □ It’s been a slice. I hope to see you again some day.

(It’s been) good talking to you. and (It’s been) good to talk to you.; (It’s been) nice talking to you. a polite phrase said upon departure, at the end of a
(It's) better than nothing.

conversation. □ Mary (as the elevator stops): Well, this is my floor. I've got to get off. John: Bye, Mary. It's been good talking to you. □ John: It's been good talking to you, Fred. See you around. Fred: Yeah. See you.


It's for a fact. Rur. It is true. □ Charlie: I can't believe that Bill's selling his house. Tom: It's for a fact! □ It's for a fact that chocolate is poison to cats.


(It's) good to be here. and (It's) nice to be here. I feel welcome in this place. □ John: I'm so glad you could come. Jane: Thank you. It's good to be here. □ Alice: Welcome to our house! John: Thank you, it's nice to be here.

(It's) good to have you here. and (It's) nice to have you here. Welcome to this place. It is good to be here. □ John: It's a pleasure to have you here. Jane: Thank you for asking me. □ Alice: Oh, I'm so glad I came! Fred: Nice to have you here.

(It's) good to hear your voice. a polite phrase said upon beginning or ending a telephone conversation. □ Bob: Hello? Bill: Hello, it's Bill. Bob: Hello, Bill. It's good to hear your voice. □ Bill: Hello, Tom. This is Bill. Tom: Hi, Bill. It's good to hear your voice. What's cooking?

(It's) good to see you (again). a polite phrase said when greeting someone whom one has met before. □ Bill: Hi, Bob. Remember me? I met you last week at the Wilsons'. Bob: Oh, hello, Bill. Good to see you again. □ Fred: Hi. Good to see you again! Bob: Nice to see you, Fred.

(It's) got me beat. Go to (it) beats me.

it's high time Rur. it is about the right time for something.
□ It's high time we were leaving. John: It's high time you started thinking about saving for your old age.

It's ill waiting for dead men's shoes. Prov. You should not be eager for someone to die so that you inherit something. □ Phil: Why should I bother to learn some kind of trade? I'll be rich when Grandpa dies and leaves me all his money. Alan: It's ill waiting for dead men's shoes.

It's just one of those things. It is something that couldn't have been prevented.; It is an unfortunate thing caused by fate. □ I'm sorry, too. It's not your fault. It's just one of those things. □ I feel terrible that I didn't pass the bar exam. I guess it was just one of those things.

(It's) just what you need. Go to That's all someone needs.

(It's) nice to be here. Go to (It's) good to be here.

(It's) nice to have you here. Go to (It's) good to have you here.

(It's) nice to meet you. an expression said just after being introduced to someone. □ Tom: Sue, this is my sister, Mary. Sue: It's nice to meet you, Mary. Mary: How are you, Sue? □ Bob: I'm Bob. Nice to see you here. Jane: Nice to meet you, Bob.

(It's) nice to see you. an expression said when greeting or saying good-bye to someone. □ Mary: Hi, Bill. It's nice to see you. Bill: Nice to see you, Mary. How are things? □ John: Come on in, Jane. Nice to see you. Jane: Thanks, and thank you for inviting me.

It's no picnic! Inf. There is nothing easy or pleasant about it. □ I was on welfare for a year, and it's no picnic.

(It's) no trouble (at all). Do not worry, this is not a problem. □ Mary: Do you mind carrying all this up to my apartment? Tom: It's no trouble. □ Bob: Would it be possible for you to get this back to me today? Bill: Sure. No trouble at all.

It's no use crying over spilled milk. and Don't cry over spilled milk. Prov. Do not be upset about making a mistake, since you cannot change that now. □ I know you don't like your new haircut, but you can't change it now. It's no use crying over spilled milk. □ OK, so you broke the drill I lent you. Don't cry over spilled milk.

(It's) none of your business! It is nothing that you need to know. It is none of your concern. (Not very polite.) □ Alice: How much does a little diamond like that cost? Mary: None of your business! □ John: Do you want to go out with me Friday night? Mary: Sorry, I don't think so. John: Well, what are you doing then? Mary: None of your business!

It's not cricket. and It's not kosher. It's not done.; It's not acceptable. □ You can't do that! It's not cricket!

(It's) not half bad. It's not as bad as one might have thought. □ Mary: How do you like this play? Jane: Not half bad. □ Jane: Well, how do you like college? Fred: It's not half bad.

It's not kosher. Go to It's not cricket.

It's not over till it's over. Inf. It is not over yet and will not be until the event has completely played out. □ It looks like we have won, but it's not over 'til it's over! They haven't won the game yet. It's not over 'til it's over.

(It's) not supposed to. and (Someone's) not supposed to. a phrase indicating that someone or something is not meant to do something. (Often with a person's name or a pronoun as a subject. See the examples.) □ Fred: This little piece keeps falling off. Clerk: It's not supposed to. □ Bill: Tom just called from Detroit and says he's coming back tomorrow. Mary: That's funny. He's not supposed to.

It's not the heat, it's the humidity. Prov. When the air is damp, hot days feel even hotter and more miserable. □ Jill: I hope the air-conditioning is fixed soon; the heat is unbearable in here. Jane: It's not the heat, it's the humidity. □ Alan: I thought the summers were hot when I was growing up in New Mexico, but they're even hotter here in Iowa. Jane: The climate is moister here; it's not the heat, it's the humidity.

It's on me. I will pay this bill. (Usually a bill for a meal or drinks. Compare this with This one's on me.) □ As the waiter set down the glasses, Fred said, "It's on me," and grabbed the check. □ John: Check, please. Bill: No, it's on me this time.

It's raining cats and dogs. Go to next.
It’s raining pitchforks (and hammer handles). and It’s raining cats and dogs. Rurr. It is raining very hard. □ Take an umbrella. It’s raining pitchforks and hammer handles out there! □ Charlie: Have you looked outside? How’s the weather? Mary: It’s raining cats and dogs.

It’s six of one, half a dozen of another. Cliché Two options are equivalent. □ To get downtown, it’s six of one, half a dozen of another, since both routes take the same amount of time. □ Jill: Would you rather peel the carrots or wash the lettuce? Jane: It’s six of one, half a dozen of the other.

(It’s) time for a change. an expression announcing a decision to make a change. □ Bill: Are you really going to take a new job? Mary: Yes, it’s time for a change. □ Jane: Are you going to Florida for your vacation again? Fred: No. It’s time for a change. We’re going skiing.

(It’s) time to go. It is now time to leave. (Usually said by guests, but can be said by an adult to children who are guests.) □ Jane: Look at the clock! Time to go! John: Yup! I’m out of here too. □ Mother: It’s four o’clock. The party’s over. Time to go. Bill: I had a good time. Thank you.

(It’s) time to hit the road. and (I’d) better hit the road.; (I’ve) got to hit the road. Inf. Fig. a phrase indicating that it is time that one departed. (See also (I) have to shove off and (It’s) time to run for other possible variations.) □ Henry: Look at the clock. It’s past midnight. It’s time to hit the road. Andy: Yeah. We’ve got to go. Sue: Okay, good night. □ Bill: I’ve got to hit the road. I have a long day tomorrow. Mary: Okay, good night. Bill: Bye, Mary.

(It’s) time to run. and (It’s) time to move along.; (It’s) time to push along.; (It’s) time to push off.; (It’s) time to split. Inf. an announcement of one’s desire or need to depart. (See also (I) have to shove off and (It’s) time to hit the road for an illustration of other possible variations.) □ Andy: Time to push off. I’ve got to get home. Henry: See you, dude. □ John: It’s time to split. I’ve got to go. Sue: Okay. See you tomorrow.

(It’s) time to shove off. Go to (I) have to shove off.

(It’s) time to split. Go to (It’s) time to run.

It’s time we should be going. a statement made by one member of a pair (or group) of guests to the other member(s), indicating a desire to leave. (Typically, a way for one person in a couple to signal the other, indicating a desire to leave.) □ Mr. Franklin looked at his wife and said softly, “It’s time we should be going.” □ Tom: Well, I suppose it’s time we should be going. Mary: Yes, we really should.

Alice: So early?

It’s written all over one’s face. Fig. It is very evident and can easily be detected when looking at someone’s face.

□ I know she’s guilty. It’s written all over her face.

It’s you! It suits you perfectly.; It is just your style. □ John (trying on jacket): How does this look? Sally: It’s you! □ Sue: I’m taking a job with the candy company. I’ll be managing a store on Maple Street. Mary: It’s you! That’s a nice step up, and that store is so close by.

It’s your funeral. Fig. If that is what you are going to do, you will have to endure the dire consequences. □ Tom: I’m going to call in sick and go to the ball game instead of to work today. Mary: Go ahead. It’s your funeral. □ Bill: I’m going to go into the boss and tell what I really think of him. Sue: It’s your funeral.

It’s your move. 1. and It’s your turn. Lit. [in a game] It’s your time to play. □ It’s your move, and I think I have you trapped. 2. Fig. It is time for you to do something. □ I’ve done everything I could do. Now, it’s your move.

It’s your turn. Go to previous.

it strikes me that Fig. it seems to me that. □ Henry: It strikes me that you are losing a little weight. Mary: Oh, I’m so glad you noticed! □ “It strikes me that all this money we are spending is accomplishing very little,” said Bill.

It sucks. Go to That sucks.

(it) suits me (fine). It is fine with me. □ John: Is this one okay? Mary: Suits me. □ John: I’d like to sit up front where I can hear better. Mary: Suits me fine.

It takes all kinds (to make a world). Fig. There are many different kinds of people, and you should not condemn them for being different. □ Jill: Eleanor’s trying another fad diet. This week she’s sprinkling dried algae on all her food. Jane: It takes all kinds. □ Child: Mommy, I saw a weird man today. He was walking down the street singing real loud. I wish they’d put weird people like that away. Mother: Now, now, honey, it takes all kinds to make a world.

It takes money to make money. Prov. In order to make money, you must first have some money to invest. □ I’ve been reading a lot of books about how to become wealthy, and they all make it depressingly clear that it takes money to make money.

(it) takes one to know one. Inf. You are one also. □ A: You are a stupid oaf. B: So are you. It takes one to know one.

It takes (some) getting used to. It is very unpleasant at first, but after a time it will not be so bothersome. (Said in recognition of the unpleasantness of something.) □ I never ate raw oysters before. It takes some getting used to. □ These hot Mexican dishes seem impossible at first. They take some getting used to, I agree. But it’s worth it.

It takes two to make a bargain. Prov. Both parties in a negotiation must agree in order for the negotiation to be successful. □ Jill: You’ll give me a ride to work every day this week, like we agreed, won’t you? Jane: Wait a minute. I only said I’d give you a ride to work today. It takes two to make a bargain. □ Ellen: We decided you should make dinner tonight, right? Fred: No, we didn’t decide that; you decided that. It takes two to make a bargain.

It takes two to make a quarrel. Prov. An argument is never only one person’s fault.; If the other person refuses to participate, there cannot be an argument. □ Sue: I think Mimi ought to apologize for arguing with me. Mother: It takes two to make a quarrel, dear. Maybe you ought to apologize to her. □ Jill: Why are you always so quarrelsome? Jane: Hey, it’s not just my fault. It takes two to make a quarrel.

It will be your ass! Sl. You will pay dearly!; You will suffer the consequences. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ If you do that again, it will be your ass! □ It will be your ass if it isn’t done right this time.

It will take some doing. It will require considerable effort and care. □ It’ll take some doing, but it’ll get done. □ It’s not impossible. It’ll just take some doing.

(it) won’t bother me any, and (it) won’t bother me at all. Inf. It will not trouble me at all; I have no objection if you wish to do that. (Not very polite or cordial. For the present tense of this expression, see also (it) doesn’t bother me any.) □ John: Will you mind if I sit here? Jane: Won’t bother me any. □ Sally (lighting a cigarette): Do you mind if I smoke? Bill: It won’t bother me at all.

(it) won’t bother me at all. Go to previous.

It won’t wash! Fig. Nobody will believe it. □ Sorry, it won’t wash. Try another approach. □ Don’t expect me to believe that! It won’t wash.

(it) works for me. Inf. It is fine with me. (With success on works and me. The answer to a question implying Does it work for you?) □ Bob: Is it okay if I sign us up for the party? Sally: It works for me. □ Tom: Is Friday all right for the party? Bill: Works for me. Bob: It works for me too.

It would take an act of Congress to do something. It is almost impossible to do something. □ It would take an act of Congress to get Bill to wear a necktie. □ She’s a sour woman. It would take an act of Congress to get her to put a smile on her face.

*an itch for something a desire for something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I have an itch for some ice cream. □ We had an itch for a good movie, so we went.

itch for something Fig. to desire something. □ I’m just itching for a visit from Amy. □ We are itching for some chocolate.

*an itch to do something Fig. a desire to do something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I have an itch to see a movie tonight. □ Tom has an itch to go swimming.

an itching palm Go to an itchy palm.

*itchy feet Fig. the need to leave; a feeling of a need to travel. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Hearing the train whistle at night gives itchy feet.

*an itchy palm and *an itching palm Fig. [of a hand] in need of a tip. (As if placing money in the palm would stop the itching. *Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ All the waiters at that restaurant have itchy palms. □ The cabdriver was troubled by an itching palm. Since he refused to carry my bags, I gave him nothing. □ Whenever he sees expensive luggage, the hotel doorman gets an itching palm.

*It’ll all come out in the wash. Fig. It does not matter.; No lasting damage has been done. □ Tom: I feel so bad about what I said to Bill. I don’t think he’ll ever forgive me. Mary: Oh, don’t worry. It’ll all come out in the wash. □ Jane: I’ll never forgive myself for losing Mary’s book. Charlie: Just tell her you’re sorry, and offer to pay for the book. It’ll all come out in the wash.

*It’ll be a cold day in hell when something happens. Rur. Something will never happen or is highly unlikely. □ It’ll be a cold day in Hell when the city council agrees on where to build that bridge. □ It’ll be a cold day in Hell when I forgive you.

*It’ll be a long day in January when something happens. Rur. Something will never happen. (There are fewer hours of daylight in January.) □ Tom: Maybe this will be the year that Mama treats herself to a nice vacation. Jane: Are you kidding? It’ll be a long day in January when she does that! □ It’ll be a long day in January when that car dealer gives an honest price.

*It’ll never fly. Fig. It will never work!; It will never be approved! (Refers originally to an evaluation of an unlikely-looking aircraft of some type.) □ I have read your report and studied your proposal. It’ll never fly. □ Your design for a new electric automobile is interesting, but it’ll never fly!

*it’s no use (doing something) it is hopeless to do something; it is pointless to do something. □ It’s no use trying to call on the telephone. The line is always busy. □ They tried and tried, but it was no use.

itty-bitty and itsy-bitsy very small. (Childish.) □ I remember when you was just an itty-bitty baby. □ Gramma sewed with itsy-bitsy stitches.

(i’ve) been getting by. Inf. A response to a greeting inquiry into one’s well-being indicating that one is having a hard time surviving or that things could be much better. (See also (I’m) just getting by.) □ John: How are things? Jane: Oh, I’ve been getting by. □ Sue: How are you doing? Mary: Been getting by. Things could be better.

(i’ve) been keeping cool. and (i’ve) been keeping cool. Inf. An answer to a question about what one has been doing during very hot weather. □ Jane: How do you like this hot weather? Bill: I’ve been keeping cool. □ Mary: Been keeping cool? Bob: Yeah. Been keeping cool.

(i’ve) been keeping myself busy. and (i’ve) been keeping myself busy. A standard response to a greeting inquiry asking how one has been doing. □ Bill: What have you been doing? Bob: I’ve been keeping myself busy. What about you? Bill: About the same. □ John: Yo! What have you been up to? Bill: Been keeping myself busy.

(i’ve) been keeping out of trouble. and (i’ve) been keeping out of trouble. Fig. A standard response to a greeting inquiry that asks what one has been doing. □ John: What have you been doing, Fred? Fred: Been keeping out of trouble. John: Yeah. Me too. □ Mary: How are things, Tom? Tom: Oh, I’ve been keeping out of trouble.

(i’ve) been okay. Inf. A standard response to a greeting inquiry that asks how one has been. □ Bill: Well, how have you been, good buddy? John: I’ve been okay. □ Sue: How you doing? Jane: Been okay. And you? Sue: The same.

(i’ve) been there, (done that). Inf. I know exactly what you are talking about from my own experience.; I know exactly what you are going through. □ John: Wow! Those sales meetings really wear me out! Jane: I know what you mean. I’ve been there. □ Sue: These employment interviews are very tiring. Bob: I know it! I’ve been there.

(i’ve) been under the weather. Fig. A greeting response indicating that one has been ill. □ John: How have you
been? Sally: I've been under the weather, but I'm better. □ Doctor: How are you? Mary: I've been under the weather. Doctor: Maybe we can fix that. What seems to be the trouble?

I've done my do. Rur. I have done my share. □ Tom: Arent you going to finish cleaning the kitchen? Jane: I've done my do. You can do the rest. □ I feel I've done my do, and someone else should do the rest.

(I've) (got) better things to do. There are better ways to spend my time.; I cannot waste any more time on this matter. (Either I've got or I have.) □ Andy: Good-bye. I've got better things to do than stand around here listening to you brag. Henry: Well, good-bye and good riddance. □ Mary: How did things go at your meeting with the zoning board? Sally: I gave up. Can't fight city hall. Better things to do.

(I've) got to be shoving off. Go to (I) have to shove off.

I've got to fly. and (I've) gotta fly.; (I've) got to fly. Fig. Inf. I have to leave right now. □ Time's up. I've got to fly. □ I've got a fly. See you later.

(I've) got to get moving. I have to leave right now. (See also (I) have to shove off for other possible variations.) □ Tom: Time to go. Got to get moving. Sally: Bye, Tom. □ Mary: It's late and I've got to get moving. Sue: Well, if you must, okay. Come again sometime. Mary: Bye.

(I've) got to go. a phrase announcing one's need to depart. (See also (I) have to shovel off for other possible variations.) □ Andy: Bye. I've got to go. Rachel: Bye, little brother. See you. □ Sally: Got to go. Sue: See ya! Take it easy.

(I've) got to go home and get my beauty sleep. Fig. a phrase announcing one's need to depart because it is late. (See also (I) have to shovel off for other possible variations.) □ Sue: Leaving so early? John: I've got to go home and get my beauty sleep. □ Jane: I've got to go home and get my beauty sleep. Fred: Well, you look to me like you've had enough. Jane: Why, thank you.

(I've) got to hit the road. Go to (It's) time to hit the road.

(I've) got to run. Fig. a phrase announcing one's need to depart. (See also (I) have to shovel off for other possible variations.) □ John: Got to run. It's late. Jane: Me too. See ya, bye-bye. □ Mary: Want to watch another movie? Bill: No, thanks. I've got to run.

(I've) got to shovel off. Go to (I) have to shovel off.

(I've) got to split. Inf. Fig. I have to leave now. (See also (I) have to shovel off for other possible variations.) □ Jane: Look at the time! Got to split. Mary: See you later, Jane. □ Bill: It's getting late. I've got to split. Sue: Okay, see you tomorrow. Bill: Good night.

(I've) got to take off. Fig. a phrase announcing one's need to depart. (See also (I) have to shovel off for other possible variations.) □ Mary: Got to take off. Bye. Bob: Leaving so soon? Mary: Yes. Time to go. Bob: Bye. □ "Look at the time. I've got to take off!" shrieked Alice.

I've got work to do. 1. Lit. I'm too busy to stay here any longer. □ Jane: Time to go. I've got work to do. John: Me too. See you. □ Bob: I have to leave now. Bill: So soon? Bob: Yes, I've got work to do. 2. Fig. Do not bother me. I'm busy. □ Bill: Can I ask you a question? Jane: Not right now. I've got work to do. □ Mary: There are some things we have to get straightened out on this Wilson contract. John: I've got work to do. It will have to wait.

I've gotta fly. Go to I've got to fly.

I've had a lovely time. and We've had a lovely time. a polite expression said to a host or hostess on departure. □ Bob: I've had a lovely time. Thanks for asking me. Fred: We're just delighted you could come. Good night. Bob: Good night. □ Sue: We've had a lovely time. Good night. Bill: Next time don't stay away so long. Good night.

I've had enough of this! I will not take any more of this situation! □ Sally: I've had enough of this! I'm leaving! Fred: Me too! □ John (glaring at Tom): I've had enough of this! Tom, you're fired! Tom: You can't fire me, I quit!

I've had it up to here (with someone or something). I will not endure any more of someone or something. □ Bill: I've had it up to here with your stupidity. Bob: Who's calling who stupid? □ John: I've had it up to here with Tom. Mary: Are you going to fire him? John: Yes.

I've heard so much about you. a polite phrase said upon being introduced to someone you have heard about from a friend or the person's relatives. □ Bill: This is my cousin Kate. Bob: Hello, Kate. I've heard so much about you. □ Sue: Hello, Bill. I've heard so much about you. Bill: Hello. Glad to meet you.

(I've) never been better. and (I've) never felt better. a response to a greeting inquiry into one's health or state of being. □ Mary: How are you, Sally? Sally: Never been better, Mary. How about you? □ Doctor: How are you, Jane? Jane: Never felt better. Doctor: Then why are you here?

(I've) seen better. a noncommittal and not very positive judgment about something or someone. □ Alice: How did you like the movie? John: I've seen better. □ Bill: What do you think about this weather? Bob: Seen better.

I've seen better heads on nickel beers. Rur. This person is stupid. □ Jimmy's good-looking, but I've seen better heads on nickel beers. □ My students this term aren't what you'd call bright. I've seen better heads on nickel beers.

(I've) seen worse. a noncommittal and not totally negative judgment about something or someone. □ Alice: How did you like the movie? John: I've seen worse. □ Bill: What do you think about this weather? Gladys: Seen worse.
jab at someone or something to poke or punch at someone or something. □ Tom jabbed at Fred. □ Don’t jab at the cat!

jab someone in something to poke someone in a particular location on the body. □ Fred jabbed Tom in the side. □ He jabbed himself in the hand.

jab someone with something to poke or stick someone with something. □ He jabbed Henry with the rake handle on purpose. □ The mugger jabbed the victim with a knife.

jab something at someone or something to poke someone or something with something. □ Tom jabbed the stick at the dog. □ I jabbed my fist at Walter.

jab something into something and jab something in1 to stab something into something. □ Billy jabbed his spoon into the gelatin. □ He jabbed in his spoon. □ He jabbed it in.

jab something out1 to thrust something out. □ Molly jabbed her fist out suddenly. □ She jabbed out her fist.

jabber about someone or something 1. to talk or chat very informally about someone or something. □ Who are they jabbering about? □ Those kids are jabbering about school again. 2. to talk unintelligibly about someone or something. □ Is she jabbering about whatever comes to mind? □ She is jabbering about something, but we can’t understand her.

jack around and jerk around Sl. to waste time. □ Stop jacking around and get some work done! □ The kids spend most of the day jerking around.

jack of all trades someone who can do several different jobs instead of specializing in one. □ John can do plumbing, carpentry, and roofing—a real jack of all trades. He isn’t very good at any of them. □ Take your car to a certified engine mechanic, not a jack of all trades.

a jack of all trades is a master of none. Prov. If you are able to do a lot of things fairly well, you will not have time to learn to do one thing extremely well. □ Jill: I envy Bob; he can do so many things. He writes novels, paints pictures, makes sculptures, and even plays the dulcimer. Jane: It’s true he does a lot of things, but he probably doesn’t do them all terribly well. A jack of all trades is a master of none, you know.

jack someone around1 and jerk someone around1 Sl. to give someone a difficult time; to harass someone. □ Come on! Stop jacking me around! □ Max started jerking Lefty around, and it looked as if there was going to be trouble. □ You jack around everyone you know!

jack someone up1 1. Sl. to excite or stimulate someone, possibly with drugs. □ Tom jacked up his buddy by talking to him. □ Tom jacked up Fred with a lot of encouragement. 2. Sl. to motivate someone; to stimulate someone to do something. □ The mail is late again today. We’ll have to jack those people up at the post office. □ I guess I’ll have to jack up the carpenter again to repair my stairs.

jack something up1 1. Lit. to raise something up on a mechanical lifting device. □ Now I have to jack the car up, so I can change the tire. □ Please jack up the car. 2. Fig. to raise the price of something. □ The store keeps jacking prices up. □ The grocery store jacked up the prices again last night.

jacked (out) Sl. angry; annoyed. □ Boy was that old guy jacked out at you. □ Yup, he was jacked all right.

a jam session an informal session where musicians play together. □ Andy and Nick had a jam session last night and kept all the neighbors awake.

jam someone or something in(to) something and jam someone or something in1 to force or compress something into something or some place. □ Sam jammmed all his clothes into the canvas bag. □ The conductor jammmed all the passangers into one car. □ Don’t jam in everything! □ They had to jam themselves into the tiny room, because there was no other place to meet.

jam someone or something together to pack people or things close together. □ The usher jammmed everybody together so more people could be seated. □ Don’t just jam the boxes together! Sort them out first.

jam something together to assemble something hastily or carelessly. □ The fragile contents were just jammmed together in one box and everything was broken. □ The thing was just jammmed together with no care at all.

jam something up1 1. to clog something up; to impede or block the movement of or through something. □ Rachel jammmed traffic up when her car stalled. □ All the leaves and branches jammmed up the sewer. 2. Fig. to force something upwards in haste or anger. □ Who jammmed the window up? □ Wally jammmed up the window and nearly broke it.

jam something up something to thrust something up something. □ She poked the broom handle up the chimney, hoping to force the bird to fly out. □ She jammmed it up a few times, but it had no effect.

jam something (up1) with something to clog something with something. □ Time had jammmed the pipe up with rust. □ Time had jammmed the pipe with rust. □ Jam the hole with a cloth so nothing else will leak out.

jam the brakes on1 to press down hard on a vehicle’s brakes. □ Alice jammmed the brakes on and the car skidded all over the place. □ She jammmed on the brakes.

jam with someone to play music in an improvised band with someone. □ Andy loves to jam with the other students. □ Let’s set up a time when we can jam with the others.

jangle on something 1. Fig. to ring a bell incessantly. □ Will you stop jangling on that doorbell? □ Who is jangling on that bell? 2. Fig. to irritate someone’s nerves; to make someone nervous. □ All that noise jangles on my nerves. □ Too much chattering jangles on Ken’s nerves.

jar against someone or something to bump against someone or something. □ The guest jarred against the wall,
knocking a picture askew. □ Someone jarred against Fran, almost knocking her over.

**jar on** someone or something to bother someone or someone's nerves. (Similar to jangle on something.) □ Her voice really jars on me. □ My brash manner jars on her, I guess.

**jaw about** someone or something Fig. to talk aimlessly about someone or something. □ Do we have to keep jawing about Tom all day? □ Stop jawing about your problems and set about fixing them.

**jaw at** someone Fig. to lecture at someone; to talk endlessly at someone or something. □ Please stop jawing at me. □ You are jawing at me too much lately.

**jaw** someone down† Sl. to talk someone down; to wear someone down talking. □ We'll try to jaw him down. If that doesn't work, I don't know what we will do. □ We will jaw down the objectors.

**jazz** someone or something up† to make someone or something more exciting or sexy; to make someone or something appeal more to contemporary tastes. □ Let's jazz this room up a little bit. □ They jazzed up Donna till she looked like a rock star.

**jazzed (up)** 1. alert; having a positive state of mind. □ I am jazzed up and ready to face life. □ Those guys were jazzed and ready for the game. 2. intoxicated. □ Dave was a bit jazzed up, but not terribly. □ Gert was jazzed out of her mind. 3. enhanced; with something added; made more enticing. □ The third act was jazzed up with livelier music. 4. forged or altered. □ Better not try to cash a jazzed check at this bank.

**jeer at** someone or something to poke fun at someone; to make rude sounds at someone. □ Please stop jeering at my cousin! □ The others just jeered at my idea.

**Jekyll and Hyde** someone with both an evil and a good personality. (From the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson.) □ Bill thinks Mary is so soft and gentle, but she can be very cruel—she is a real Jekyll and Hyde. □ Jane doesn't know that Fred is a Jekyll and Hyde. She sees him only when he is being kind and generous, but he can be very cruel.

**jerk around** Go to jack around.

**jerk** someone around† and jerk someone over† to hassle someone; to waste someone's time. □ Stop jerking me around and give me my money back. □ They sure like to hassle around in that music shop.

**jerk** someone or something out of something and jerk someone or something out† to pull someone or something out of something sharply and quickly. □ She jerked the baby out of the crib and ran from the burning room. □ I jerked the puppy out of the mud. □ She jerked out the puppy before it got soaked.

**jerk** someone over† Go to jerk someone around†.

**jerk** something away (from) someone, something, or an animal) to snatch something away or quickly pull something back from someone or an animal. □ I jerked the bone away from the dog. □ Kelly jerked the ant poison away from the child. □ Mary jerked her hand away from the fire.

**jerk** something off† Go to next.

**jerk** something off (of) someone or something and jerk something off† to snatch or quickly pull something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Alice jerked the top off the box and poured out the contents. □ She jerked off the box top.

**jerk** something out of someone or something and jerk something out† to pull something out of someone or something quickly. □ The doctor jerked the arrow out of Bill's leg. □ He jerked out the arrow.

**jerk** something up† 1. to pull something up quickly. □ He jerked his belt up tight. □ He jerked up the zipper to his jacket. 2. to lift up something, such as ears, quickly. □ The dog jerked its ears up. □ The dog jerked up its ears when it heard the floor creak. □ The soldier jerked his binoculars up to try to see the sniper.

**jest about** someone or something to make jokes about someone or something. □ There is no need to jest about Lady Bracknell. □ I wish you would not jest about that.

**jest at** someone or something to make fun of someone or something. □ Please don't jest at my cousin. □ Is someone jesting at my hairdo?

**jest with** someone to joke with someone; to try to fool someone. □ Surely you are jesting with me. □ Don't jest with me!

**jet** (from some place) (to some place) to travel from some place to some other place by jet airplane. □ They jetted from here to there. □ They jetted to here from there.

**jet** from something to spurt from something. □ Water jetted from the broken pipe. □ A column of water jetted from the top of the fountain.

**jibe with** something [for something] to agree with something. □ Your story doesn't jibe with what we heard from the arresting officer. □ Her tale jibes with yours quite well.

The **jig is up**. See The game is up.

**jim-dandy** excellent. □ This is a jim-dandy knife. Where'd you get it? □ Tom: I'll meet you at six, OK? Charlie: That'll be jim-dandy.

**Jimmy something up† pry something up. □ See if you can jimmy this window up. □ Can you jimmy up this window?**

**jockey around** to move around as if trying to get into a special position. □ I spent most of the movie jockeying around, trying to get comfortable. □ She always has to jockey around a bit when she is getting into a parking place.

**jockey for position** 1. Lit. to work one's horse into a desired position in a horse race. □ Three riders were jockeying for position in the race. □ Ken was behind, but jockeying for position. 2. Fig. to work oneself into a desired position. □ The candidates were jockeying for position, trying to get the best television exposure. □ I was jockeying for position but running out of campaign money.

**jockey someone or something into position** to manage to get someone or something into a desirable position. (See also jockey for position.) □ The rider jockeyed his horse into position. □ Try to jockey your bicycle into position so you can pass the others.

**jockey something around† to maneuver something around; to manage something. □ We had to jockey our bikes around a number of stalled cars. □ We jockeyed
jog around a few cars to make room for the bus in the parking lot.

**jog along** to trot or run along at a slow pace. □ She was jogging along quite happily. □ I had been jogging along for a few minutes when my shoelaces broke.

**jog someone's memory** Fig. to stimulate someone's memory to recall something. □ Hearing the first part of the song I'd forgotten really jogged my memory. □ I tried to jog Bill's memory about our childhood antics.

**jog to the right** and **jog to the left** [for a road, path, etc.] to turn to the right or left. □ The road jogs to the right here. Don't run off. □ Keep going until the road jogs to the left. Our driveway is on the right side.

**join forces (with someone)** Fig. to combine one's efforts with someone else's efforts. □ The older boys joined forces with the younger ones to sing the school song. □ Let's join forces with the other faction and run our own slate of candidates.

**join hands** [for people] to hold hands so that each person is holding the hands of two other people; [for two people] to hold each other's hands. □ Let us join hands and pray together. □ The dancers joined hands and formed a circle that moved to the left.

**join in (with someone)** to join someone in doing something. □ Do you mind if we join in with you? □ Please join in.

**join in (with something)** to participate in doing something. □ The older boys joined in with the singing. □ I'm glad they joined in. We needed basses.

**join someone with someone else and join something with something else** to connect things or people. □ We joined Fred with the others. □ We joined the older puppies with the full-grown dogs.

**join something and something else together** to connect or unite things. □ We joined the pipe and the hose together. □ He joined together all the blue wires and the red ones.

**join something to something else** to connect something to something else. □ We joined our club to the other club. □ We joined our chorus to the other chorus, making a huge singing group.

**join something with something else** Go to join someone with someone else.

**Join the club!** Inf. an expression indicating that the person spoken to is in the same, or a similar, unfortunate state as the speaker. □ You don't have anywhere to stay? Join the club! Neither do we. □ Did you get fired too? Join the club!

**join the fray and jump into the fray; enter the fray** Fig. to join the fight or argument. □ After listening to the argument, Mary decided to jump into the fray. □ Tom joined the fray and immediately got knocked down.

**join up** to join some organization. □ The club has opened its membership rolls again. Are you going to join up? □ I can't afford to join up.

**join (up) with someone or something** to bring oneself into association with someone or something. □ I decided to join up with the other group. □ Our group joined with another similar group.

**join with someone** Go to with someone.

**joined at the hip** Sl. closely connected; always together. □ Those two are joined at the hip. They are always together. □ Sam and Martha are joined at the hip.

**The joke is on someone.** 1. Someone is the butt of the joke. □ The joke is on Bob, so it's good that he is a good sport. 2. The joke has backfired on someone. □ Ha, ha! The joke's on you after all.

**joke (with someone) (about someone or something)** to quip with someone about someone or something; to make verbal fun with someone about someone or something. □ I was joking with Tom about the performance. □ I joked about Andy with Fran.

**jolt someone out of something** to startle someone out of inertness. □ The cold water thrown in her face was what it took to jolt Mary out of her deep sleep. □ At the sound of the telephone, he jolted himself out of his stupor.

**jolt to a start and jolt to a stop** to start or stop moving suddenly, causing a jolt. □ The truck jolted to a stop at the stop sign. □ The little car jolted to a quick start and threw the passenger back in his seat.

**jolt to a stop** See previous.

**jostle someone around** to push or knock someone around. □ Please don't jostle me around. □ Don't jostle around everyone!

**jostle someone aside** to push or nudge someone aside. □ Poor little Timmy was jostled aside by the crowd every time he got near the entrance. □ The big kids jostled aside all the little ones.

**jostle with someone** to struggle with someone. □ Andy jostled with Fred for access to the door. □ Timmy and Bobby jostled with one another while they were waiting to get in.

**jot something down** to make a note of something. □ This is important. Please jot this down. □ Jet down this note, please.

**judge between someone or something and someone or something else** to decide between people or things, in any combination. □ You can't expect me to judge between apples and oranges, can you? □ Can you judge between the prosecution and the defense?

**Judge not, lest ye be judged.** and **Judge not, that ye be not judged.** Prov. If you condemn other people, then they will have the right to condemn you, so it is best not to condemn them. (Biblical.) □ Jill: I'm sure Gloria is the one who's been stealing from petty cash. She's so sloppy, nasty, and ill-mannered. Don't you think she'd be capable of theft? Jane: Judge not, lest ye be judged.

**Judge not, that ye be not judged.** Go to previous.

**judge one on one's own merits** to evaluate one on one's own good and bad points and no one else's. □ Please judge Janet on her own merits. □ I was judged on my own merits.

**judge something on its own merits** to evaluate something on its own good and bad points and nothing else. □ You must judge this proposal on its own merits. □ The proposal has not been judged on its own merits.

**judging by something** and **judging from something** to make a decision or judgment based on something. □ Judging by the amount of food eaten, everyone must have been
jump at 1. sl. to be very eager to seize the opportunity to do something. 2. to leap down on someone or something. 3. to leap on ((to) someone) and scold them severely. 4. to jump down the stairs on someone. 5. to leap on the bandwagon. 6. to jump on the manhole. 7. to leap on the unsuspecting tourist and rob him.

jump at something 1. fig. to fail to appear in court for trial and forfeit one’s bail bond. 2. not only was bob arrested for theft, he skipped bail and left town. he’s in a lot of trouble. 3. the judge issued a warrant for the arrest of the man who jumped bail.

jump clear of something fig. to get out of the way of something; to leap off something before it crashes. 1. i barely had time to jump clear of the oncoming truck. 2. i jumped clear of the ball as it came my way.

jump (down) (from something) to jump downward off something. 1. a small mouse jumped down from the shelf. 2. a tiny mouse jumped from the shelf.

jump down someone’s throat go to jump all over someone.

jump down something to leap downward into or through something. 1. the rats jumped down the manhole. 2. timmy jumped down the stairs on the morning of his birthday party.

jump for joy go to leap for joy.

jump from something to something to leap from one place to another. 1. a frog jumped from lily pad to lily pad. 2. the child jumped from stone to stone.

jump in with both feet go to dive in with both feet.

jump in (to something) to leap into something, such as water, a bed, a problem, etc. 1. she was so cold she just jumped into bed and pulled up the covers. 2. i jumped in and had a refreshing swim.

jump into the fray go to join the fray.

jump off (of something) to leap off something. (of is usually retained before pronouns.) 1. rachel lost her balance and jumped off the diving board instead of diving. 2. better to jump off than to fall off.

jump off the deep end go to go off the deep end.

jump off the deep end (over someone or something) fig. to get deeply involved with someone or something. (often refers to romantic involvement.) 1. jim is about to jump off the deep end over jane. 2. jane is great, but there is no need for jim to jump off the deep end.

jump on someone a chance to do something before someone else. (typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) 1. each reporter is trying to get the jump on the others with the story about the earthquake. 2. kelly finally got the jump on sam.

jump on someone go to jump all over someone.

jump on someone or something to pounce on someone or something. 1. the cat jumped on the mouse. 2. max jumped on the unsuspecting tourist and robbed him.

jump on the bandwagon go to on the bandwagon.

jump on (to something) 1. to get on something. 2. the cat jumped onto the sofa and took a nap. 3. i was sitting on the sofa and the cat jumped on it and scared me.

jump out of something to leap from something. 1. a mouse jumped out of the cupboard and scared me. 2. i jumped out of bed and ran to answer the telephone.
jump out of the frying pan into the fire Go to out of the frying pan into the fire.

jump over something to leap over or across something. □ The fellow named Jack jumped over a candle placed on the floor. □ Puddles are to be jumped over, not waded through.

jump over the broomstick Rur. to get married. □ Jim and Jane have decided to jump over the broomstick. □ The happiest day of my life was when your mother said she’d jump over the broomstick with me.

jump ship 1. Lit. to leave one’s job on a ship and fail to be aboard it when it sails; [for a sailor] to go AWOL. □ One of the deckhands jumped ship at the last port. 2. Fig. to leave any post or position; to quit or resign, especially when there is difficulty with the job. □ None of the editors liked the new policies, so they all jumped ship as soon as other jobs opened up.

jump the gun Fig. to start before the starting signal. (Originally used in sports contests that are started by firing a gun.) □ We all had to start the race again because Jane jumped the gun. □ When we took the test, Tom jumped the gun and started early.

jump the track 1. Lit. [for something] to fall or jump off the rails or guides. (Usually said about a train.) □ The train jumped the track, causing many injuries to the passengers. □ The engine jumped the track, but the other cars stayed on. 2. Fig. to change suddenly from one thing, thought, plan, or activity to another. □ The entire project jumped the track, and we finally had to give up. □ John’s mind jumped the track while he was in the play, and he forgot his lines.

jump through a hoop and jump through hoops Fig. to do everything possible to obey or please someone; to bend over backwards (to do something). (Trained circus animals jump through hoops.) □ She expects us to jump through hoops for her. □ What do you want me to do—jump through a hoop?

jump to conclusions and leap to conclusions Fig. to judge or decide something without having all the facts; to reach unwarranted conclusions. (See also rush to conclusions.) □ Now don’t jump to conclusions. Wait until you hear what I have to say. □ Please find out all the facts so you won’t leap to conclusions.

jump up (from something) to leap upward from something. □ The dog jumped up from its resting place. □ The dog jumped up and ran to the door.

jump up (on someone or something) to leap upward onto someone or something. □ A spider jumped up on me and terrified me totally. □ The cat jumped up on the sofa.

jump up (to something) to leap upward to the level of something. □ The child jumped up to the next step. □ The dog couldn’t reach the piece of meat on the edge of the table, so it jumped up and got it.

jump with something Fig. to be very active with excitement or enthusiasm. □ The crowd was jumping with enthusiasm. □ The bar was jumping with young people.

jumping-off place Go to next.

jumping-off point and jumping-off place a point or place from which to begin something. □ The local library is a good jumping-off point for your research. □ The office job in that company would be a good jumping-off place for a career in advertising.

junk mail annoying, unsolicited mail, such as promotional letters, etc. □ I am so incredibly tired of getting pound after pound of junk mail every day. I could just scream.

The jury is still out on someone or something. Fig. a decision has not been reached on someone or something; the people making the decision on someone or something have not yet decided. □ The jury is still out on Jane. We don’t know what we are going to do about her. □ The jury is still out on the question of building a new parking lot.

just a minute only a short time; [wait] a short period of time. □ I’m almost done. I’ll be there in just a minute! □ Could I have just a minute of your time?

Just a minute (you)! Stop where you are! (Not very polite.) □ Just a minute, you! Where are you going with my coat?

(just) a stone’s throw away (from something) Go to within a stone’s throw (of something).

(just) a stone’s throw (from something) Go to within a stone’s throw (of something).

(just) as I expected I thought so; I knew it would be this way. □ Just as I expected. The window was left open and it rained in. □ As I expected, he left work early again.

just fell off the turnip truck Rur. ignorant; unsophisticated. □ He stood there gawking at the buildings in town like he just fell off the turnip truck. □ My cousin acts like she just fell off the turnip truck.

just in case in the event that (something happens). □ All right. I’ll take it just in case. □ I’ll take along some aspirin, just in case.

just in time at the last possible time. □ He got to the meeting just in time. They had just started the topic he was supposed to talk about.

just let me say Go to let me (just) say.

just like that in just the way it happened or was stated; without any [further] discussion or comment. □ Sue: You can’t walk out on me just like that. John: I can too. Just watch! □ Mary: And then she slapped him in the face, just like that! Sally: She can be so rude.

just off the boat Fig. to be newly immigrated and perhaps gullible and naive. □ I’m not just off the boat. I know what’s going on. □ He may act like he’s just off the boat, but he’s very savvy.

just one’s cup of tea Fig. to be something that one prefers or desires. □ This spy novel is just my cup of tea. □ Teaching children to read is just my cup of tea.

just passing through just moving through an area and not stopping. □ We didn’t stop in Moose Jaw. We were just passing through.

just so 1. in perfect order; neat and tidy. □ Her hair is always just so. □ Their front yard is just so. 2. Precisely right!; Quite right! (Usually Just so!) □ Bill: The letter should arrive tomorrow. Tom: Just so! □ Jane: We must always try our best. Martin: Just so!

(just) taking care of business Fig. doing what I am supposed to do; an answer to the question “What are you doing lately?” (Also abbreviated T.C.B.) □ Bill: Hey, man.
What you been doing? Tom: Just taking care of business. Andy: Look, officer, I’m just standing here, taking care of business, and this Tom guy comes up and tries to hit me for a loan. Tom: That’s not true!

**just the same** Go to all the same.

**just the same (to someone)** Go to all the same (to someone).

**just the ticket** Fig. to be just the perfect thing. □ This soup is just the ticket for a quick lunch. □ A good, hot cup of coffee will be just the ticket.

**just what the doctor ordered** Fig. exactly what is required, especially for health or comfort. □ That meal was delicious, Bob. Just what the doctor ordered. □ Bob: Would you like something to drink? Mary: Yes, a cold glass of water would be just what the doctor ordered.

**Just (you) wait (and see)!** Go to You (just) wait (and see)

**justify something by something** to try to explain why something needs doing or why it is acceptable to do something. □ You cannot justify violence by quoting proverbs. □ Your action was totally justified by the circumstances.

**justify something to someone** to explain something to someone and show why it is necessary. □ Please try to justify this to the voters. □ I can justify your action to no one.

**jut out (from something)** to stick outward from something. □ The flagpole juts out from the side of the building. □ His nose juts out sharply.

**jut out (into something)** to stick outward into an area. □ The back end of the truck jutted out into the street. □ The back end jutted out.

**jut out (over someone or something)** to stick out over someone or something. □ The roof of the house jutted out over the patio. □ I’m glad the roof jutted out and kept us dry during the brief storm.

**juxtapose someone or something to someone or something** to place people or things next to each other, in any combination. (Also implies that the placing or arranging is done carefully.) □ I went to the meeting room early so I could juxtapose myself to the head of the table. □ I juxtaposed the chair to the view out the window.
a kangaroo court a bogus or illegal court. □ Is this a staff meeting or a kangaroo court? □ You have turned this interview into a kangaroo court.

Katie bar the door Prepare immediately for an advancing threat. □ Katie bar the door, the grandchildren are here and they all look hungry.

keel over [for a person] to fall over or fall down in a faint or in death. □ It was so hot in the room that two people just keeled over.

keel something over† Rur. to push something over. □ He leaned on the flimsy wall and keeled it right over. □ The high wind keeled over that sorry old fence.

keen on doing someone or something Go to keen on someone or something.

keen on doing something willing or eager to do something. □ Dave isn't very keen on going to the opera. □ The children are keen on swimming this afternoon. Shall I take them?

keen on someone or something and keen about someone or something to be enthusiastic about someone or something. □ I'm not too keen on going to Denver. □ Sally is fairly keen about getting a new job. □ Mary isn't keen on her new boss.

keep a civil tongue (in one's head) Fig. to speak decently and politely. □ Please, John. Don't talk like that. Keep a civil tongue in your head. □ John seems unable to keep a civil tongue.

keep a close rein on someone or something Go to keep a tight rein on someone or something.

keep a close watch on someone or something to watch someone or something very carefully. □ Let's keep a close watch on Fred and his friends. □ I want to keep a close watch on the house across the street.

keep a firm grip on someone or something and keep a tight grip on someone or something 1. Lit. to hold on to someone or something tightly. □ As they approached the edge, Sally kept a firm grip on little Timmy. □ She kept a tight grip on him. □ Keep a firm grip on my hand as we cross the street. 2. Fig. to keep someone or something under firm control. □ The manager keeps a firm grip on all the employees. □ I try to keep a firm grip on all the accounts.

keep a lid on something Go to a lid on something.

keep a low profile Go to a low profile.

keep a promise and keep one's promise to make good on a promise; to fulfill one's promise. □ If you can't keep your promises, you shouldn't make them in the first place.

keep a secret to know a secret and not tell anyone. □ Please keep our little secret private. □ Do you know how to keep a secret?

Keep a stiff upper lip. Prov. Act as though you are not upset.; Do not let unpleasant things upset you. (English people are stereotypically supposed to be very good at keeping a stiff upper lip.) □ Even though he was only three years old, Jonathan kept a stiff upper lip the whole time he was in the hospital recovering from his surgery. □ Jill: Sometimes this job frustrates me so much I could just break down in tears. Jane: Keep a stiff upper lip. Things are bound to improve.

keep a straight face Go to a straight face.

Keep a thing seven years and you'll (always) find a use for it. Prov. If you keep a seemingly useless thing for seven years, you will supposedly have some occasion to use it during that time. □ Jill: My mother sent me a four-foot-tall ceramic vase for my birthday. What can I possibly use it for? Jane: Keep it seven years and you'll find some use for it.

keep a tight grip on someone or something Go to keep a firm grip on someone or something.

keep a tight rein on someone or something and keep a close rein on someone or something Fig. to watch and control someone or something diligently. (Alludes to controlling a horse by a tight grip on the reins.) □ The office manager kept a tight rein on the staff. □ Mary keeps a close rein on her children.

keep abreast of someone or something Go to abreast of someone or something.

keep after someone (about something) and keep at someone (about something); stay after someone (about something) to remind or nag someone over and over to do something. □ I'll keep after you until you do it! □ Mother stayed after Bill until he did the dishes. □ She kept at him until he dried them and put them away. □ We will have to keep on him about the report until he turns it in.

keep ahead (of someone or something) Go to ahead (of someone or something).

keep ahead of something Go to ahead of something.

keep ahead of the game Go to ahead of the game.

keep aloof from someone or something Go to aloof from someone or something.

keep an act up† and keep one's act up† to maintain behavior that is a false show; to continue with one's facade. (The an can be replaced with the, this, that, etc.) □ How long do I have to keep this act up? I am tired of fooling people. □ I am weary of keeping up my act.

keep an ear to the ground and have an ear to the ground; keep one's ear to the ground; have one's ear to the ground Fig. to devote attention to watching or listening for clues as to what is going to happen. □ John had his ear to the ground, hoping to find out about new ideas in computers. □ His boss told him to keep his ear to the ground so that he'd be the first to know of a new idea.
keep an eye on someone or something and have an eye on someone or something; keep one’s eye(s) on someone or something; have one’s eye on someone or something Fig. to watch someone or something; to monitor someone or something closely. □ I have my eye on the apple tree. When the apples ripen, I’ll harvest them. □ Please keep an eye on the baby. □ Will you please keep your eye on my house while I’m on vacation?

keep an eye out (for someone or something) and have an eye out (for someone or something); keep one’s eye out (for someone or something); have one’s eye out (for someone or something) Fig. to watch for the arrival or appearance of someone or something. (See also keep one’s eyes open for someone or something.) □ Please try to have an eye out for the bus. □ Keep an eye out for rain. □ Have your eye out for a raincoat on sale.

keep an open mind Go to an open mind.

keep at arm’s length from someone or something and keep someone or something at arm’s length Fig. to retain a degree of physical or social remoteness from someone or something. □ I try to keep at arm’s length from Larry, since our disagreement. □ I keep Tom at arm’s length because we don’t get along.

Keep at it! Keep doing what you are doing!; Keep trying! (Said as encouragement to keep working at something.) □ The boss told me to keep at it every time he passed my desk. □ Keep at it, Tom! You can do it!

keep at someone (about something) Go to keep after someone (about something).

keep at something to persist at doing something; to continue trying to do something. □ John kept at his painting until the whole house was done. □ Keep at the job if you want to get it finished.

keep away (from someone or something) Go to away (from someone or something).

keep banker’s hours Fig. to work or be open for business for less than eight hours a day. □ The advertising agency keeps banker’s hours. They are only open until four. □ James doesn’t really work full-time. He keeps banker’s hours.

keep body and soul together Fig. to manage to keep existing, especially when one has very little money. (Compare this with keep the wolf from the door.) □ We hardly had enough to keep body and soul together. □ I don’t earn enough money to keep body and soul together.

keep clear of something Go to clear of something.

keep (close) watch (on someone or something) to monitor someone or something; to observe someone or something. □ Keep close watch on Bill. I think he’s loafing. □ Okay. I’ll keep watch, but I think he’s a good worker.

keep (close) watch (over someone or something) to guard or care for someone or something. □ I’m keeping watch over my children to make sure they have the things they need. □ I think that an angel is keeping close watch over her to make sure nothing bad happens to her.

keep company (with someone) 1. Lit. to spend much time with someone; to associate with or consort with someone. □ Bill has been keeping company with Ann for three months. □ Bob has been keeping company with a tough-looking bunch of boys. 2. Fig. to be courting someone. □ Mary and Bill are keeping company. □ I heard that Joe is keeping company with Jim Brown’s daughter.

keep cool Inf. to stay calm and undisturbed. □ Relax, man, keep cool! □ If Sally could just keep cool before a race, she could probably win.

keep faith with someone to be loyal to someone. □ I intend to keep faith with my people and all they stand for. □ We could not keep faith with them any longer.

keep fit to keep in good physical condition. □ I do everything I can to keep fit.

keep from something to avoid doing something; to refrain from doing something. □ How could I keep from crying? It was so sad! □ Try to keep from falling off the ladder.

keep (going) on about someone or something to continue to talk excessively about someone or something. □ I wish you would not keep going on about Tom and Jill. □ Don’t keep on about my haircut. It’s perfect!

keep (going) on at someone or something to continue to complain about or scold someone or a group. □ Don’t keep going on at him. Give him the dickens and be done with it. □ Please don’t keep on at the committee. They did the best they could.

keep good time [for a watch or clock] to be accurate. □ I have to return my watch to the store because it doesn’t keep good time. □ Mine keeps good time.

keep harping on something to continue to talk or complain about something; to keep raising a topic of conversation. (See also harp on something.) □ Why do you keep harping on the same old complaint? □ You keep harping on my problems and ignore your own!

keep house to manage a household. □ I hate to keep house. I’d rather live in a tent than keep house. □ My grandmother kept house for nearly sixty years.

keep in good condition Go to in good condition.

keep in good shape Go to in good shape.

keep in good with someone to remain in someone’s favor. □ I always try to keep in good with the boss’s secretary. □ It’s also good to keep in good with the boss.

keep in step (with someone) Go to in step (with someone).

Keep in there! Inf. Keep trying! □ Andy: Don’t give up, Sally. Keep in there! Sally: I’m doing my best! □ John: I’m not very good, but I keep trying. Fred: Just keep in there, John.

Keep in touch. Good-bye. (Sometimes a sarcastic way of saying good-bye to someone one doesn’t care about.) □ Nice talking to you. Keep in touch. □ Sorry, we can’t use you anymore. Keep in touch.

keep in touch (with someone) Go to in touch (with someone).

keep in touch (with someone or something) and remain in touch (with someone or something); stay in touch (with someone or something) to maintain communications with someone; to maintain up-to-date knowledge about someone or something. (See also get in touch (with someone).) □ After my neighbor moved, we still remained in touch. □ I want to stay in touch with my office over the weekend.
keep in training to maintain oneself in good physical condition. □ I try to keep in training so I will live longer. □ Try to keep in training.

keep inside (of something) to remain inside of something, usually a shelter, house, etc. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Please keep inside of the house while it's raining. □ I want you to keep inside.

keep it down (to a dull roar) Fig. to keep quiet or as quiet as possible. □ Keep it down, you kids! □ Please try to keep it down to a dull roar, could you?

keep (it) in mind that a statement emphasizing something that the speaker wants remembered. □ Bill: When we get there I want to take a long hot shower. Father: Keep it in mind that we are guests, and we have to fit in with the routines of the household. □ Sally: Keep it in mind that you don't work here anymore, and you just can't go in and out of offices like that. Fred: I guess you're right.

Keep it up! 1. Keep up the good work! Keep on doing it.; Keep on (on) trying. □ Jane: I think I'm doing better in calculus. John: Keep it up! □ Sally: I can now jog for almost three miles. Fred: Great! Keep it up! 2. Just keep acting that way and see what happens to you. (Compare this with Go ahead, make my day!) □ John: You're just not doing what is expected of you. Bill: Keep it up! Just keep it up, and I'll quit right when you need me most. □ "Your behavior is terrible, young man! You just keep it up and see what happens," warned Alice. "Just keep it up!"

keep late hours to stay up or stay out until very late at night. □ I'm always tired because I keep late hours. □ If I didn't keep late hours, I wouldn't sleep so late in the morning.

keep off (of) someone's back and keep off (of) someone's case Inf. Fig. to leave someone alone; to stop criticizing or scolding someone. □ Keep off of my back! Leave me alone. □ Keep off my case!

keep off (of) someone's case Go to previous.

keep off ((of) something) to remain off something; to stay off of something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Please keep off the grass. □ This is not a public thoroughfare! Keep off! □ You had better keep off of my property.

keep on Go to keep on something.

keep on an even keel Fig. to remain cool and calm. (Originally nautical.) □ If Jane can keep on an even keel and not panic, she will be all right. □ Try to keep on an even keel and not get upset so easily.

keep on (doing something) to continue to do something. □ Are you going to keep on singing all night? □ Yes, I'm going to keep on.

keep on keeping on Inf. keep trying; keep doing what you are doing. □ I do my best. I just keep on keeping on.

keep on (one's) guard (against someone or something) Go to on (one's) guard (against someone or something).

keep on one's toes Go to on one's toes.

keep on someone (about something) Go to keep after someone (about something).

keep on someone's case Go to on someone's case.

keep on something 1. and keep on lit. to work to remain mounted on something, such as a horse, bicycle, etc. □ It's really hard for me to keep on a horse. □ It's hard to keep on when it's moving all over the place. 2. Fig. to pay close attention to something. (See also keep on top of someone or something.) □ Keep on that story until everything is settled. □ This is a problem. Keep on it until it's settled.

keep on the good side of someone Go to keep on the right side of someone.

keep on the left(-hand) side (of something) to stay on the left-hand side of something. □ Please don't keep on the left side all the time when everyone else is on the right! □ In England you keep on the left-hand side.

keep on the right side of someone and keep on the good side of someone; stay on the right side of someone Fig. to remain in someone's favor. (This has nothing to do with the right-hand side.) □ You had better keep on the right side Mr. Franklin. He's very particular. □ I will keep on the good side of him.

keep on the right(-hand) side (of something) to stay on the right-hand side of something. □ We always keep on the right side of the road in this country. □ Please keep on the right-hand side.

keep on the track Fig. to stay on the path that one is on; to continue doing the things one is doing. □ Keep on the track and you will end up where you want to be. □ I know I can keep on track.

keep on top (of someone or something) to stay well-informed about the status of someone or something. □ I need to keep on top of the president, because I am doing a report on him. □ News is easy to get these days, and I do what I can to keep on top.

keep on trucking Inf. to continue to do well; to continue to try. □ Just keep on trucking, man. □ All I can do is keep on trucking.

keep (on) trying and Don't quit trying. Fig. a phrase encouraging continued efforts. □ Jane: I think I'm doing better in calculus. John: Keep trying! You can get an A. □ Sue: I really want that promotion, but I keep getting turned down. Bill: Don't quit trying! You'll get it.

keep on with something to continue with something. □ Just keep on with your work. Don't pay any attention to me. □ Can I keep on with this while you are talking?

keep one in one's place to make someone stay in the proper rank or station. □ I guess you want to keep me in my place, is that right? □ I know enough to keep myself in my place.

keep one on one's toes Go to on one's toes.

keep one's act up! Go to keep an act up!.

keep one's cards close to one's chest Go to play one's cards close to one's chest.

keep one's cards close to one's vest Go to keep one's cards close to one's chest.

keep one's chair and keep one's seat Fig. to stay seated; to remain in one's chair or place. □ That's all right. Keep your chair. I'll find my own way out. □ Please keep your seats until after the question-and-answer period.
keep one's chin up Fig. to keep one's spirits high; to act brave and confident. keep your chin up, John. Things will get better. Just keep your chin up and tell the judge exactly what happened.

keep one's cool Inf. to remain calm and in control. Relax, man! Just keep your cool. It's hard to keep your cool when you've been cheated.

keep one's distance (from someone or something) Fig. to maintain a respectful or cautious distance from someone or something. Keep your distance from John. He's in a bad mood. Keep your distance from the fire.

keep one's ear to the ground Go to keep an ear to the ground.

keep one's end of the bargain up! Go to hold one's end of the bargain up!

keep one's end up! 1. Lit. to hold one's end of a load so that the load is level. Be sure to keep your end up while we go up the stairs. Try to keep up your end. 2. Fig. to carry through on one's part of a bargain. You have to keep your end up like the rest of us. Don't worry, I'll keep up my end.

keep one's eye on someone or something and have one's eye on someone or something Fig. to have one's attention directed to someone or something. Please keep your eye on the children while I go to the store. Bill kept an eye on his expenses because he was spending too much money.

keep one's eye on the ball 1. Fig. to watch or follow the ball carefully, especially when one is playing a ball game; to follow the details of a ball game very carefully. John, if you can't keep your eye on the ball, I'll have to take you out of the game. Keep your eye on the ball! the coach roared at the players. 2. Fig. to remain alert to the events occurring around oneself. If you want to get along in this office, you're going to have to keep your eye on the ball. Bill would do better in his classes if he would just keep his eye on the ball.

keep one's eyes open (for someone or something) and keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something) Fig. to remain alert and watchful for someone or something. (The entry with peeled is informal. Peel refers to moving the eyelids back. See also keep an eye out (for someone or something). I'm keeping my eyes open for a sale on winter coats. Please keep your eyes peeled for Mary. She's due to arrive here any time. Okay. I'll keep my eyes open.

keep one's eye(s) out (for someone or something) Go to keep an eye out (for someone or something).

keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something) Go to keep one's eyes open (for someone or something).

keep one's feet on the ground and have one's feet on the ground Fig. to remain calm and stable. You will do all right if you have your feet on the ground. Don't get carried away. Just keep your feet on the ground and you will do fine.

keep one's finger on the pulse of something Fig. to monitor the current state of something frequently. I have to keep my finger on the pulse of the city if I want to be a good reporter. It is hard to keep your finger on the pulse of Washington, D.C., but a U.S. senator must do it.

keep one's fingers crossed (for someone or something) and cross one's fingers to wish for luck for someone or something, sometimes by actually crossing one's fingers; to hope for a good outcome for someone or something. I hope you win the race Saturday. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for you. I'm trying out for a play. Keep your fingers crossed!

keep one's hand in (something) Fig. to remain involved in something, perhaps only a token involvement. I want to keep my hand in things even after I retire. I always have to keep my hand in so I will feel a part of things.

keep one's hands off (something) to refrain from touching or handling something. I'm going to put these cookies here. You keep your hands off them. Get your hands off my book, and keep them off.

keep one's hands to oneself Fig. to refrain from touching anything or anyone; to refrain from punching or poking someone. Won't you keep your hands to yourself? Keep your hands to yourself while we are in the toy store. I want you boys to stop fighting and keep your hands to yourselves.

keep one's head Fig. to remain calm and sensible when in an awkward situation that might cause a person to panic or go out of control. She was very angry. We had to calm her down and encourage her to keep her head. Always try to keep your head when others are panicking.

keep one's head above water 1. Lit. to keep from drowning when swimming or floating. (See also get one's head above water.) I was so tired I could hardly keep my head above water. 2. Fig. to manage to survive, especially financially. We have so little money that we can hardly keep our heads above water. It's hard to keep your head above water on this much money. 3. Fig. to keep up with one's work. It's all I can do to keep my head above water with the work I have. I can't take on any more. We have so many orders that we can hardly keep our heads above water.

keep one's mind on someone or something to concentrate on someone or something. He is keeping his mind on Jane instead of his work. I find it hard to keep my mind on my reading.

keep one's mouth shut (about someone or something) Fig. to keep quiet about someone or something; to keep a secret about someone or something. They told me to keep my mouth shut about the boss or I'd be in big trouble. I think I'll keep my mouth shut.

keep one's nose clean Fig. to keep out of trouble, especially with the law. I'm trying to keep my nose clean by staying away from those rough guys. John, if you don't learn how to keep your nose clean, you're going to end up in jail.

keep one's nose out of someone's business Fig. to refrain from interfering in someone else's business. (See also keep one's nose out of something.) Let John have his privacy, and keep your nose out of my business, too! Keep your nose out of my business!

keep one's nose out of something Fig. to stay out of something, such as someone else's business. (See also keep one's nose out of someone's business.) Try to keep your nose out of stuff that doesn't concern you. Keep your nose out of my personal affairs.
keep one's nose to the grindstone Fig. to work hard and constantly. □ Son: I'll never get good grades. I might as well not even study. Mother: Don't give up yet. I'm sure that if you just keep your nose to the grindstone, you'll get the results you want. □ Mary kept her nose to the grindstone while her friends were out enjoying themselves.

keep one's opinions to oneself to stop mentioning one's own opinions, especially when they disagree with someone else's. □ You ought to keep your opinions to yourself rather than upset our guests. □ Please keep your rude opinions to yourself!

keep one's own counsel Fig. to keep one's thoughts and plans to oneself; to withhold from other people one's thoughts and plans. □ Jane is very quiet. She tends to keep her own counsel. □ I advise you to keep your own counsel.

keep one's pants on Go to keep one's shirt on.

keep one's place Fig. to exhibit only the behavior appropriate to one's position or status in life. □ When I complained about the food, they told me to keep my place! □ I suggest you keep your place until you're in a position to change things.

keep one's promise Go to keep a promise.

keep one's seat Go to keep one's chair.

keep one's shirt on and keep one's pants on Fig. to be patient. □ Wait a minute! Keep your shirt on! □ Keep your pants on! I'll be with you in a minute.

keep one's shoulder to the wheel Go to have one's shoulder to the wheel.

keep one's side of the bargain Go to live up to one's end of the bargain.

keep one's temper and hold one's temper to hold back an expression of anger. (The opposite of lose one's temper.) □ She should have learned to keep her temper when she was a child. □ Sally got thrown off the team because she couldn't hold her temper.

keep one's weather eye open Fig. to watch for something (to happen); to be on the alert (for something); to be on guard. □ Some trouble is brewing. Keep your weather eye open. □ Try to be more alert. Learn to keep your weather eye open.

keep one's wits about one Fig. to remain rational when threatened or under stress; to keep one's mind operating in a time of stress. □ If Jane hadn't kept her wits about her during the fire, things would have been much worse. □ I could hardly keep my wits about me.

keep one's word to uphold one's promise; to do as one says. (The opposite of break one's word.) □ I told her I'd be there to pick her up, and I intend to keep my word. □ Keeping one's word is necessary in the legal profession.

keep one step ahead of someone or something and stay one step ahead of someone or something Fig. to be or stay slightly in advance of someone or something. □ Al kept one step ahead of Detective Rogers. □ Try to keep one step ahead of the investigators.

keep oneself above suspicion Go to above suspicion.

keep oneself to oneself to remain aloof. □ He does tend to keep himself to himself. □ Keep yourself to yourself, and you'll be all right there.

keep out from under someone's feet Fig. to stay out of someone's way. □ Please keep out from under my feet. I'm very busy. □ Try to keep out from under Tom's feet while he is working.

Keep out of my way, and Stay out of my way. 1. Lit. Don't get in my pathway. □ John: Keep out of my way! I'm carrying a heavy load. Bill: Sorry. □ "Keep out of my way!" shouted the piano mover. 2. Fig. Don't cause me any trouble. □ Henry: I'm going to get even no matter what. Keep out of my way. Andy: Keep it up! You'll really get in trouble. □ John: I intend to work my way to the top in this business. Mary: So do I, so just keep out of my way.

keep out of sight Go to out of sight.

keep out (of something) 1. Lit. to remain outside something or some place. □ You should keep out of the darkroom when the door is closed. □ The door is closed. Keep out! 2. Fig. to remain uninvolved with something. □ Keep out of this! It's my affair. □ It's not your affair. Keep out!

Keep out of this! and Stay out of this! This is not your business, so do not try to get involved. □ John: Now you listen to me, Fred! Mary: That's no way to talk to Fred! John: Keep out of this, Mary! Mind your own business! Fred: Stay out of this, Mary! Mary: It's just as much my business as it is yours.

keep pace (with someone or something) 1. Lit. to move at the same speed as someone, something, or an animal; to match someone or some creature pace for pace. □ The black horse was having a hard time keeping pace with the brown one. □ Tom runs very fast and I couldn't keep pace with him. 2. Fig. to manage to move, learn, change, etc., at the same rate as someone or something. □ Bill can't keep pace with the geometry class. □ You've just got to keep pace.

keep people straight (in one's mind) Fig. to correctly distinguish one person from other people. □ The twins look exactly alike. Not even their mother can keep them straight.

keep quiet (about someone or something) and keep still (about someone or something) to refrain from talking about someone or something; to keep a secret about someone or something. □ Please keep quiet about the missing money. □ Please keep still about it. □ All right. I'll keep still.

keep sight of someone or something to keep someone or something in view. □ Try to keep sight of the skier. □ I want to keep sight of the children at all times.

Keep smiling, a good-bye phrase encouraging someone to have good spirits. □ John: Things are really getting tough. Sue: Well, just keep smiling. Things will get better. □ Bill: What a day! I'm exhausted and depressed. Bob: Not to worry. Keep smiling. Things will calm down.

keep someone at something to make sure someone continues to work at something. □ Please keep Walter at his chores. □ I was so sick I couldn't keep myself at my work.

keep someone back and hold someone back 1. Lit. to restrain people from moving forward or getting in the way. □ The police were ordered to keep people back so they wouldn't interfere with the paramedics. 2. Fig. to keep a child in the same grade for an extra year. □ We asked them to keep John back a year. □ John was kept back a year in school. 3. Fig. to keep someone from advancing in life. □
I think that your limited vocabulary is keeping you back. □ Her lack of computer skills kept her back in her career.

**keep someone company** to sit or stay with someone, especially someone who is lonely. □ I kept my uncle company for a few hours. □ He was very grateful for someone to keep him company. He gets very lonely.

**keep someone down** to prevent someone from advancing or succeeding. □ His lack of a degree will keep him down. □ I don’t think that this problem will keep her down.

**keep someone from** doing something to prevent someone from doing something. □ I kept the child from falling in the lake by grabbing his collar. □ I try to keep myself from overeating, but I seem to fail frequently.

**keep someone from** someone or something to hold someone away from someone or something; to prevent someone from getting at someone or something. □ You must keep the child from her mother until the mother is infection-free. □ It is hard to keep a child from the playground, even a sick child. □ I could hardly keep myself from the dessert table.

**keep someone honest** to manage to make someone behave honestly and fairly and tell the truth. □ I love to tell about our vacations, and my wife is usually with me to keep me honest.

**keep someone in (a state of) suspense** to make someone wait anxiously for something. □ Tell us what happened. Don’t keep us in a state of suspense. □ Don’t keep me in suspense!

**keep someone in ignorance (about someone or something)** to prevent someone from learning specific information about someone or something. □ I think we had better keep them all in ignorance about the money for a while. □ I don’t know about her. I have kept myself in ignorance on purpose.

**keep someone in sight** to make sure that a person is visible at all times. □ He looks suspicious. Keep him in sight at all times. □ I cannot keep him in sight day and night.

**keep someone in stitches** Fig. to cause someone to laugh loud and hard, for a period of time. □ The comedian kept us in stitches for nearly an hour. □ The teacher kept the class in stitches, but the students didn’t learn anything.

**keep someone in the dark (about someone or something)** Go to in the dark (about someone or something).

**keep someone in the picture** Go to in the picture.

**keep someone on** Fig. to retain someone in employment longer than is required or was planned. □ She worked out so well that we decided to keep her on. □ Liz was kept on as a consultant.

**keep someone on a string** Go to on a string.

**keep someone on (something) 1. Lit. to make or help someone stay mounted on something, such as a horse, bicycle, etc. □ Her father kept her on the bicycle as she was learning to ride it. □ I couldn’t keep myself on the horse. 2. Fig. to retain someone as an employee. □ We can’t keep you on the payroll any longer. □ Ken could not be kept on any longer.

**keep someone on tenterhooks** Fig. to keep someone in suspense. □ Don’t keep me on tenterhooks! Tell me your news! □ We were all kept on tenterhooks waiting to find out what happened.

**keep someone or an animal in** to make someone or an animal stay inside. □ I will have to keep Billy in until his cold is better. □ Keep the dog in. It’s too cold for her to go out. □ Keep in the children and the animals until it warms up.

**keep someone or an animal in line** Fig. to make certain that someone behaves properly. □ It’s very hard to keep Bill in line. He’s sort of rowdy. □ The teacher had to struggle to keep the class in line.

**keep someone or some creature out in the cold** Go to out in the cold.

**keep someone or something about** and **keep someone or something around** to have someone or something nearby habitually. □ Try to keep some spare parts about. □ He doesn’t work very hard, but we keep him around anyway.

**keep someone or something apart** to keep someone away from someone else; to keep something away from something else. □ Try to keep the dogs and cats apart. □ Can you keep Bill and Bob apart?

**keep someone or something around** Go to keep someone or something about.

**keep someone or something at a distance** to retain some amount of physical distance from someone or something. □ Please try to keep Tom at a distance. He just gets in the way. □ I wanted to keep the smelly plant at a distance.

**keep someone or something at arm’s length** Go to keep at arm’s length from someone or something.

**keep someone or something at bay** 1. to hold someone or something back to prevent someone from advancing doing something. □ I would be happy to keep Rover for you while you are away. □ Would you keep my dog for me? 2. to keep someone or something in reserve for someone. □ John wanted to return to the accounting department, but I will keep her here for you for last-minute changes. □ I am keeping some birthday cake here for you, since you will miss the party.

**keep someone or something down** to hold someone or something in a hidden or protected position. □ Try to keep Sam down where no one can see him. □ Please keep the noise down so Fred won’t know it’s a party when he comes in.

**keep someone or something for someone** 1. to retain and care for someone or something. □ I would be happy to keep Rover for you while you are away. □ Would you keep my dog for me? 2. to keep someone or something in reserve for someone. □ John wanted to return to the accounting department, but I will keep her here for you for last-minute changes. □ I am keeping some birthday cake here for you, since you will miss the party.

**keep someone or something from doing something** to prevent someone or something from doing something. □ Would you please keep your dog from digging in my garden? □ Her lack of a degree kept her from advancing.
keep someone or something **going** to sustain someone or something. 1. *I try to eat just enough food to keep me going. Enjoying food is just not an issue any more.*

**keep someone or something **hanging** (in midair)** Go to **leave** someone or something hanging (in midair).**

**keep someone or something **in check** and **hold** someone or something **in check** to keep someone or something under control; to restrain someone or something. 2. *Hang on to this rope to keep the dog in check. 3. I was so angry I could hardly hold myself in check.*

**keep someone or something **in mind** and **bear** someone or something **in mind** to remember and think about someone or something. 4. *When you’re driving a car, you must bear this in mind at all times: Keep your eyes on the road.*

**keep someone or something **in mind** (for someone or something)** to remember to bring up someone or something in regard to someone or something. 5. *Would you keep me in mind for the vice president job? 6. I will keep a position in mind for John, since he is graduating soon.*

**keep someone or something **in order** to keep people or things in the proper sequence. 7. *Please try to keep the children in order until their turn to perform comes.*

**keep someone or something **in reserve** Go to hold someone or something in reserve.**

**keep someone or something **in some place** to house or maintain someone or something in some place. 8. *We keep the boys in an apartment just off campus. It’s cheaper than three dormitory rooms.*

**keep someone or something **in with** someone or something to locate people or things together, in any combination. 9. *I will keep Tom in with me until he gets his own room.*

**keep someone or something **off**!** Go to hold someone or something off.**

**keep someone or something off ((of) someone or something)** to make sure that someone or something remains off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) 10. *Keep that woman off of me! She’s obsessed with me!* 11. *Please keep Timmy off the couch.*

**keep someone or something **on** the (the) (right) track** Fig. to make sure that someone or some process continues to progress properly. 12. *You have to watch him and keep him on the right track.* 13. *I will do what I can to keep the process on the track.*

**keep someone or something **on track** Go to on track.**

**keep someone or something **out** (of something) 1. to prevent someone or something from getting into something or some place. 14. *Keep your kids out of my yard.* 15. *She just couldn’t keep herself out of the cookie jar.*

**keep someone or something **out of the way** to prevent someone or something from getting in the way. 16. *Please keep your children out of the way.*

**keep someone or something **quiet** Go to next.**

**keep someone or something **still** 1. Lit. and *keep someone or something quiet** to make someone or something silent or less noisy. 17. *Can you please keep the baby still? 18. Keep that stereo quiet!* 19. Go to keep something quiet. 20. *and hold someone or something still Fig. to restrain or control someone or something so that the person or thing cannot move. 21. Please keep your foot still. It makes me nervous when you wiggle it. 22. You have to hold the nail still if you want to hit it.*

**keep someone or something **together** to keep things or a group of people together; to keep something, including a group of people, from falling apart. 23. *I hope we can keep our club together for a few more years. 24. We will keep it together for a while longer.*

**keep someone or something **under** **(close) scrutiny** Go to under (close) scrutiny.**

**keep someone or something **under** **control** Go to under control.**

**keep someone or something **under** **something** to store, hide, or cache someone or something beneath something. 25. *Keep Max under the packing crate until the police go away.*

**keep something **within bounds** Fig. to cause someone or something to remain constrained or be reasonable; to cause someone to act or something to be in good taste. 26. *I know you want artistic freedom, but if you want an audience, you are going to have to keep within bounds.*

**keep someone or something **posted** Fig. to keep someone informed (of what is happening); to keep someone up to date. 27. *If the price of corn goes up, I need to know. Please keep me posted.*

**keep someone or something **back** (from someone or something)** to make someone, something, or an animal stay in a position away from someone or something. 28. *Keep everyone back from the injured lady.*

**keep someone or something **under** **someone’s thumb** Go to under someone’s thumb.**

**keep someone **up** 1. Lit. to hold someone upright. 29. *Try to keep him up until I can get his bed made.*

**keep something **down** 1. Lit. to make the level of noise lower and keep it lower. 30. *Keep the noise down, or I will call the police.*

**keep something **too noisy** 31. *I work hard to keep expenses down.*

**keep something **up** 32. Lit. to prevent someone from holding it up. 33. *I’ve got the flu and I can’t keep any food down.*

**keep something **down** 34. Lit. to sustain someone or something. 35. *They kept Dorothy out of the discussion.*

**keep something **under control** to prevent someone or something from getting in the way. 36. *Please keep your children out of the way.*

**keep your children **out of the way** to prevent someone or something from getting in the way. 37. *Please keep your children out of the way.*
keep something for a rainy day Go to save (something) for a rainy day.

keep something for another occasion Go to leave something for another occasion.

keep something from someone not to tell something to someone. □ Why did you keep the news from me? I needed to know. □ This matter shouldn’t have been kept from me.

keep something in Go to hold something in.

keep something in the back of someone’s mind Go to in the back of someone’s mind.

keep something inside ((of) one(self)) Go to hold something in.

keep something of someone’s or something’s to retain something that belongs to or is associated with someone or something. □ I would love to keep this handkerchief of yours. □ I want to keep a memento of the occasion.

keep something on to continue to wear an article of clothing. □ I’m going to keep my coat on. It’s a little chilly in here. □ I’ll keep on my coat, thanks.

keep something on an even keel Fig. to keep something in a steady and untroubled state.

keep something on its feet Fig. to keep something stable and viable. □ It takes a lot of effort to keep this old firm on its feet. We may have to go out of business. □ Can we keep this business on its feet another year?

keep something quiet and keep something still Fig. to keep something a secret. □ I’m quitting my job, but my boss doesn’t know yet. Please keep it quiet. □ Okay, I’ll keep it still.

keep something still Go to previous.

keep something to a minimum to make something as small, few, or little as possible. □ Do what you can to keep construction dust to a minimum. □ The dust should be kept to a minimum.

keep something to oneself to keep something a secret. □ I want you to keep this news to yourself. □ This should be kept to yourself.

keep something under one’s hat Fig. to keep something a secret; to keep something in one’s mind (only). (If the secret stays under your hat, it stays in your mind. Note the use of but in the examples.) □ Keep this under your hat, but I’m getting married. □ I’m getting married, but keep it under your hat.

keep something under wraps Fig. to keep something concealed until some future time. □ We kept the plan under wraps until after the election. □ The automobile company kept the new model under wraps until most of the old models had been sold.

keep something until some time to retain something until a certain time. □ Can you keep this box until I call for it next week? □ The package will be kept until Monday.

keep something up 1. Lit. to hold or prop something up. □ Keep your side of the trunk up. Don’t let it sag. □ Keep up your side of the trunk. 2. Fig. to continue doing something. □ I love your singing. Don’t stop. Keep it up. □ Please keep up your singing. 3. Fig. to maintain something in good order. □ I’m glad you keep the exterior of your house up. □ You keep up your house nicely.

keep something with someone to leave something in the care of someone. □ Can I keep my bicycle with you while I am gone? □ I can keep your bicycle with me.

Keep still. 1. and Hold still. Do not move. □ Quiet wiggling. Keep still! □ “Hold still. I can’t examine your ear if you’re moving,” said the doctor. 2. Go to keep quiet (about someone or something).

keep still (for someone or something) Go to hold still (for someone or something).

keep tab(s) (on someone or something) and keep track (of someone or something) Fig. to monitor someone or something; to follow the activities of someone or something. □ I’m supposed to keep track of my books. □ Try to keep tabs on everyone who works for you. □ It’s hard to keep tabs when you have a lot of other work to do. □ I can’t keep track of the money I earn. Maybe someone else is spending it.

keep the ball rolling 1. Lit. to keep a rolling ball moving. □ You have to throw hard enough to keep the ball rolling all the way to the bowling pins. 2. Fig. to cause something that is in progress to continue. □ Tom started the project, and we kept the ball rolling. □ Who will keep the ball rolling now that she is gone?

keep the home fires burning Fig. to keep things going at one’s home or other central location. (From a World War I song.) □ My uncle kept the home fires burning when my sister and I went to school. □ The manager stays at the office and keeps the home fires burning while I’m out selling our products.

keep the stork busy Go to next.

keep the stork flying and keep the stork busy run. to have lots of children. □ Sally’s pregnant again, with their sixth. They sure do keep the stork flying! □ Grandma and grandpa kept the stork flying. I’ve got ten aunts and uncles.

keep the wolf from the door Fig. to maintain oneself at a minimal level; to keep from starving, freezing, etc. □ I don’t make a lot of money, just enough to keep the wolf from the door. □ We have a small amount of money saved, hardly enough to keep the wolf from the door.

keep things straight (in one’s mind) Fig. to correctly distinguish one thing from other things. □ These two bottles look so much alike. It’s hard to keep them straight.

Keep this to yourself. a phrase introducing something that is meant to be a secret. □ Andy: Keep this to yourself, but I’m going to Bora Bora on my vacation. Henry: Sounds great. Can I go too? □ John: Keep this to yourself. Mary and I are breaking up. Sue: I won’t tell a soul.

keep time 1. Lit. to maintain a musical rhythm. □ Bob had to drop out of the band because he couldn’t keep time. □ Since he can’t keep time, he can’t march, and he can’t play the drums. 2. Fig. to keep watch over the time in a game or an athletic contest. □ Ann kept time at all the basketball games. □ Whoever keeps time has to watch the referee very carefully. 3. Fig. [for a clock or a watch] to keep track of time accurately. □ This watch doesn’t keep time. □ My other watch kept time better.
keep to oneself to be solitary; to stay away from other people. □ Ann tends to keep to herself. She doesn't have many friends. □ I try to keep to myself each morning so I can get some work done.

keep to something to adhere to an agreement; to follow a plan; to keep a promise. □ Please keep to the agreed-upon plan. □ Can you keep to what we agreed on?

keep to the straight and narrow Fig. to behave properly and correctly; to stay out of trouble. □ If you keep to the straight and narrow, you can't help but win in the end. □ I always keep to the straight and narrow.

keep together to remain as a group. □ We will keep together to the very end. □ Our group decided to keep together.

keep track (of someone or something) Go to keep tab(s) (on someone or something).

keep under something to remain beneath something. □ Keep under the packing crate, Max. □ I ordered the dog to keep under the table.

keep under wraps Go to under wraps.

keep up an act and keep up one's act Fig. to maintain a false front; to act in a special way that is different from one's natural behavior. □ Most of the time John kept up an act. He was really not a friendly person. □ He works hard to keep up his act.

keep up appearances to make things look all right whether they are or not. □ We must keep up appearances even if it means little sacrifices here and there. □ Things may be unpleasant, but we will keep up appearances.

keep up one's act Go to keep up an act.

Keep up the good work. Please keep doing the good things that you are doing now. (A general phrase of encouragement.) □ Father: Your grades are fine, Bill. Keep up the good work. Bill: Thanks, Dad. □ "Nice play," said the coach. "Keep up the good work!"

keep up with something to keep track of something; to follow something. □ I can't keep up with you. □ You're running so fast that I cannot keep up with you. □ I don't make enough money to keep up with your spending. □ Fig. to pay attention to the news about someone or something. □ I don't see the Smiths a lot since they moved, but I keep up with them by phone. □ I try to keep up with current events.

keep up with the Joneses Fig. to try to match the lifestyle of one's neighbors. □ I am tired of trying to keep up with the Joneses. Let's just move if we can't afford to live here. □ We never try to keep up with the Joneses.

keep up with the times Fig. to work to appear contemporary and fashionable. □ I am too old-fashioned. I have to keep up with the times better. □ I don't care about keeping up with the times.

keep watch on someone or something to monitor someone or something. □ Keep watch on the lady in the big coat. She may be a shoplifter. □ Try to keep watch on the committee's work.

keep watch over someone or something to supervise someone or something; to take care of someone or something; to monitor someone or something; to keep an eye on someone or something; to keep track of someone or something; to follow someone or something. □ Please keep watch over Timmy for a minute.

keep within something to remain within a thing or within the boundaries of something. □ If you keep within the tourist area, you will be safe. □ Please keep within the yard.

Keep your chin up. Fig. an expression of encouragement to someone who has to bear some emotional burdens. (Fixed order.) □ Fred: I really can't take much more of this. Jane: Keep your chin up. Things will get better. □ John: Smile, Fred. Keep your chin up. Fred: I guess you're right. I just get so depressed when I think of this mess I'm in.

Keep your head down. Fig. Lie low, try not to be noticed. □ My advice to you is to keep your head down for the moment. □ Keep your head down. It'll blow over.

Keep your mouth shut (about someone or something). Fig. Do not tell anyone about someone or something. □ Bob: Are you going to see the doctor? Mary: Yes, but keep your mouth shut about it. □ Bob: Isn't Tom's uncle in tax trouble? Jane: Yes, but keep your mouth shut about him.

Keep your nose out of my business. Go to Mind your own business.

Keep your opinions to yourself! Fig. I do not want to hear your opinions! □ Jane: I think this room looks drab. Sue: Keep your opinions to yourself! I like it this way! □ Sally: You really ought to do something about your hair. It looks like it was in a hurricane. John: Keep your opinions to yourself. This is the latest style where I come from.

Keep your pants on! Go to Keep your shirt on!

Keep your powder dry. Go to Put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.

Keep your shirt on! and Keep your pants on! Inf. Just wait a minute! □ I’ll be right with you. Keep your shirt on! □ Keep your pants on! You're next.

Keep your shop and your shop will keep you. Prov. If you work hard at running your business, then your business will always make enough of a profit to support you. □ When Grandpa turned his hardware store over to me, he said, "It's hard work, but it's a good living. Keep the shop and the shop will keep you."

key someone up to cause someone to be anxious or excited. □ The excitement of the moment really keyed me up. □ Thoughts of their vacation keyed up the children so much they couldn't sleep.

the key to success Fig. the secret to someone's success. □ Bob said that the key to his success is working hard, being on time, and being extremely lucky.

*keyed up (about something) and *keyed up (over something) to be excited or anxious. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Why are you so keyed up about nothing? □ She is keyed up over her son's health.

kick a habit and kick the habit; shake the habit; shake a habit to break a habit. □ It's hard to kick a habit, but it can be done. I stopped biting my nails. □ I used to drink coffee every morning, but I kicked the habit.

kick about someone or something Fig. to complain about someone or something. □ Why are you kicking about your cousin? What has he done now? □ They kicked about our regulations, but they finally accepted them.
kick against  someone or something to give someone or something a blow with the foot. □ I kicked against the side of the television set, and it came on. □ He kicked against the giant of a man, but it had no effect.

kick around Go to knock around.

kick ass and kick butt Sl. to actively motivate people to do something. □ It looks like I’m going to have to kick ass to get people moving around here.

kick at someone or something to make kicking motions toward someone or something. □ The horse kicked at me, but I knew it was just a threat. □ The boys kicked at the can aimlessly.

kick back 1. Inf. to relax; to lean back and relax. (See also lie back.) □ I really like to kick back and relax. □ It’s time to kick back and enjoy life. 2. Inf. [for an addict] to return to an addiction or a habit, after having “kicked the habit.” □ Lefty kicked back after only a few days of being clean. □ A lot of addicts kick back very soon.

kick back (at someone or something) to kick at someone or something in revenge. □ She kicked at me, so I kicked back at her. □ If you kick me, I’ll kick back.

kick butt Go to kick ass.

kick in (on something) (for someone or something) Fig. to contribute to something for someone or something. □ Would you like to kick in on a gift for Joel? □ Sure, I would like to kick in for the gift.

a kick in the ass Go to a kick in the (seat of the) pants.

kick in the butt Go to a kick in the (seat of the) pants.

kick in the guts Sl. a severe blow to one’s body or spirit. □ The news was a kick in the guts, and I haven’t recovered yet. □ I didn’t need a kick in the guts like that.

kick in the (seat of the) pants and a kick in the ass; a kick in the butt; a kick in the teeth Fig. a strong message of encouragement or demand. (Use ass and butt with discretion.) □ All he needs is a kick in the seat of the pants to get him going. □ A kick in the butt will get her moving.

a kick in the teeth Go to previous.

kick like a mule and kick like a steer to kick very hard.

□ They say that ostriches will kick like a mule if you bother them. □ Stay away from the back end of Tom’s horse. It will kick like a steer when a stranger comes up.

kick like a steer Go to previous.

kick off 1. Lit. to start play in a football game by kicking the ball. □ Tom kicked off in the last game. Now it’s my turn. □ John tripped when he was kicking off. 2. and kick the bucket Fig. to die. □ Don’t say that George Washington “kicked off.” Say that he “passed away.” □ My cat kicked off last night. She was tough as a lion. □ When I kick the bucket, I want a huge funeral with lots of flowers and crying.

kick one’s heels up† Fig. to act frisky; to be lively and have fun. (Somewhat literal when said of hoofed animals.) □ I like to go to an old-fashioned square dance and really kick up my heels. □ For an old man, your uncle is really kicking his heels up.

kick oneself (for doing something) Fig. to regret doing something. □ I could just kick myself for going off and not locking the door. Now the car has been stolen. □ Don’t kick yourself. It’s insured.

kick out (at someone or something) to thrust one’s foot outward at something. □ The ostrich kicked out at the men trying to catch her. □ The mule kicked out and just missed me.

kick over Go to turn over.

kick over the traces Fig. to do what one is meant not to do; to rebel against authority. (Alludes to a horse that steps on the wrong side of the straps that link it to whatever it is pulling.) □ At the age of sixty, Walter kicked over the traces and ran away to Brazil. □ All these young kids seem to want to kick over the traces.

kick some ass (around) Sl. to take over and start giving orders; to raise hell. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ Do I have to come over there and kick some ass around? □ Willie is just the one to kick some ass over there.

kick someone or an animal out† Go to boost someone or an animal out†.

kick someone or something around 1. Lit. to strike someone, something, or some animal with the foot repeatedly. □ Billy is out in the alley kicking a can around. □ Stop kicking that dog around! 2. Fig. to treat someone or something badly. □ I finally quit my job. My boss wouldn’t stop kicking me around. □ Stop kicking my car around. It does everything I need a car to do.

kick someone or something aside† 1. Lit. to get someone or something out of the way by kicking. □ The bully kicked Timmy aside and grabbed our cake. □ I kicked aside the cats and came into the room. 2. Fig. to get rid of someone or something. □ He simply kicked aside his wife and took up with some young chick. □ I kicked the old laptop aside and got a new one.

kick someone or something away† to force someone or something away by kicking. □ Fred kicked the intruder away from the gun he had dropped on the floor. □ Then he kicked away the gun. □ The kickboxericked the mugger away.

kick something around† 1. Lit. to move something around by kicking it, as in play. □ Kick the ball around awhile and then try to make a goal. □ The boys kicked a can around, making a lot of noise. □ Don’t kick around all the dirt. You’ll make a mess. 2. Fig. to discuss something; to chat about an idea. □ We got together and kicked her idea around. □ Fred and Bob kicked around some plots for a new movie.

kick something back (to someone or something) to move something back to someone, something, or some place by kicking. □ I kicked the ball back to Walter. □ He kicked it to me, and I kicked it back.

kick something down† to break down something by kicking. □ I was afraid they were going to kick the door down. □ Don’t kick down the door!

kick something in† 1. to break through something by kicking. □ Tommy kicked the door in and broke the new lamp. □ He kicked in the door by accident. 2. Go to next.

kick something in† (on something) (for someone or something) to contribute something, such as money, on some-
thing for someone or something. □ I will kick a few bucks in on some flowers for the receptionist. □ I will kick in a few bucks on the gift for Marge.

**kill something off**! Fig. to begin something; to hold a party or ceremony to mark the start of something. (Alludes to starting a football game by kicking off the ball for the first play.) □ The city kicked the centennial celebration off with a parade. □ They kicked off the celebration with a parade.

**kick something off (of) someone or something and kick something off** to knock something off someone or something by kicking. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The baby must have kicked her covers off of herself in the night. □ She kicked off her covers in the night.

**kick something out of something and kick something out** to move something out of something or some place by kicking. □ The soccer player kicked the ball out of the tangle of legs. □ She got into the fracas and kicked out the ball.

**kick the bucket** Go to kick off.

**kick the habit** Go to kick off.

**kick the (natural) stuffing out of someone and beat the (natural) stuffing out of someone; take the stuffing out of someone; kick the starch out of someone; knock the stuffing out of someone** Rur. to kick or beat someone severely. □ Last time I was in a fight with Joe, he kicked the natural stuffing out of me. □ You do that again and I'll kick the stuffing out of you. □ Bill threatened to beat the natural stuffing out of any no-count rascal who laid a hand on his sister.

**kick up** to cause trouble or discomfort. □ The ignition in my car is kicking up again. I will have to have it looked into. □ Aunt Jane's arthritis is kicking up. She needs to see the doctor again.

**kick up a fuss and kick up a row; kick up a storm** Fig. to become a nuisance; to misbehave and disturb (someone). (Row rhymes with cow. Note the variations in the examples.) □ The customer kicked up such a fuss about the food that the manager came to apologize. □ I kicked up such a row that they told me to leave. □ Oh, what pain! My arthritis is kicking up a storm.

**kick up a row** Go to previous.

**kick up a storm** Go to kick up a fuss.

**kick around (with someone)** to tease and joke with someone. □ I like to kick around with John. We are great friends. □ Yes, John and I used to kid around a lot.

**kid's stuff** a very easy task. □ Climbing that hill is kid's stuff. □ Driving an automatic car is kid's stuff.

**kid someone about someone or something to tease someone about someone or something. □ You wouldn't kid me about Jody, would you? □ Please don't kid me about my long hair!**

**kill for something** Sl. to be willing to go to extremes to get something that one really wants or needs. (An exaggeration.) □ I could kill for a cold beer.

**kill someone or an animal off** to kill all of a group of people or creatures. □ Lefty set out to kill Max and his boys off. □ Something killed off all the dinosaurs.

**kill someone with kindness** Fig. to be enormously kind to someone. □ You are just killing me with kindness. Why? □ Don't kill them with kindness.

**kill the fatted calf** Fig. to prepare an elaborate banquet (in someone's honor). (From the biblical story recounting the return of the prodigal son.) □ When Bob got back from college, his parents killed the fatted calf and threw a great party. □ Sorry this meal isn't much, John. We didn't have time to kill the fatted calf.

**Kill the goose that lays the golden egg(s).** Prov. To destroy something that is profitable to you. □ Fred's wife knew he wasn't happy in his job, even though it paid well; still, she felt that advising him to leave it would be killing the goose that laid the golden eggs.

**kill time** Fig. to use something up, especially time. □ I killed time reading a novel. □ The employees were not encouraged to kill time.

**kill two birds with one stone** Fig. to solve two problems at one time with a single action. □ John learned the words to his part in the play while peeling potatoes. He was killing two birds with one stone. □ I have to cash a check and make a payment on my bank loan. I'll kill two birds with one stone by doing them both in one trip to the bank.

**killed outright** killed immediately. □ The driver was killed outright in the accident. □ Twenty people were killed outright in the explosion.

**killer instinct** Cliché an inborn desire or ability to be ruthless. □ Fred has a real killer instinct. He's a difficult boss to work for.

**Kind of.** Go to Sort of.

**a kind of something** a variety of something that is fairly close to the real thing, even though it is not exactly the real thing. (See also kind of something.) □ I used a folded newspaper as a kind of hat to keep the rain off. □ Bill is serving as a kind of helper or assistant on this project.

**kind of something** Go to Sort of something.

* **a king's ransom** Fig. a great deal of money. (To pay an amount as large as one might have to pay to get back a king held for ransom. *Typically: cost ~; pay ~; spend ~.) □ I would like to buy a nice watch, but I don't want to pay a king's ransom for it. □ It's a lovely house. I bet it cost a king's ransom.

**Kings have long arms.** and Governments have long arms. Prov. Those who are in power can always catch and punish people who have opposed them, no matter how far away those opponents may go. □ After his attempt to assassinate the king, the prince sailed to a distant country, although his wife warned him it would be too late. "Kings have long arms," she reminded him.

**kink up** [for something] to develop kinks or tangles. □ The leather parts tend to shrink and kink up in the damp weather. □ My hair kinks up in this weather.

**kiss and make up 1.** Lit. [for two people who have been arguing] to kiss each other and apologize. □ John apologized to his wife for disagreeing with her, and they finally kissed and made up. 2. Fig. to forgive someone and be friends again. □ They were very angry, but in the end they kissed and made up. □ I'm sorry. Let's kiss and make up.

**kiss and tell** Fig. to participate in something secret and private, and then tell other people about it. (In actual use, it usually refers to a person of the opposite sex even when it does not refer to actual kissing.) □ The project was supposed to be a secret between Jane and me, but she spread it
all around. I didn’t think she was the type to kiss and tell.  □ I am willing to discuss it with you, but only if you promise not to kiss and tell.

the kiss of death Fig. an act that puts an end to someone or something. □ The mayor’s veto was the kiss of death for the new law. □ Fainting on stage was the kiss of death for my acting career.

kiss off 1. Sl. to die. □ The cat is going to have to kiss off one of these days soon. □ The cat kissed off after eighteen years of joy and devotion. 2. Sl. death. (Usually kiss-off.) □ When the time comes for the kiss-off, I hope I’m asleep. □ The kiss-off came wrapped in lead, and it was instant. 3. Sl. the dismissal of someone or something. (Usually kiss-off.) □ The kiss-off was when I lost the Wilson contract. □ Pete got the kiss-off and is now looking for a new job.

kiss someone off† Sl. to kill someone. □ Max kissed Lefty off with a small gun he carried in his boot. □ He knocked off Lefty with a small gun.

kiss someone on something to kiss someone on a particular place. □ He kissed her right on the tip of her nose. □ She was kissed on the tip of her nose.

kiss someone or something off† Fig. to dismiss someone or something lightly; to abandon or write off someone or something. □ I kissed off about $200 on that last deal. □ They kissed me off and that was the end of that job.

kiss someone’s ass Sl. to fawn over someone; to flatter and curry favor with someone. (Potentially offensive. Use ass with discretion.) □ What does he expect me to do? Kiss his ass? □ I won’t kiss your ass for anything.

kiss something away† (from something) to kiss something and make something bad go away, such as tears, grief, pain, etc. □ She kissed the tears of pain and disappointment away from her son’s face. □ She kissed away his tears. □ She kissed the tears away.

kiss something good-bye to anticipate or experience the loss of something. □ If you leave your camera on a park bench, you can kiss it good-bye. □ You kissed your wallet good-bye when you left it in the store.

kiss the dust Sl. to fall to the earth, because of death or because of being struck. □ I’ll see that you kiss the dust before sunset, cowboy! □ You’ll kiss the dust before I will, Sheriff.

kiss up to someone Sl. to flatter someone; to curry favor with someone. □ Stop kissing up to me.

kissing cousins relatives who know one another well enough to kiss when they meet. □ Joe and I are kissing cousins, though we aren’t seen one another since we were kids. □ Technically, we’re second cousins once removed, but I just say we’re kissing cousins.

kith and kin friends and relatives; people known to someone. □ I was delighted to find all my kith and kin waiting for me at the airport to welcome me home. □ I sent cards to my kith and kin, telling them of my arrival.

klutz around Inf. to go about acting stupidly or clumsily. □ Stop klutzing around and get your act together. □ Why are you klutzing around so much?

*knee-deep in something 1. Fig. heavily involved in something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Right now, we are knee-deep in trouble. 2. Fig. having plenty of something. (*Typically: be ~; stand ~.) □ We are knee-deep in orders and loving it.

*knee-high by the 4th of July Fig. grown as tall as it should. (Corn seedlings are proverbially supposed to be as high as someone’s knee by July 4th.) (*Typically: be ~; become ~; grow ~.) □ What with this drought, I don’t think the crop will be knee-high by the 4th of July. □ It’s gonna be a good year. Knee-high by the 4th of July.

knee-high to a grasshopper Go to next.

*knee-high to a jackrabbit and *knee-high to a grasshopper Rur. very small or short. (Usually used to describe children. *Typically: be ~; since someone was ~.) □ I’ve known you since you were knee-high to a jackrabbit. □ My, how you’ve grown! The last time I saw you, you were knee-high to a grasshopper!

a knee-jerk reaction Fig. an automatic or reflex reaction; an immediate reaction made without examining causes or facts. □ With one of his typical knee-jerk reactions, he said no immediately, citing some moral argument that no one understood.

kneel down to get down on one’s knees. □ Please kneel down and fold your hands. □ You should at least kneel down and be quiet.

kneel down (before someone or something) to show respect by getting down on one’s knees in the presence of someone or something. □ We were told to kneel down in front of the altar. □ Kneel down when the queen enters!

knew it was coming and (had) known it was coming to have expected in advance that something was going to happen. □ I shouldn’t act surprised. I knew it was coming. □ It’s his own fault. He should have known it was coming.

knit one’s brow to cause one’s brow to wrinkle. □ Bob knitted his brow when he was confused. □ Jane knitted her brow because she was angry.

knit something together† to join things together by knitting. □ Terry knitted the parts of the sweater together. □ Sally knitted together the two parts of the glove.

knit together [for broken bones] to join or grow together. □ The bones don’t knit together properly, we will have to do something a little more drastic.

knock about (some place) (with someone) and knock around (some place) (with someone) to hang around some place with someone; to wander idly about some place with someone. □ Sally was knocking about France with her friends. □ I knocked around town with Ken for a while.

knock about (somewhere) to travel around; to act as a vagabond. □ I’d like to take off a year and knock about Europe. □ If you’re going to knock about, you should do it when you’re young.

knock against someone or something to bump against someone or something. □ Mickey knocked against Mary and said he was sorry. □ I didn’t mean to knock against your sore knee.
knock around 1. to waste time. □ Stop knocking around and get to work! □ I need a couple of days a week just for knocking around. 2. and kick around to wander around; to burn around. □ I think I’ll knock around a few months before looking for another job. □ We’re just knocking around and keeping out of trouble.

knock around (some place) (with someone) Go to knock about (some place) (with someone).

knock at something to knock (on something) at a particular location. □ I could hear someone knocking at the door next to mine. □ Who is knocking at the door?

knock away (at something) to continue to knock at something. □ The loose shutter kept knocking away at the side of the house. □ It knocked away all night, keeping me awake.

knock back a drink and knock one back; knock one over Sl. to swallow a drink of an alcoholic beverage. □ Todd knocked back one drink, and then had another. □ Kelly knocked one back. □ She knocked one over and left the bar.


knock off (doing something) to stop doing something. (See also knock off work.) □ Knock off shoveling snow now, and come in for a hot drink. □ I wish he would knock off practicing for a while.

knock off (work) to quit work, for the day or for a break.

□ What time do you knock off work? □ I knock off about five-thirty.

knock on something to rap or tap, often with the knuckles, on something. (See also knock on wood.) □ She knocked on the door several times. □ Knock on it again. Maybe she didn’t hear you.

knock on wood to rap on something made of wood. (Said as a wish for good luck. Usually a phrase attached to another statement. Sometime said while knocking or rapping on real wood.) □ I think I am well at last—knock on wood. □ I knock on wood when I wish something were true.

knock one back Go to knock back a drink.

knock one off one’s feet Go to sweep one off one’s feet.

knock one over Go to knock back a drink.

knock one’s head (up) against a brick wall Fig. to be totally frustrated. □ Trying to get a raise around here is like knocking your head up against a brick wall. □ No need to knock your head against a brick wall over this problem.

knock one’s knees together Fig. [for one’s knees] to shake together from fright. □ I stood there freezing for ten minutes, knocking my knees together in the cold. □ It takes a lot of energy to knock your knees together.

knock oneself out (to do something) (for someone or something) to make a great effort to do something for someone or some group. (As if one had worked oneself into unconsciousness.) □ I knocked myself out to plan this party for you! □ She knocked herself out for us. □ I don’t know why I knocked myself out to do these things for you. You are not at all appreciative. □ He knocked himself out to get there on time.

knock over something 1. Sl. to steal something. (The over is usually before the object in this expression.) □ The gang knocked over an armored car. □ Some cheap crook knocked over a load of television sets. 2. Sl. to rob a place. (The over is usually before the object in this expression.) □ Max knocked over two banks in one week. □ He was the kind of punk who would try to knock over a filling station.

knock some heads together Fig. to scold some people; to get some people to do what they are supposed to be doing. □ If you kids don’t quiet down and go to sleep, I’m going to come up there and knock some heads together. □ The government is in a mess. We need to go to Washington and knock some heads together.

knock some sense into someone and knock some sense in† to strike one, making one smarter, or at least obedient. □ I think his father finally knocked some sense into him. □ The accident finally knocked in some sense. □ I thought that last week’s experience would knock some sense in.

knock someone back (an amount of money) to cost an amount of money. □ That trip to Spain knocked me back almost $3,500. □ How much did that new furniture knock us back?

knock someone cold 1. Fig. to render someone unconscious by a violent blow. □ One swipe, and he knocked him cold. □ If you touch her again, I’ll knock you cold. 2. and knock someone dead Fig. to put on a stunning performance or display for someone. (Someone is often replaced by ‘em from them.) □ This band is going to do great tonight. □ ‘How see how your sister is all dressed up!’ said Bill. ‘She’s going to knock ’em cold.’

knock someone dead Go to previous.

knock someone down a peg (or two) Go to take someone down a peg (or two).

knock someone down to size Go to beat someone down to size.

knock someone for a loop 1. Fig. to strike someone hard. □ You really knocked me for a loop. I hope that was an accident. □ I was really knocked for a loop by the falling branch. 2. and throw someone for a loop Fig. to confuse or shock someone. (This is more severe and upsetting than throw someone a curve.) □ When Bill heard the news, it threw him for a loop. □ The manager knocked Bob for a loop by firing him on the spot.

knock someone into something to strike one, sending one into something. □ The blow knocked him into the wall. □ Max knocked Lefty into a lamp post.

knock someone into something to strike one, sending one into something. □ The blow knocked him into the wall. □ Max knocked Lefty into a lamp post.

knock someone off† Go to bump someone off†.

knock someone or something about and knock someone or something around 1. to jostle someone or something. □ The bumpy road was knocking everyone in the truck around. □ The bumpy road knocked the old truck around a lot. □ Don’t knock the grocery bags around. You’ll break the eggs. 2. to strike someone or something; to beat on someone or something. □ Max knocked his brother about. □ Stop knocking me around.

knock someone or something down† to thrust someone or something to the ground by hitting. □ The force of the blast knocked us down. □ It knocked down everyone in the room.
knock someone or something over\(^1\) to push or strike someone or something, causing the person or the thing to fall. (See also knock over something; knock someone over (with a feather); knock something over.) | I am sorry. I didn’t mean to knock you over. Are you hurt? | Who knocked over this vase?

knock someone out\(^1\) Lit. to knock someone unconscious. (Someone includes oneself.) | Fred knocked Mike out and left him there in the gutter. | Fred knocked out Mike.

knock someone’s block off Sl. to hit someone hard in the head. | Wilbur almost knocked Tom’s block off by accident. | He threatened to knock my block off if I didn’t do as I was told.

knock someone’s socks off and knock the socks off (of) someone Sl. to surprise someone thoroughly. (Fixed order. Of is usually retained before pronouns.) | The exciting news just knocked my socks off! | The news knocked the socks off of everyone in the office.

knock someone some skin Sl. to slap hands with someone, a sign of friendship. | Hey, man, knock me some skin! | Pete knocked Sam some skin, and they left the building together.

knock someone up\(^1\) Inf. to make a woman pregnant. (See also knocked up.) | They say it was Willie who knocked her up. | He did not knock up Sue. I did.

knock something against something to strike something against something. | He knocked a chair against the table and tipped both pieces of furniture over. | A chair was knocked against the table, upsetting a vase.

knock something back\(^1\) Sl. to drink down a drink of something, especially something alcoholic. (See also knock back a drink.) | I don’t see how he can knock that stuff back. | John knocked back two beers in ten minutes.

knock something down\(^1\) 1. Sl. to drink a portion of liquor. | Here, knock this down and let’s go. | He knocked down a bottle of beer and called for another.

knock something into a cocked hat Fig. to demolish a plan, a story, etc. | I knocked his plans into a cocked hat. | This bad weather has knocked everything into a cocked hat.

knock something off\(^1\) 1. to manufacture or make something, especially in haste. | I’ll see if I can knock another one off before lunch. | They knocked off four window frames in an hour. | 2. to knock off some amount from the price of something, lowering its price. | The store manager knocked 30 percent off the price of the coat. | Can’t you knock something off on this damaged item? | The manufacturer knocked off a famous designer’s coat. | They are well known for knocking off cheap versions of expensive watches.

knock something off kilter Go to out of kilter.

knock something off (of) someone or something and knock something off\(^1\) to remove something from someone or something by striking. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) | I knocked the hard hat off of Wally when I hit him accidentally with the ladder. | My elbow knocked off the book.

knock something out\(^1\) 1. to create something hastily. | He knocked a few out as samples. | He knocked out a few of them quickly, just so we could see what they were going to look like. |

knock something out of kilter Go to out of kilter.

knock something out of place Go to out of place.

knock someone out of something to hit someone until something emerges or dissipates. | Max knocked the truth out of the spy. | Lefty knocked the story out of Max.

knock something out of something to beat or knock on something until something comes out. | Timmy knocked the stuffing out of his pillow. | Someone knocked the coins out of my piggy bank.

knock something over\(^4\) to tip something over. (See also knock over something.) | Someone knocked the chair over. | Who knocked over the flower pot?

knock something to someone to hit something, such as a ball, to someone. | The coach knocked the ball to each player in turn. | The ball was knocked to the guy out in center field.

knock something together\(^1\) to assemble something hastily. | I knocked this model together so you could get a general idea of what I had in mind. | See if you can knock together a quick snack. | This thing has just been knocked together!

knock the bejeebers out of someone or something Inf. to hit someone or something severely. | If I catch you doing that again, I’ll knock the bejeebers out of you. | He grabbed the poor dog and just knocked the bejeebers out of it.

knock the bottom out (of something) 1. and knock the bottom out\(^1\) Lit. to break the bottom of a container. | I knocked the bottom out of the barrel and used it to store compost. | Knock out the bottom and set it right on the soil.

knock the habit to stop using drugs; to break a drug addiction. | I just can’t knock the habit. | He tried to knock the habit by drinking lots of booze.

knock the hell out of someone or something Inf. to strike someone or something very hard. (Use hell with discre-
knock the (living) daylights out of someone

knock the the (living) daylights out of someone  Fig. Inf. to beat someone severely.  □ If you do that again, I will knock the living daylights out of you.  □ Fred wants to knock the living daylights out of his enemy, Mike "Fingers" Moran.

knock the props out from under someone  Fig. to destroy someone's emotional, financial, or moral underpinnings; to destroy someone's confidence.  □ When you told Sally that she was due to be fired, you really knocked the props out from under her.

knock the stuffing out of someone  Go to kick the (natural) stuffing out of someone.

knock the wind out of someone's sails 1. Lit. to bring someone to an abrupt halt by a heavy blow to the body, presumably knocking the person's wind out. (Alludes to a ship being slowed by positioning another ship to block off the wind from the first ship's sails.)  □ Fred hit Mike and really knocked the wind out of his sails.  □ Fred ran into the side of the garage and knocked the wind out of his sails.

2. Fig. to humiliate someone.  □ The sharp rebuke from the boss knocked the wind out of his sails.

knock through something  to break through something.  □ They knocked through the wall and put in a doorway.  □ The wall had to be knocked through before we could install a doorway.

knock (up) against someone or something  to bump against someone or something.  □ The loose shutter knocked up against the side of the house.  □ The large branch knocked against the garage in the storm.

knock-down, drag-out fight  a serious fight; a serious argument.  □ Boy, they really had a knock-down, drag-out fight.  □ Stop calling each other names, or you're going to end up with a real knock-down, drag-out fight.

knocked in  Sl. arrested. (Underworld.)  □ Would you believe that Larry has never been knocked in?  □ When Lefty was knocked in, they found his heat on him.

knocked out 1. Lit. unconscious.  □ The losing boxer lay on the canvas, knocked out.  □ Fig. exhausted.  □ We were all knocked out at the end of the day.  □ I'm knocked out after just a little bit of work.  □ Fig. overwhelmed.  □ We were just knocked out when we heard your news.  □ Were we surprised? We were knocked out—elated!  □ Fig. intoxicated.  □ They were all knocked out by midnight.  □ Gary was knocked out when we dropped by, so we tried to sober him up.

knocked up 1. Lit. battered; beaten.  □ Sally was a little knocked up by the accident.  □ This book is a little knocked up, so I'll lower the price.  □ Sl. intoxicated.  □ Bill was knocked up and didn't want to drive.  □ Wow, was that guy knocked up?  □ Inf. pregnant; made pregnant.  □ Sue got knocked up but won't say who the father is.

knot something together† to tie something together in a knot.  □ Knot these strings together and trim the strings off the knot.  □ Are the ropes knotted together properly?  □ Quickly knot together the two loose ends!

know a thing or two (about someone or something)  Go to a thing or two (about someone or something).

know a trick or two  to know some special way of dealing with a problem.  □ I think I can handle all of this with no trouble. I know a trick or two.  □ I may be a senior citizen, but I still know a trick or two. I think I can help you with this.

know about someone or something to have information or expertise about someone or something.  □ I know about John and what he does.  □ I know about cars, but I can't fix this one!

know all the angles  to know all the tricks and artifices of dealing with someone or something.  □ Ask my accountant about taxes. He knows all the angles.  □ Larry knows all the angles. That's how he keeps out of the slammer.

know as much about something as a hog knows about Sunday  Rur. to have no knowledge of something.  □ Don't let Jim make dessert for the picnic. He knows as much about pies as a hog knows about Sunday.

know at a glance that...  to know [something] without much evidence; to know or understand something without a lot of observation.  □ I knew at a glance that Bobbie was severely injured and had to be gotten to a hospital as soon as possible.

know better (than to do something)  to be wise enough, experienced enough, or well trained enough not to have done something wrong.  □ Mary should have known better than to accept a lift from a stranger.  □ Children should know better than to play in the road.

know from something to know about something. (Used on the eastern seaboard.)  □ Do you know from thermostats?  □ You don't know from anything!

know no more about something than a frog knows about bedsheets  Rur. to have no knowledge of something.  □ Don't let Bill fix your car. He knows no more about cars than a frog knows about bedsheets.  □ When I first started studying French literature, I knew no more about it than a frog knows about bedsheets.

know of someone or something to be aware of the existence of someone or something.  □ I think I know of someone who can help you.  □ I didn't know of Wally's arrival.

know one for what one is  to recognize someone as some type of person or thing.  □ I know you for what you are, you devil.  □ We know him for the thief he is.

know one's ABCs  Fig. to know the alphabet; to know the most basic things (about something).  □ Bill can't do it. He doesn't even know his ABCs.  □ You can't expect to write a letter when you don't even know your ABCs.

know one's onions  Go to know one's stuff.

know one's place  to know the behavior appropriate to one's position or status in life.  □ I know my place. I won't speak unless spoken to.  □ People around here are expected to know their place. You have to follow all the rules.

know one's stuff and know one's onions to know what one is expected to know.  □ I know my stuff. I can do my job.  □ She can't handle the assignment. She doesn't know her onions.

know one's way about  Go to next.
know one's way around 1. and know one's way about
Lit. to know how to get from place to place. □ I can find
my way. I know my way around. □ I don't know my way
around this city yet. 2. Fig. to know how to deal with peo-
ples and situations; to have had much experience at living.
□ I can get along in the world. I know my way around. □
Do you think I don't know my way around?
know shit from Shinola and tell shit from Shinola
Fig. Inf. to know what's what; to be intelligent and aware.
(Always in the negative. Shinola is a brand of shoe pol-
ish. A person who doesn't know shit from Shinola is very
stupid.) □ Poor Tom doesn't know shit from Shinola. □ Fred
can't tell shit from Shinola, and he's been made my boss.
know someone as someone to know someone by a differ-
ent name. □ I know her as Candy La Tour. □ She has been
known as Mary Rogers since her marriage.
know someone by sight to recognize a person's face, but
not know the name. □ I'm afraid I don't know her by sight.
□ I know all my employees by sight.
know someone from someone to tell the difference between
one person and another. □ I don't know Fred from his twin
brother. □ I know Bill from Bob, but I can't tell most iden-
tical twins apart.
know someone or something as something to recognize
someone or something as something. □ I know Mr. Frank-
lin as a fine man. □ I know this name as a very fine brand.
know someone or something by name to recognize the
name but not the appearance of someone or something.
□ I only know her by name. I have no idea what she looks
like. □ I know this brand of sausage by name, but I have
never tasted it.
know someone or something by something to recognize
someone or something by a certain characteristic. □ I
know her by her perfume. □ I know this committee only by
its reputation, which is not good, by the way.
know someone or something like the back of one's hand
Go to next.
know someone or something like the palm of one's hand
and know someone or something like the back of one's
hand; know someone or something like a book to know
someone or something very well. □ Of course I know John.
I know him like the back of my hand. □ I know him like a
book.
know something backwards and forwards and know
something forwards and backwards Fig. to know
something very well; to know a passage of language so well
that one could recite it backwards as well as forwards. □
Of course I've memorized my speech. I know it backwards
and forwards.
know something by heart Fig. to know something per-
fectly; to have memorized something perfectly. □ I know
my speech by heart. □ I went over and over it until I knew
it by heart.
know something forwards and backwards Go to know
something backwards and forwards.
know something from memory to have memorized
something so that one does not have to consult a written
version; to know something well from seeing it very often.
(AI most the same as know something by heart.) □ Mary
didn't need the script because she knew the play from mem-
ory. □ The conductor went through the entire concert with-
out sheet music. He knew it from memory.
know something from something to tell the difference
between one thing and another. (Often with a negative.)
□ You don't know a smoked herring from a squid! □ She
didn't know a raven from a crow, and who does?
know something in one's bones Go to feel something in
one's bones.
know something inside out to know something thor-
oughly; to know about something thoroughly. □ I know
my geometry inside out. □ I studied and studied for my driv-
er's test until I knew the rules inside out.
know something only too well to know something very
well; to know something from unpleasant experience.
(Note the variation in the examples.) □ I know the prob-
lem only too well. □ I know only too well the kind of prob-
lem you must face.
know something through and through to know some-
thing very well. □ I want you to know this project through
and through before the staff meeting. □ I know my part in
the play through and through.
know the big picture Go to the big picture.
know the ropes Go to the ropes.
know the score and know what's what Fig. to know
the facts; to know the facts about life and its difficulties.
□ Bob is so naive. He sure doesn't know the score. □ I know
what you're trying to do. Oh, yes, I know what's what.
Know thyself. Prov. Be aware of your own limitations;
know what you are capable of doing. (This was the motto
inscribed on the temple of Apollo at Delphi.) □ The motto
of the ballet corps was “Know thyself”; every dancer was
expected to know how far she could stretch, and not hurt
herself by trying to exceed her limits. □ “Know thyself,” the
high school guidance counselor admonished us, “and try to
find a career that makes the most of your abilities.”
know the tricks of the trade Go to the tricks of the
trade.
Know what? Go to (Do you) know what?
know what's what Go to know what's what.
know when one is not wanted to sense when one's
presence is not welcome; to know when one is not among
friends. (Usually said when someone feels hurt by being
ignored by people.) □ I'm leaving this place! I know when
I'm not wanted! □ She doesn't know when she's not wanted.
Can't she tell she's out of place?
know where all the bodies are buried Fig. to know
all the secrets and intrigue from the past; to know all the
relevant and perhaps hidden details. □ He is a good choice
for president because he knows where all the bodies are
buried. □ Since he knows where all the bodies are buried,
he is the only one who can advise us.
know where it's at to be alert and know how the
world—or some part of it—really works. □ Man, you just
don't know where it's at! □ I don't know where cool jazz is
at.
know where one is coming from to understand some-
one's motivation; to understand and relate to someone's
position. □ I know where you're coming from. I've been
there. □ We all know where he's coming from. That's why we are so worried.

**know where someone stands (on someone or something)**
to know what someone thinks or feels about something. □ I don't know where John stands on this issue. □ I don't even know where I stand.

**know where something is at** to know where something is located. (Without at, this sense is standard English. See also 'know where it's at'.) □ Do you know where the hammer is at? □ I don't know where my glasses are at.

**know whereof one speaks** to know well the subject that one is speaking about. □ You are wrong! You do not know whereof you speak. □ He simply doesn't know whereof he speaks.

**know which is which** and **tell which is which** to be able to distinguish one person or thing from another person or thing. □ I have an old one and a new one, but I don't know which is which. □ I know that Bill and Bob are twins, but I can't tell which is which.

**know which side one's bread is buttered on** Prov. to be aware of where your money comes from; to be loyal to the person or thing that will benefit you the most. □ Wife: Please be sure not to upset Grandma. You know we can't do without the money she sends us every month. Husband: Don't worry. I know which side my bread is buttered on.

**Knowledge is power.** Prov. The more you know, the more you can control. □ Child: How come I have to study history? I don't care what all those dead people did hundreds of years ago. Mother: Knowledge is power. If you know something about the past, it may help you to anticipate the future.

**known fact** something that is generally recognized as a fact. □ That grass is green is a known fact. □ It is a known fact that John was in Chicago on the night of the murder.

**known quantity** someone whose character, personality, and behavior are recognized and understood. □ We need not worry about how John will behave. He is a known quantity. □ Lisa is a known quantity and I am sure she will not surprise us by voting with the opposition.

**knuckle down (to something)** Fig. to get busy doing something. □ I want you to knuckle down to your work and stop worrying about the past. □ Come on. Knuckle down. Get busy.

*a knuckle sandwich* Inf. a punch. (*Typically: ask for ~; get ~; give someone ~; want ~.*) □ A: Nyah! Your mother smokes cigars! B: You want a knuckle sandwich?

**knuckle under (to someone or something)** to submit to someone or something; to yield or give in to someone or something. □ You have to knuckle under to your boss if you expect to keep your job. □ I'm too stubborn to knuckle under.

**kowtow to someone or something** to grovel to someone or something. □ I won't kowtow to anyone! □ You don't expect me to go in there and kowtow to that committee, do you?
labor  someone or something as  something to designate someone or something as something.  She labeled him as an uncouth person.  We labeled the committee as a worthless organization.

label  someone or something with  something to mark or identify someone or something with something.  They labeled each person who had paid the admission fee with a symbol stamped on the hand.  I labeled each book with my name.

labor at  something to work hard at something.  He is laboring at his gardening and won't be back in the house until dinnertime.  What are you laboring at so intensely?

labor for  someone or something to work on behalf of someone or something.  I labored for them all day, and they didn't even thank me.  I have labored for this cause for many years.

labor for  something to work in order to get something, such as money.  I was laboring for a pittance, so I decided to get another job.  I labor for the love of it.

a labor of love  Fig. a task that is either unpaid or badly paid and that one does simply for one's own satisfaction or pleasure or to please someone whom one likes or loves.  Jane made no money out of the biography she wrote. She was writing about the life of a friend and the book was a labor of love.  Mary hates knitting, but she made a sweater for her boyfriend. What a labor of love.

labor over  someone or something to work hard on someone or something.  The surgeon labored over the patient for four hours.  I labored over this painting for months before I got it the way I wanted it.

labor under  an assumption  Fig. to function or operate believing something; to go about living while assuming something [that may not be so].  I was laboring under the idea that we were going to share the profits equally.  Are you laboring under the notion that you are going to be promoted?

lace into  someone or something and light into  someone or something  Fig. to attack, devour, or scold someone or something.  We laced into a big meal of pork and beans.  The bully punched John once, and then John really laced into him.  John lit into him with both fists.

lace  someone into  something to tighten the laces of something someone is wearing.  Sally helped Billy lace himself into his boots.  The maid laced Gloria into her corset.

lace someone  up to tie someone's laces; to help someone get dressed in a garment having laces.  Would you please lace me up? I can't reach the ties in the back.  I laced up Sally, as she requested.

lace something  up to tie the laces of something.  Lace your shoes up, Tommy.  Lace up your shoes.

lace  something with  something to adulterate something with something, often with something alcoholic.  Someone laced the punch with strong whiskey.  Who laced my coffee with brandy?

lack for  something to lack something.  We don't lack for new ideas.  We lack for nothing, thank you.

Ladies first.  an expression of courtesy indicating that women should go first, as in going through a doorway.

Bob stepped back and made a motion with his hand indicating that Mary should go first.  "Ladies first," smiled Bob.  a ladies' man  Fig. a man who likes the company of women and whose company is liked by women, the suggestion being that he likes to flirt with them.  John is a real ladies' man.  He hates all-male parties.  The new boss always flirts with the women in the office. He's a bit of a ladies' man.

ladle  something out of  something and ladle something out† to scoop something out of something with a spoon or ladle.  Jerry ladled a cool dipper of water up and quenched his thirst.  Please ladle up the soup.

ladle something  up† to scoop something up in a ladle.  Marie ladled the last of the gravy out of the gravy boat and went to the kitchen for more.  She ladled out the soup.

lady of the evening  Euph. a prostitute.  I saw several ladies of the evening down on Main Street.  He was approached by a lady of the evening.

lag behind  in something to fall behind in something.  I am lagging behind in my car payments.  She is lagging behind in her homework assignments.

lag behind  (someone or something) to linger behind someone or something; to fall behind someone or something.  Come on up here. Don't lag behind us or you'll get lost.  Please don't lag behind the donkeys. Come up here with the rest of the hikers.

laid back 1. calm and relaxed.  Willie is not what I would call laid back.  You are really one laid-back guy! 2. intoxicated.  He's a little laid back and can't come to the phone.  How can those guys work when they are laid back by noon?

laid out 1. intoxicated.  Man, you got yourself laid out!  I'm too laid out to go to work today. 2. well-dressed.  Look at those silks! Man are you laid out!  She is all laid out in her Sunday best.

laid up  [of people or things] immobilized for recuperation or repairs.  I was laid up for two weeks after my accident.  My car is laid up for repairs.  I was laid up with the flu for a week.

lam into  someone or an animal  Fig. to attack someone or an animal.  Paul was so angry that he lammed into his friend and struck him in the side.  The angry coachman lammed into the poor horses.
lame duck 1. Fig. someone who is in the last period of a term in an elective office and cannot run for reelection. □ You can’t expect much from a lame duck. □ As a lame duck, there’s not a lot I can do. 2. Fig. having to do with someone in the last period of a term in an elective office. (Used as an adjective; sometimes lame-duck.) □ You don’t expect much from a lame-duck president. □ Lame-duck Congresses tend to do things they wouldn’t dare do otherwise.

lament over someone or something and lament (for) someone or something to sorrow over someone or something. □ There is no need to lament over Sam. There is nothing that crying will do for him now. □ She is still lamenting for her cat.

land a blow 1. Lit. to strike someone. □ He kept moving, and I found it almost impossible to land a blow. □ The boxer landed a blow to the face of his opponent. 2. Fig. to make a point. □ I think I really landed a blow with that remark about extortion. □ The point about justice landed a blow.

land a job to find a job and be hired. □ As soon as I land a job and start to bring in some money, I’m going to get a stereo. □ I managed to land a job at a factory.

land at some place 1. [for a ship] to come to port at a place. □ The ship landed at the wharf and the passengers got off. 2. [for an airplane] to return to earth at an airport. □ We landed at O’Hare at noon. □ We were to land at Denver, but there was bad weather.

land in something 1. Lit. [for an airplane] to return to earth in or near a particular city. □ We landed in Chicago on time. 2. [for someone] to end up in something, such as a mess, jail, trouble, etc. □ If you don’t mend your ways, you’re going to land in jail! □ Andy is going to land in hot water if he doesn’t start paying his bills. 3. [for an airplane] to make a landing in something, such as bad weather, darkness, daylight, fog, etc. □ You can’t land this plane in fog like this. □ The novice pilot is not capable of landing in the dark.

Land o’ Goshen! Rur. My goodness gracious! (A mild oath.) □ Go to land o’ Goshen, it’s sure good to see you. □ Land o’ Goshen! Look at that rain come down!

the land of Nod a state of sleep. (Humorous. From the fact that people sometimes nod when they are falling asleep.) □ The baby is in the land of Nod. □ Look at the clock! It’s time we were all in the land of Nod.

land so poor it wouldn’t even raise a fuss and land too poor to raise a racket on Rur. land where nothing will grow. □ I inherited two hundred acres from my uncle, but it’s land so poor it wouldn’t even raise a fuss. □ The soil’s exhausted. That land is so poor it wouldn’t even raise a fuss. □ Jim can grow a garden anywhere, even on land too poor to raise a racket on.

land someone in something to cause someone to end up in something. □ His criminal activity finally landed him in jail. □ You really landed yourself in a fine mess!

land something at some place to bring a boat, ship, or airplane to rest or to port at or near a place. □ The captain landed the boat at a small island in hopes of finding a place to make repairs. □ They had to land the plane at a small town because of a medical emergency.

land too poor to raise a racket on Go to land so poor it wouldn’t even raise a fuss.

land up somehow to finish somehow or somewhere; to come to be in a certain state or place at the end. □ We set out for Denver but landed up in Salt Lake City. □ He’s so extravagant that he landed up in debt.

land (up)on both feet and land (up)on one’s feet 1. Lit. to end up on both feet after a jump, dive, etc. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ She jumped over the bicycle and landed upon both feet. □ Donna made the enormous leap and landed on her feet. 2. Fig. to come out of something well; to survive something satisfactorily. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ It was a rough period in his life, but when it was over he landed on both feet. □ At least, after it was over I landed on my feet.

land (up)on one’s feet Go to previous.

land (up)on someone or something to light on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ A bee landed upon her and frightened her. □ The spoon I dropped landed on the cake and ruined the icing.

land-office business Fig. a large amount of business done in a short period of time. □ We always do a land-office business at this time of year. □ We keep going. Never do land-office business—just enough to make out.

Land(s) sakes (alive)! and Sakes alive! Rur. Goodness! (A mild oath.) □ Landsakes! I sure am glad to get home! □ Sakes alive! Can’t you even set the table without making a fuss?

a landslide victory a victory by a large margin; a very substantial victory, particularly in an election. □ The mayor won a landslide victory in the election. □ The younger candidate won a landslide victory in the presidential election.

language that would fry bacon Rur. Profanity; swearing; curse words. (“Hot” language.) □ He carried on in language that would fry bacon. □ I was shocked when I heard that sweet little girl use language that would fry bacon.

languish in some place 1. to become dispirited in some place; to weaken and fade away in some place. □ Claire languished in prison for her crime. □ I spent over three days languishing in a stuffy hotel room. □ We languished in the airport waiting room while they refueled the plane. 2. to suffer neglect in a place. □ The bill languished in the Senate for months on end. □ The children languished in the squalid conditions until the court intervened.

languish over someone or something to pine over someone or something. □ There is no point in languishing over Tim. He’ll never come back. □ She wasted half her life languishing over her lost opportunities.

the lap of luxury Fig. a luxurious situation. □ I rather enjoy living in the lap of luxury. □ You call this pigpen the lap of luxury?
lash into
lash down on
lash back (at
lash at
*large as life
Fig.
lapse into
lap (up) against something [for waves] to splash gently against something. □ The dogs lapped at the ice cream up off the floor. □ The dog lapped up the ice cream. 2. Fig. [for someone] to accept or believe something with enthusiasm. □ Of course, they believed it. They just lapped it up. □ They lapped up the lies without questioning anything.
lap (up) against something [for waves] to splash gently against something. □ The waves lapped up against the shore softly.
lapse from grace 1. Lit. to fall out of favor with God. □ The child was told that if he ever smoked even one cigarette, he would lapse from grace for certain. □ It is easy, these days, to lapse from grace. 2. Fig. to fall out of favor. □ Ted lapsed from grace when he left the lobby door unlocked all weekend. □ I have to be there on time every day or I will lapse from grace for sure.
lapse into something to weaken or slip into something, especially a coma. □ The survivor of the crash lapsed into unconsciousness and died.
*large as life Fig. in person; actually, and sometimes surprisingly, present at a place. (*Also: as ~.) □ I thought Jack was away, but there he was as large as life. □ Jean was not expected to appear, but she turned up large as life.
large as life (and twice as ugly) Go to big as life (and twice as ugly).
larger than life Fig. [of someone] having an aura of greatness, perhaps not supported by the real person. □ Perry seemed larger than life to those who had only read about him. To the rest of us, he was a boor. □ To the children, the star athlete who spoke at the school assembly seemed larger than life.
lash against something [for something, such as wind or water] to beat or whip heavily against something. □ The angry waves lashed against the hull of the boat, frightening the people huddled inside. □ The wind lashed against the house and kept us awake all night.
lash at someone or something to thrash or beat someone or something violently. □ The rain lashed at the windows. □ The mule driver lashed at his beasts with his whip.
lash back (at someone or something) to strike or fight back against someone or something—physically or verbally. □ Randy lashed back at his attackers and drove them away. □ If you threaten Fred, he’ll lash back.
lash down on someone or something [for rain] to beat down on someone or something. □ The wind and rain lashed down on us. □ The rain lashed down on the young plants and pounded them into the soil.
lash into someone or an animal to attack someone or an animal—physically or verbally. □ Dad lashed into my brother, who had smashed up the car again. □ Walter lashed into the cat for tearing the upholstery.
lash into something to begin to eat something with vigor. □ Mary lashed into the huge ice cream sundae, and ate almost the whole thing. □ The workers lashed into their lunches and did not say a word until they had finished.
lash out (at someone or something) and lash out (against someone or something) to strike out in defense or attack—physically or verbally. □ Amy was angry with Ed and lashed out at him just to show who was boss. □ She was so angry with him that she just lashed out against him. □ Gretchen was fed up with the cat and lashed out savagely in her anger.
lash someone or something down to tie someone or something down. □ The villain lashed Nell down to the railroad tracks. □ He lashed down the innocent victim. □ Lash that cask down so it doesn’t wash overboard.
lash someone or something to something to tie someone or something to something. □ The boys lashed one of their number to a tree and danced around him like savages. □ Abe lashed the cask to the deck. □ Frank lashed himself to the mast.
lash something about to whip or fling something about violently. □ The big cat lashed its tail threateningly. □ The strong wind lashed the tall grass about.
lash something together to tie something or things together. □ Let’s lash these logs together and make a raft. □ Lash two or three of the poles together to make them stronger.
last but not least Cliché last in sequence, but not last in importance. (Often said when introducing people.) □ The speaker said, “And now, last but not least, I’d like to present Bill Smith, who will give us some final words.” □ And last but not least, here is the final graduate.
last call (for something) and last chance (for something) Fig. the last opportunity for doing, getting, or having something. □ This is the last call for ice cream and cake. It’s almost all gone.
last chance (for something) Go to previous.
last for something 1. to exist for a period of time; to serve or function for a period of time. □ This condition has lasted for some time. □ Enjoy it while you can. It won’t last forever. 2. to hold out or survive for a period of time. □ It’s so hot in here, I don’t think I can last for another minute. □ Can you last for another few minutes while I get this window open? 
last (from something) until something to endure from one point in time to another. □ The meeting lasted from noon until midnight. □ The party lasted until the food ran out.
the last hurrah Fig. a final appearance, as at the end of one's career; the last time for doing something. □ Tom is retiring, and we are having a little party as his last hurrah right now. He won’t be here the next time you visit our offices.
*the last laugh (on someone) Fig. laughter or ridicule at someone who has laughed at or ridiculed you. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ John laughed when I got a D on the final exam. I got the last laugh, though. He failed the course. □ Mr. Smith said I was foolish when I bought an old building. I had the last laugh when I sold it a month later for twice what I paid for it.
last out to hold out; to endure. □ How long can you last out? □ I don’t think we can last out much longer without food and water.
the last roundup Fig. death. (Old West.) □ To everyone’s surprise, he clutched the wound and faced the last roundup
last something out to endure until the end of something.

Ed said that he didn't think he could last the opera out and left. He couldn't lose out the first act.

The last straw and the straw that broke the camel’s back the final difficulty in a series; the last little burden or problem that causes everything to collapse. (From the image of a camel being loaded down with much weight. Finally, at some point, one more straw will be too much and the camel’s back will break.) When our best player came down sick, that was the straw that broke the camel's back. We hoped to make the playoffs, but lost all the rest of our games. When she showed up late a third time, that was the straw that broke the camel's back. We had to fire her.

last will and testament a will; the last edition of someone's will. The lawyer read Uncle Charles's last will and testament to a group of expectant relatives. Fred dictated his last will and testament on his deathbed.

*the last word and *the final word; *the final say Fig. the final point (in an argument); the final decision (in some manner). Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~. The boss gets the last word in hiring. Why do you always have to have the final word in an argument?

*last-ditch effort Fig. a final effort; the last possible attempt. *Typically: be ~; have ~; make ~.) I made one last-ditch effort to get her to stay. It was a last-ditch effort. I didn't expect it to work.

latch on(to someone) to get hold of someone. I don't know where Jane is. Let me try to latch onto her.

latch onto something 1. Fig. to obtain something. (See also latch on(to someone or something).) I have to latch onto a hundred bucks by Friday night. I latch onto a good book reporting plumbing. 2. Fig. to begin to understand something. When Fred finally latched onto the principles of algebra, he began to get better grades. Sue doesn't quite latch onto the proper stance in golf.

The latch string is always out. Fig. You are always welcome. Come by anytime. The latch string is always out. No need to call before you come over. For you folks, the latch string is always out.

a late bloomer 1. Lit. a plant that blooms later than similar plants or that blooms late in the season. There are a few late bloomers in the garden, but by fall, we don't care much anymore about flowers. 2. Fig. a person who finally develops a useful or superior skill or talents later than expected or desired. Joseph was a late bloomer, but turned out to be a formidable scholar in the long run.

late in life Fig. when one is old. Grandma injured her hip running. She's exercising rather late in life. Isn't it sort of late in life for your grandparents to buy a house?

late in the day Fig. far along in a project or activity; too late in a project or action for action, decisions, etc., to be taken. It was a bit late in the day for him to apologize. It's late in the day to try to change the plans.

the late unpleasantness Euph. the U.S. Civil War. The town courthouse was burned in the late unpleasantness. Many of my ancestors lost their lives in the late unpleasantness.

Later, alligator. Go to See you later, alligator.

lather something up to apply thick soapsuds to something, such as part of the body or all of it. He lathered his face up in preparation for shaving. He lathered up his face.

lather up 1. [for a horse] to develop a foam of sweat from working very hard. The horses lathered up heavily during the race. Don't let your horse lather up! 2. [for soap] to develop thick suds when rubbed in water. This soap won't lather up, even when I rub it hard. When the soap lathers up, spread the lather on your face and rub.

lather oneself up [for one] to apply soap lather to one's body. He will spend a few minutes lathering himself up before he rinses. He lathered up and then shaved.

laugh about someone or something to chuckle or giggle loudly about someone or something. Please don't laugh about Sue. It's not funny. They were laughing about my haircut.

laugh all the way to the bank Fig. to be very happy about money that has been earned by doing something that other people might think is unfair or that they criticized. He may not be in the nicest business, but he is doing well and can laugh all the way to the bank. She makes tons of money doing what no one else will do and laughs all the way to the bank.

Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone. Prov. When you are happy, people will want to be around you and share your happiness, but when you are sad, people will avoid you. Nancy: When Harry and I were dating, all our friends invited us places and called to say hello. Now that we've broken up, they treat me as if I don't exist. Jane: Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone.

laugh at someone or something to chuckle or giggle loudly at someone or something, perhaps in ridicule. Thank goodness, the audience laughed at all my jokes. Don't laugh at me! I'm doing my best! Everyone laughed at the love scene because it was so badly done.

laugh away at someone or something to continue to laugh at someone or something. They laughed away at Sue until she fled the room in embarrassment. All the children at the party laughed away at the magician.

laugh in someone's face to laugh in derision directly to someone's face; to show displeasure or ridicule at something one has said by laughing directly into one's face. It is very impolite to laugh in someone's face! After I heard what she had to say, I just laughed in her face.

laugh one's head off Fig. to laugh very hard and loudly, as if one's head might come off. (See also cough one's head off. Fixed order.) The movie was so funny I almost laughed my head off. I laughed my head off at Mary's joke.

laugh oneself out of something to lose out on something because one has made light of it or laughed at it. While you were howling with laughter about my hat, you laughed yourself out of a ride to town. The bus just pulled away. You laugh too much. You just laughed yourself out of a job.

laugh oneself silly Fig. to laugh very, very hard. I laughed myself silly when I heard that Steven was really going to give the graduation address.
laugh out of the other side of one's face and laugh out of the other side of one's mouth Fig. to be forced to take a different or opposite view of something humbly; to sing a different tune. □ When you get the kind of punishment you deserve, you'll laugh out of the other side of your face. □ Phil played a dirty trick on me, but he'll be laughing out of the other side of his mouth when I get through with him.

laugh out of the other side of one's mouth Go to previous.

laugh someone off the stage Fig. to laugh rudely, forcing a person to leave a stage. □ The rude audience laughed the politician off the stage. □ The children laughed the soprano off the stage. She really wasn't very good, you know.

laugh someone or something down¹ to cause someone to quit or cause something to end by laughing in ridicule. □ Her singing career was destroyed when the audience laughed her down as an amateur. □ The cruel audience laughed down the amateur singer. □ They laughed down the magic act also.

laugh someone out of something to force someone to leave a place by laughing in ridicule. □ The citizens laughed the speaker out of the hall. □ We laughed the city council out of the auditorium.

laugh something away¹ 1. to spend an amount of time laughing. □ We laughed the hour away listening to the comedian. □ We laughed away the evening. 2. to get rid of something negative by laughing. □ Kelly knows how to laugh her problems away, and it cheers up the rest of us too. □ She laughed away her problems.

laugh something off² to treat a serious problem lightly by laughing at it. □ Although his feelings were hurt, he just laughed the incident off as if nothing had happened. □ He laughed off the incident.

laugh something out of court to dismiss something presented in earnest as ridiculous. □ The committee laughed the suggestion out of court. □ Bob's request for a large salary increase was laughed out of court.

laugh up one's sleeve to laugh secretly; to laugh quietly to oneself. □ Jane looked very serious, but I knew she was laughing up her sleeve. □ I told Sally that her dress was darling, but I was laughing up my sleeve because her dress was too small.

laugh with something to laugh in a particular manner. □ Everyone was laughing with glee at the antics of the clown. □ Max laughed with malice as he saw his plan beginning to work.

laughingstock someone or something that is the target of ridicule. □ After he passed out at the president's dinner, he became the laughingstock of all his colleagues.

launch forth on something Go to set forth on something.

launch forth ((up)on something) to set out on something; to begin on something, such as a journey or a long lecture or sermon. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ We launched forth on our trip before dawn. □ What time shall we launch forth tomorrow morning?

launch into something to start in doing something. □ Now, don't launch into lecturing me about manners again! □ Tim's mother launched into a sermon about how to behave at the dinner table.

launch (one's lunch) Sl. to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ When I saw that mess, I almost launched my lunch. □ Watch out! She's going to launch!

launch out on something to start out to do something or go somewhere. □ When are you going to launch out on your expedition? □ Ted and Bill launched out on their trip through the mountains.

launch something against someone or something to set something going against someone or something. □ The general launched an attack against the town. □ Claire launched a gossip attack against James.

lavish something (up)on someone to give something freely to someone; to squander something on someone. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The manager lavished all sorts of favors upon the new employee. □ Susan lavished compliments on the cook.

* a law unto oneself Fig. one who ignores laws or rules; one who sets one's own standards of behavior. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ You can't get Bill to follow the rules. He's a law unto himself. □ Jane is a law unto herself. She's totally unwilling to cooperate.

lay a finger on someone or something to touch someone or something, even slightly, as with only a finger. □ Don't you dare lay a finger on my pencil. Go get your own! □ If you lay a finger on me, I'll scream.

lay a guilt trip on someone Go to next.

lay a (heavy) trip on someone 1. Inf. to criticize someone. □ There's no need to lay a trip on me. I agree with you. □ When he finally does get there, I'm going to lay a heavy trip on him like he'll never forget. 2. Inf. to confuse or astonish someone. □ After he laid a heavy trip on me about how the company is almost broke, I cleaned out my desk and left. □ After Mary laid a trip on John about leaving him, all he could do was cry. 3. and lay a guilt trip on someone Inf. to attempt to make someone feel very guilty. □ Why do you have to lay a guilt trip on me? Why don't you go to a shrink? □ Of course, she just had to lay a trip on him about being bossy, self-centered, and aloof. 4. Inf. to reveal serious or devastating information to someone. □ That's a powerful story. I didn't know you were going to lay a heavy trip like that on me. □ Man, you really laid a trip on me.

lay about Go to lay around.

lay alongside something [for a ship] to rest afloat next to something. □ The ship lay alongside a lovely island while a shore party searched for fresh water. □ Our ship lay alongside the narrow wooden pier.

lay an egg 1. Lit. [for a hen, etc.] to deposit an egg. □ Old Red stopped laying eggs, so we stewed her for Sunday dinner. 2. Fig. [for someone] to do something bad or poorly; to perform poorly on stage. □ I guess I really laid an egg, huh? □ The cast laid an egg in both performances.

lay around and lay about to lie around. (Common errors for lie about, lie around.) □ Don't just lay around all day! □ I need to lay around for a few days.

lay claim to something to place a claim on something. □ Do you really think you can lay claim to that money after all these years? □ Someone came by and laid claim to the wallet you found.
lay down** to give up. □ Do you expect me to just lay down? □ You really think I should just lay down and let them walk all over me?

lay down on the job Go to lie down on the job.

lay down one’s arms Fig. to put one’s gun, sword, club, etc., down; to stop fighting; to surrender. □ The prisoners were instructed to lay down their arms. □ The soldiers laid down their arms and surrendered.

lay down one’s life (for someone or something) Fig. to sacrifice one’s life for someone or something. □ Would you lay down your life for your country? □ There aren’t many things for which I’d lay down my life.

lay down the law (to someone) (about something) Fig. to scold someone; to make something very clear to someone in a very stern manner. □ Wow, was she mad at Ed. She really laid down the law about drinking to him. □ She laid down the law to Ed. □ She laid down the law about drinking.

lay emphasis on something and lay stress on something to place emphasis on something; to emphasize something. □ When you present this explanation, lay emphasis on the matter of personal responsibility. □ I’m afraid I laid too much stress on the notion of good attendance. If you are really sick, stay home!

lay eyes on someone or something Go to set eyes on someone or something.

lay for someone or something to lie in wait for someone or something. □ The sheriff was laying for the outlaw. □ Bill was laying for me when I came out of the saloon.

lay hold of someone or something to grasp someone or something with the hands. □ Just wait till I lay hold of Bill! □ I can’t wait to lay hold of that fishing pole. I’m ready to catch a huge fish.

lay in ruins Go to in ruins.

lay into someone or something to attack, consume, or scold someone or something. □ Bob laid into the big plate of fried chicken. □ The bear laid into the hunter. □ My father really laid into me when I got home.

lay it on the line and put it on the line Fig. to make something very clear; to be very definite about something. □ I am going to lay it on the line and you had better listen to me. If you eat any of these mushrooms, you will die. □ I’ve said it before, but this time I’m going to put it on the line. Don’t eat the mushrooms!

lay it on thick and lay it on with a trowel; pour it on thick; spread it on thick Fig. to exaggerate or overstate praise, excuses, or blame. □ Sally was laying it on thick when she said that Tom was the best singer she had ever heard. □ After Bob finished making his excuses, Sally said that he was pouring it on thick. □ Bob always spreads it on thick.

lay it on with a trowel Go to previous.

lay low Go to lie low.

lay low and sing small Rur. to hide; to make oneself inconspicuous. □ After he robbed the bank, the outlaw decided to lay low and sing small awhile. □ Jane is looking for you, and she sure is angry. You’d best lay low and sing small.

the lay of the land 1. Lit. the arrangement of features on an area of land. (Also with lie, especially British English.) □ The surveyor mapped the lay of the land. □ The geologist studied the lay of the land, trying to determine if there was oil below. 2. Fig. the arrangement or organization of something other than land. □ As soon as I get the lay of the land in my new job, things will go better. □ The company’s corporate structure was complex, so understanding the lay of the land took time.

lay off ((from) something) to cease doing something. □ Lay off from your hammering for a minute, will you? □ That’s enough! Please lay off.

lay off (of someone or something) to stop doing something to someone or something; to stop bothering someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Lay off of me! You’ve said enough. □ Please lay off the chicken. I cooked it as best I could.

lay off (someone or something) to leave someone or something alone. □ Lay off the booze for a while, why don’t ya? □ Lay off me! I didn’t do anything!

lay one on Go to tie one on.

lay one’s cards on the table and put one’s cards on the table Fig. to be very candid about one’s position on some issue. (Alludes to laying playing cards on the table, face up, showing the cards.) □ All right. Let’s lay our cards on the table and speak very candidly about this matter. □ It’s time we put our cards on the table and spoke honestly.

lay one’s hands on someone, something, or an animal Go to put one’s hands on someone, something, or an animal.

lay (oneself) down to lie down. □ Just lay yourself down there and try to sleep. □ I’ll lay myself down here for just a few minutes.

lay over (some place) to pause some place during one’s journey. □ I had to lay over in San Antonio for a few hours before my plane left. □ I want a bus that goes straight through. I don’t want to lay over.

lay (some) rubber Sl. to spin one’s car tires when accelerating, leaving black marks on the street. □ At that age all they want to do is get in the car and lay some rubber. □ You wanna know how well I can lay some rubber in this thing?

lay some sweet lines on someone and put some sweet lines on someone Sl. to speak kindly to someone; to soft-soap someone. □ I just laid some sweet lines on her, and she let me use her car. □ If you put some sweet lines on him, maybe he won’t ground you.

lay someone away! Euph. to bury someone. □ Yes, he has passed. We laid him away last week. □ He laid away his uncle in a simple ceremony.

lay someone down to ease someone into a reclining position; to ease someone into bed. □ The baby woke up when I tried to lay him down. □ The nurse laid the disturbed patient down time and time again.

lay someone off! (from something) to put an end to someone’s employment at something. □ The automobile factory laid five hundred people off from work. □ They laid off a lot of people. □ We knew they were going to lay a lot of people off.
lay someone or something in(to) something to place someone or something in something.  □ The women laid the king into the coffin and the funeral procession assembled.  □ The cook laid the salmon in the poaching liquid.

lay someone out1 1. Slang. to knock someone down with a punch; to knock someone unconscious.  □ Tom laid out Bill with one punch to the chin.  □ They laid out their uncle for the wake.  □ The women of the community used to lay their dead out.  2. Slang. to prepare a corpse for burial or for a wake.  □ They laid her to rest by her mother and father, out in the old churchyard.  □ We gather together today to lay our beloved king into the coffin and the funeral procession assembled.

lay someone to rest Euphemism. to bury a dead person.  □ She laid him out in lavender again, just forget it.

lay someone up1 to cause someone to be ill in bed.  □ A broken leg laid me up for two months.  □ Flu laid up everyone at work for a week or more.

lay something against something to lean or place something against something.  □ They laid the Christmas tree against something.  □ They laid the plates down on the table gently.  □ Please lay down your book and listen to me.

lay something alongside ((of) something) to place something next to something else, lengthwise. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.)  □ Please lay the spoon alongside the knife.  □ Find the knife and lay the spoon alongside.

lay something aside1 to set something aside; to place something to one side, out of the way.  □ He laid his papers aside and went out to welcome the visitor.  □ He laid aside his papers.

lay something aside1 for someone or something to put something aside, in reserve, for someone or something.  □ I laid some cake aside for Tom, but someone else got it.  □ I laid aside some cake for Tom.

lay something at someone’s door and put something at someone’s door 1. Fig. to blame a problem on someone; to hold someone responsible for something. (Alludes to someone laying incriminating evidence at the door of a guilty person, perhaps in the night.)  □ I’m laying responsibility for this mess at your door!  □ Don’t put this at my door!  2. Fig. to give or assign a problem to someone for solving.  □ I am going to lay this problem right at your door. You are the one who can settle it.  □ I will put this business at your door and hope you can do something about it.

lay something at someone’s feet and put something at someone’s feet 1. Lit. to place something on the ground in front of someone.  □ The cat came up to me and laid a mouse at my feet.  □ The dog put a rabbit at my feet.  2. Fig. to hold someone responsible for something.  □ I am going to lay this matter at your feet. You are clearly to blame.  □ I will put this matter at your feet. It is your fault.

lay something away1 (for someone) to put something in storage for someone to receive at a later time. (Often said of a purchase that is held until it is paid for.)  □ Please lay this away for me. I’ll pay for it when I have the money.  □ Please lay away this coat until I can get the money together.

lay something before someone 1. Lit. to present something to someone.  □ The cat laid the mouse before her mistress.  □ Dave laid the present before her as a peace offering.  2. Fig. to present something for someone to judge.  □ All you can do is lay the matter before the teacher and hope for a favorable response.  □ I want to lay this before you and let you decide.

lay something by Go to put something by.

lay something down1 (on something) to place something down on something.  □ Lay the plates down on the table gently.  □ Please lay down your book and listen to me.

lay something for someone or something to prepare something for someone or something.  □ She laid a lovely picnic for the two of them.  □ Would you lay the table for dinner for our guests?

lay something in1 to get something and store it for future use.  □ They laid a lot of food in for the holidays.  □ We always lay in a large supply of firewood each November.

lay something on1 to supply something in abundance.  □ Look at him lay that butter on! What do you suppose the sides of his arteries look like?  □ They laid on a beautiful buffet lunch.

lay something on someone 1. Slang. to present a plan or an idea to someone.  □ Here is this century’s greatest idea. Let me lay it on you.  □ I’m going to lay a great idea on you.  2. Slang. to attempt to make someone feel guilty about something.  □ Don’t lay that stuff on me. Face your own problem.  □ Every week she calls up to lay a guilt trip on me about something or other.  3. Go to lay something on someone or something.

lay something on someone or something to place something on someone or something; to cover someone or something with something.  □ As soon as he breathed his last, the nurse laid a cloth on him.  □ Ken laid the bundle of flowers on the coffee table.

lay something out1 1. Lit. to spread something out.  □ The nurse laid the instruments out for the operation.  □ The valet laid out the clothing for his employer.  2. Fig. to explain a plan of action or a sequence of events.  □ Let me lay it out for you.  □ Lay out the plan very carefully, and don’t skip anything.  3. Fig. to spend some amount of money.  □ I can’t lay that kind of money out every day!  □ She laid out about $24,000 for that car.

lay something out1 on someone or something and lay something out1 for someone or something Fig. to spend an amount of money on someone or something.  □ We laid out nearly ten thousand dollars on that car.  □ We laid a fortune out on the children.

lay something over someone or something to cover someone or something with something.  □ Here, lay this blanket over the baby.  □ Please lay a napkin over the bread before you take it to the table.

lay something to rest Go to put something to rest.

lay something to something to attribute something to something.  □ I lay all our problems to the inadequacy of our training.  □ Mary laid her success to a good upbringing.
lay something to waste and lay waste to something Fig. to destroy something; to ruin or mess up something. □ The invaders laid the village to waste. □ The kids came in and laid waste to my clean house.

lay something together to lay things side by side. □ Lay all the logs together and stack them as high as you can. □ Lay the red ones together and put all the others over there in a pile.

lay something under something to place something beneath something. □ Please lay a cloth under your workbench to catch the sawdust. □ Would you mind laying a sheet of plastic over the table?

lay something up! 1. to acquire and store something. □ Try to lay as much of it up as you can. □ I am trying to try up some firewood for the winter. 2. [for something] to disable something. □ The accident laid up the ship for repairs. □ A wreck laid the bus up for months.

lay stress on something Go to lay emphasis on something.

lay the blame (for something) on someone Fig. to place the blame for something on someone. □ We could not possibly lay the blame for the accident on you. □ Don't try to lay the blame on me!

lay the blame on someone or something Go to put the blame on someone or something.

lay the finger on someone or something Go to put the finger on someone.

lay to to begin doing something, such as fighting or eating. □ All right, you guys. Lay to. The stuff will get cold if you don't eat it. □ Lay to! Let's get on with it.

lay waste to something Go to lay something to waste.

laze something away to spend a period of time being lazy. □ I just love to sit here and laze the day away. □ I will laze away the entire day.

leach away [for something] to erode or wash away gradually by leaching. □ The soft sandstone leached away under the constant rains. □ The flowerpots sat out in the rain, and nothing would grow.

leach in(to something) [for a substance] to seep or penetrate into something. □ The salt leached into the soil and ruined it. □ A tremendous amount of salt leached in.

leach out of something [for a substance] to seep or drain out of something. □ All the nutrients leached out of the soil and nothing would grow. □ The phosphorus leached out of the soil after a few years.

leach something away! from something and leach something out of something; leach something away! from something to remove something from something by leaching. □ The heavy rains leached nutrients away from the soil. □ The rains leached away the nutrients.

lead a dog's life and live a dog's life Fig. to lead a drab or boring life. □ Poor Jane really leads a dog's life. □ I've been working so hard. I'm tired of living a dog's life.

lead back (to some place) [for a pathway] to return to a place. □ This path leads back to the camp. □ I hope it leads back. It seems to be going the wrong way.

lead down to something [for a pathway or other trail] to run downward to something. □ The trail led down to a spring at the bottom of the hill. □ These stairs lead down to the furnace room.

lead forth [for someone] to go on ahead; to precede someone. □ You lead forth, and I will follow. □ Wallace led forth, but no one came after him.

lead in(to something) 1. to begin something; to work into something. □ Let me lead into the first number with a little talk about the composer. □ I'll lead in, then you pick up the melody. 2. to make a transition into something; to segue into something. □ Now, we will lead into the second scene with a little soft orchestral music. □ The soft music will lead in, then the curtains will open.

lead off to be the first one to go or leave. □ You lead off. I'll follow. □ Mary led off and the others followed closely behind.

lead off (with someone or something) [for a person, process, or performance] to begin with someone or something. □ The musical revue led off with a bassoon trio. □ Sharon, the singer, will lead off tonight.

lead on to continue to lead onward. □ The guide led on and we followed. □ Lead on, my friend. We are right behind you!

lead someone astray to direct or guide someone in the wrong direction. □ I am afraid that this young man has been leading you astray. I think you had better stop seeing him. □ No one can lead me astray. I know what I am doing.

lead someone by something to guide someone by grasping a part and moving. □ Do you expect me to lead you around by the hand, showing you everything to do in your job? □ The cop grabbed Max and led him around by the collar.

lead someone by the nose 1. Fig. to force someone to go somewhere (with you); to lead someone by coercion. □ John had to lead Tom by the nose to get him to the opera. □ I'll go, but you'll have to lead me by the nose. 2. Fig. to guide someone very carefully and slowly. (As if the person were not very smart.) □ He will never find his way through the tax form unless you lead him by the nose. □ Don't lead me by the nose! I'm coming!

lead someone down (something) to help someone down something, such as stairs, a steep path, a ladder, etc. □ The usher led the couple down the aisle and seated them at the front. □ I am going to the cellar myself. Let me lead you down.

lead someone down the garden path and lead someone up the garden path to deceive someone. □ Now, be honest with me. Don't lead me down the garden path. □ That cheater really led her up the garden path.

lead someone down to something to guide someone downward to something. □ She led us down to a little room in the cellar, where the old trunk had been kept for all these years. □ Would you please lead me down to the wine cellar?

lead someone into something and lead someone in! to guide someone into something or some place. □ The usher led us into the darkened theater and showed us our seats. □ She led in the children. □ We led them in.

lead someone on 1. to guide someone onward. □ We led him on so he could see more of the gardens. □ Please lead Mary on. There is lots more to see here. 2. and lead someone on! to tease someone; to encourage someone's roman-
tic or sexual interest without sincerity. □ You are just leading me on! □ It's not fair to continue leading him on. □ It's easy to lead on teenage boys.

lead someone on a merry chase Fig. to lead someone in a purposeless pursuit. □ What a waste of time. You really led me on a merry chase. □ Jane led Bill on a merry chase trying to find an antique lamp.

lead someone or an animal out of something and lead someone or an animal out† to guide someone or an animal out of something or some place. □ Someone finally led the hiker out of the valley or he would still be there now. □ She led out the striking workers.

lead someone or an animal to something to guide someone or an animal to something or some place. □ Would you lead Paul to the place where the trunks are kept? □ Is so old that we had to lead her to her food.

lead someone or something against someone or something to manage someone or a group in an attack on someone or something. □ The general led the entire company against the troops holding the city. □ They led two platoons against the enemy position.

lead someone or something (away') (from someone or something) to direct or guide someone or something away from someone or something. □ The officer led the victim's wife away from the accident. □ The trainer led away the dog from the other animals. □ We led them away.

lead someone or something back† (to someone or something) to guide someone or something back to someone or something. □ Someone will have to lead me back to camp. I just know I'll get lost if I go by myself. □ The park ranger led back the hikers to their tent. □ I will lead them back.

lead someone or something forth† (to bring or usher someone or something forward. □ The captain led the soldiers forth to the parade ground. □ They led forth the army into battle.

lead someone or something off† to guide someone or something away. □ The guide led the hikers off on the adventure of their lives. □ The dog owners led off their animals and they awaited the decision of the judges.

lead someone to believe something Fig. to imply something to someone; to cause someone to believe something untrue. □ But you led me to believe that this watch was lead to by someone! □ Did you lead her to believe that she was hired as a clerk?

lead someone to do something Fig. to cause someone to do something. □ This agent led me to purchase a worthless piece of land. □ My illness led me to quit my job.

lead someone up something to guide someone upward along some route. □ Would you please lead Tom up the path so he can leave his things at the cabin on the hill? □ Mary led the visitors up the stairs to the loft, which she had recently redecorated.

lead someone up the garden path Go to lead someone down the garden path.

lead the life of Riley and live the life of Riley Fig. to live in luxury. (No one knows who Riley alludes to.) □ If I had a million dollars, I could live the life of Riley. □ The treasurer took our money to Mexico, where he lived the life of Riley until the police caught him.

lead the way to lead (someone) along the proper pathway. □ You lead the way, and we'll follow. □ I feel better when you're leading the way. I get lost easily.

lead up to something 1. Lit. to aim at or route movement to something. □ A narrow path led up to the door of the cottage. □ This road leads up to the house at the top of the hill. 2. Fig. to prepare to say something; to lay the groundwork for making a point. (Typically with the present participle.) □ I was just leading up to telling you what happened when you interrupted. □ I knew she was leading up to something, the way she was talking.

lead with someone or something to start out with someone or something. □ The coach led with Walter as pitcher and Sam on first base. □ We will lead with our best players.

lead with something to tend to strike first with a particular fist—the right, the left, the best, etc. (Boxing.) □ Watch that guy, Champ, he always leads with his right. □ Get in there and lead with your left.

leading question a question that suggests the kind of answer that the person who asks it wants to hear. □ The mayor was angered by the reporter's leading questions. □ “Don't you think that the police are failing to stop crime?” is an example of a leading question.

a lead-pipe cinch Fig. something very easy to do; something entirely certain to happen. □ I knew it was a lead-pipe cinch that I would be selected to head the publication committee.

leaf out [for a plant] to open its leaf buds. □ Most of the bushes leaf out in mid-April. □ The trees leafed out early this year.

leaf through something Go to thumb through something.

leak in(to something) [for a fluid] to work its way into something. □ Some of the soapy water leaked into the soil. □ The rainwater is leaking in!

leak out [for information] to become known unofficially. □ I hope that news of the new building does not leak out before the contract is signed. □ When the story leaked out, my telephone would not stop ringing.

leak out of something Fig. to seep out of something or some place. □ Some of the brake fluid leaked out of the car and made a spot on the driveway. □ Look under the car. Something's leaking out.

leak something (out) and let something (get) out Fig. to disclose special information to the press so that the resulting publicity will accomplish something. (Usually said of government disclosures. Also used for accidental disclosures.) □ Don't leak that information out. □ I don't want to be the one to leak it.

leak something to someone Fig. to tell [otherwise secret] information to someone. □ The government leaked a phony story to the press just to see how far it would travel. □ The government leaks things to the press occasionally, just to see the reaction.

leak through something [for a fluid] to seep through something. □ Rainwater leaked through the roof. □ I was afraid that the crushed orange would leak through the paper bag.

lean across someone or something to incline oneself across someone or something. □ She leaned across me to reach
the telephone and spilled my wine. □ Laura leaned across the table and knocked my coffee over.

**lean against someone or something** to prop oneself against someone or something. □ The child leaned against her sister to keep warm. □ I leaned against the back of the chair and went right to sleep.

**lean and mean** Fig. fit and ready for hard, efficient work. □ Dave got himself lean and mean and is ready to play in Saturday’s game. □ The management is lean and mean and looks to turn a profit next year.

**lean back** [for someone] to recline backwards, usually in a chair. □ Lean back and make yourself comfortable. □ Let’s lean back and be comfortable.

**lean back (against someone or something)** to recline backwards, putting weight on someone or something. □ Just lean back against me. I will prevent you from falling. □ Relax and lean back. Nothing bad is going to happen.

**lean back (on someone or something)** to recline backwards, pressing on someone or something. □ Don’t lean back on me! I’m not a chair! □ Lean back on the couch and tell me what you are thinking.

**lean down** to bend over. □ Lean down and tie your shoe before you trip. □ He leaned down and picked something up from the floor.

**lean forward** to bend forward. □ Lean forward a minute so I can put a cushion behind your back. □ When Betsy leaned forward, she lost her balance and fell.

**lean in(to something)** to incline or press into something. □ You have to lean into the wind when you walk or you will be blown over. □ As you walk into the wind, lean in a little bit. □ The north wall of the barn leans in a little. Is it going to fall?

**lean on someone** Fig. to try to make someone do something; to coerce someone to do something. (From lean on someone or something.) □ If she refuses to do it, lean on her a bit. □ Don’t lean on me! I don’t have to do it if I don’t want to.

**lean on someone or something** 1. Lit. to incline or press on someone or something. □ Don’t lean on me. I’m not strong enough to support both of us. □ Lean on the wall and rest a little while. 2. Fig. to depend on someone or something. □ You lean on your parents too much. You must be more independent. □ You can’t lean on the government forever.

**lean out of something** to hang or bend out of something or some place. □ She leaned out of the window so she could watch what was going on. □ Don’t lean out of the car window. You will fall.

**lean over 1.** to bend over. □ Lean over and pick the pencil up yourself! I’m not your servant! □ As Kelly leaned over to tie her shoes, her chair slipped out from under her. 2. to tilt over. □ The fence leaned over and almost fell. □ As the wind blew, the tree leaned over farther and farther.

**lean over backwards (to do something)** Go to fall over backwards (to do something).

**lean something against someone or something** to prop something against someone or something. □ She leaned her spade against the house and wiped the sweat from her brow. □ Bill leaned the mirror against his leg while he screwed the hook into the wall.

**lean something forward** to tilt or bend something forward. □ Lean the board forward a little bit, please. □ Someone leaned this panel forward a little too much.

*lean times (ahead) Fig. a future period of lowered income or revenue; a future period when there will be shortages of goods and suffering. (*Typically: be ~; cause ~; have ~; mean ~.) □ The economy is going sour which means lean times ahead.

**lean toward** doing something to tend toward doing something; to favor doing something. □ The union is leaning toward accepting the proposal. □ My friends leaned toward swimming instead of shopping.

**lean toward someone or something** 1. to incline toward someone or something. □ Tom is leaning toward Randy. I think he is going to fall on him. □ The tree is leaning toward the edge of the cliff. It will fall eventually. 2. to tend to favor [choosing] someone or something. □ I am leaning toward Sarah as the new committee head. □ I’m leaning toward a new committee.

**lean at someone or something** 1. to jump toward someone or something. □ The grasshopper leapt at me and scared me to death. □ The cat leapt at the mouse and caught it. 2. to accept or choose someone or something eagerly. □ We leapt at Carl when his department offered him to us. □ When we had the chance to hire Carl, we leapt at it.

**lean at the chance (to do something)** Go to next.

**lean at the opportunity (to do something) and leap at the chance (to do something); jump at the chance (to do something); jump at the opportunity (to do something)** Fig. to accept an opportunity eagerly. □ Frank leapt at the opportunity to become a commercial artist. □ It was a great idea and we leapt at the opportunity. □ I would leap at the chance to go to Moscow. □ His company proposed to send him to England, and John jumped at the chance.

**lean down (from something)** to hop down from something or some place. □ The performer leapt down from the stage and ran up the aisle. □ She leapt down and ran away.

**lean for joy and jump for joy** Fig. to jump up because one is happy; to be very happy. □ Tommy leapt for joy because he had won the race. □ We all leap for joy when we heard the news.

**lean forward** to jump or hop forward. □ The little creature leapt forward and looked carefully at us. □ As the frog leapt forward, the kitten jumped straight up and fled.

* a **lean of faith** Fig. acceptance of an idea or conclusion largely on faith. (*Typically: be ~; make ~; require ~.) □ We had to make quite a leap of faith to accept his promise after the last time he let us down.

**lean out of something** to jump outward from something. □ A mouse leapt out of the cereal box and frightened everyone. □ I opened the box and a mouse leapt out.

**lean over something** to jump over something. □ The dog leapt over the hedge and chased the rabbit around the corner of the house. □ Please don’t leap over my roses. You’ll damage them.

**lean to conclusions** Go to jump to conclusions.
leap up to jump upwards. □ The dog leapt up and licked my cheek. □ I leapt up so I could see over the wall for just a second.

learn a thing or two (about someone or something) Go to a thing or two (about someone or something).

learn about someone or something to find out about someone or something. □ What have you learned about Mr. Franklin and his business dealings? □ I learned about what causes rain.

learn by something to learn [something] from some kind of actual experience. □ The best way to learn is to learn by doing. □ The best way to learn to sail is to learn by sailing.

learn from someone or something to learn [something] from the experience of someone or something. □ Pay attention to what Sarah does. I think you can learn from her. □ This was quite an experience, and we all can learn from it.

learn of someone or something to find out about someone or something. □ I'm not in the telephone book. How did you learn of me? □ How did you learn of our company?

learn something by heart Fig. to learn something so well that it can be written or recited without thinking; to memorize something. □ The director told me to learn my speech by heart. □ I had to go over it many times before I learned it by heart.

learn something by rote Fig. to learn something by memorizing without giving any thought to what is being learned. □ I learned history by rote; then I couldn't pass the test that required me to think. □ If you learn things by rote, you'll never understand them.

learn something from someone or something to find out from someone or something. □ I don't know when the children are due to arrive. See what you can learn from Walter. □ I am sure we can learn something from this experience.

learn something from the bottom up Fig. to learn something thoroughly, from the very basics; to learn all aspects of something, even the least important ones. □ I learned my business from the bottom up. □ I started out sweeping the floors and learned everything from the bottom up.

learn (something) the hard way and find (something) out the hard way to learn something by experience, especially by an unpleasant experience. (As opposed to learning in school, from reading, etc.) □ She learned how to make investments the hard way. □ I wish I didn't have to learn things the hard way. □ I found out the hard way that it's difficult to work and go to school at the same time.

learn the ropes Go to the ropes.

learn to live with something Fig. to learn to adapt to something unpleasant or painful. □ Finally the doctor told Marion that she was going to have to learn to live with her arthritis. □ The floor plan of the house we bought is not as spacious as we had thought, but we will learn to live with it.

learn the tricks of the trade Go to the tricks of the trade.

a learning experience Go to a growth experience.

lease something back1 to sell something, then rent it from the buyer. □ We sold the building to a real estate firm and then leased it back. There was some tax saving involved. □ We leased back the building.

lease something from someone to rent something from someone. □ We decided to lease the building from the owner rather than buying it. □ The company always leases its cars from the dealership.

lease something (out1) to someone to rent something to someone. □ The company leases cars out to its customers. □ Can you lease this building to me for two years? □ Lease out only the first two floors.

the least little thing the smallest possible thing. □ He gets upset over the least little thing. □ When she was a girl, she would throw a tantrum over the least little thing.

least of all the thing of smallest importance. (Compare this with most of all.) □ There were many things wrong with the new house. Least of all, the water faucets leaked. □ What a bad day. Many things went wrong, but least of all, I tore my shirt.

leave a bad taste in someone's mouth [for something] to leave a bad feeling or memory with someone. □ The whole business about the missing money left a bad taste in his mouth. □ It was a very nice hotel, but something about it left a bad taste in my mouth.

leave a lot to be desired Cliché to be lacking something important; to be inadequate. (A polite way of saying that something is bad.) □ This report leaves a lot to be desired. □ I'm sorry to have to fire you, Mary, but your work leaves a lot to be desired.

leave a paper trail Go to a paper trail.

leave a sinking ship Go to desert a sinking ship.

leave ahead of time Go to ahead of time.

leave an impression (on someone) and leave someone with an impression Fig. to provide a lasting memory for someone after one has left. (Akin to make an impression on someone.) □ Her performance was less than stunning. She didn't leave a very good impression on us.

leave for some place to depart for some place. □ We will leave for Denver at dawn. □ When do we leave for Grandma's house?

leave go of someone or something Inf. to let go of someone or something. (Usually considered nonstandard.) □ Leave go of me! □ Leave go of my hand!

leave in a body Go to in a body.

leave it at that to leave a situation as it is. □ This is the best we can do. We'll have to leave it at that. □ I can do no more. I will have to leave it at that.

leave it to someone to depend on someone to behave in a certain way. □ Leave it to Harry to mess things up. □ She did it wrong again. Leave it to Janet! □ Jane: Will you do this as soon as possible? Mary: Leave it to me.

Leave me alone! Stop harassing me! Don't bother me! □ John: You did it. You're the one who always does it. Bill: Leave me alone! I never did it. □ Fred: Let's give Bill a dunk in the pool. Bill: Leave me alone!

leave no stone unturned Fig. to search in all possible places. (As if one might search under every rock.) □ Don't worry. We'll find your stolen car. We'll leave no stone unturned.
unturned. □ In searching for a nice place to live, we left no stone unturned.

a leave of absence a period of time away from one's job, with the employer's permission. □ Mr. Takaguchi is on leave of absence because he is going back to school. □ His leave of absence is expected to end next month.

leave off something to quit something. □ I have to leave off working for a while so I can eat. □ I left off reading and went downstairs for supper.

leave one's mark on someone Fig. [for someone like a teacher] to affect the behavior and performance of another person. □ The wise professor left her mark on her students. □ My father left his mark on me, and I will always remember all his good advice.

leave one to one's fate to abandon someone to whatever may happen—possibly death or some other unpleasant event. □ We couldn't rescue the miners and were forced to leave them to their fate. □ Please don't try to help. Just go away and leave me to my fate.

leave one to one's own devices and leave one to one's own resources Fig. to make one rely on oneself. □ I am sure that she will manage if we leave her to her own devices. □ I will leave her to her own resources and everything will turn out fine.

leave one to one's own resources Go to previous.

leave oneself wide open for something and leave oneself wide open to something Fig. to invite criticism or joking about oneself; to fail to protect oneself from criticism or ridicule. □ Yes, that was a harsh remark, Jane, but you left yourself wide open to me. □ I can't complain about your joke. I left myself wide open for it.

leave some loose ends Go to some loose ends.

leave someone at loose ends Go to at loose ends.

leave someone cold to leave someone unaffected or bored. □ He said it was dull, and it left him cold. □ The music's good, but the story left the producer cold.

leave someone flat 1. Fig. to fail to entertain or stimulate someone. □ Your joke left me flat. □ We listened carefully to his lecture, but it left us flat. 2. Fig. to leave someone without any money—flat broke. □ Paying all my bills left me flat. □ The robber took all my money and left me flat. 3. Fig. to leave someone completely and suddenly alone. □ I was at the dance with Harry, but when he met Alice, he left me flat. □ They just walked off and left us flat.

leave someone for dead to abandon someone as being dead. (The abandoned person may actually be alive.) □ He looked so bad that they almost left him for dead. □ As the soldiers turned—leaving the enemy captain for dead—the captain fired at them.

leave someone high and dry 1. Lit. [for water] to recede and leave someone untouched. □ The waters receded and left us high and dry. 2. Fig. to leave someone unsupported and unable to maneuver; to leave someone helpless. □ All my workers quit and left me high and dry. □ All the children ran away and left Billy high and dry to take the blame for the broken window. 3. Fig. to leave someone flat broke. □ Mrs. Franklin took all the money out of the bank and left Mr. Franklin high and dry. □ Paying the bills always leaves me high and dry.

leave someone holding the bag and leave someone holding the baby Fig. to allow someone to take all the blame; to leave someone appearing to be guilty. □ They all ran off and left me holding the bag. It wasn't even my fault. □ It was all the mayor's fault, but he wasn't left holding the bag.

leave someone in peace to stop bothering someone; to go away and leave someone alone. (Does not necessarily mean to go away from a person.) □ Please go—leave me in peace. □ Can't you see that you're upsetting her? Leave her in peace.

leave someone in the lurch Fig. to leave someone waiting for or anticipating your actions. □ Where were you, John? You really left me in the lurch. □ I didn't mean to leave you in the lurch. I thought we had canceled our meeting.

leave someone or some creature out in the cold Go to out in the cold.

leave someone or something alone Go to let someone or something alone.

leave someone or something (at) some place 1. to abandon someone or something at some place. □ Don't leave me here by myself! □ Betty left her newspaper at the table, hoping someone else would enjoy it. 2. to allow someone or something to remain at some place. □ You leave me here and go on ahead. □ Please leave your packages at the door. 3. to allow someone or something to stay behind through forgetfulness. □ I left my glasses behind on my desk. □ I was left at the movie theater by mistake.

leave someone or something be Go to let someone or something alone.

leave someone or something behind to fail or forget to bring someone or something along. □ John was sick, so we had to leave him behind. □ Oh, I left my money behind.

leave someone or something hanging (in midair) and keep someone or something hanging (in midair) 1. Lit. to keep someone or something suspended in midair when support for the person or thing is removed. □ The ladder collapsed and left me hanging in midair. Fortunately, I grabbed onto the windowsill. 2. Fig. to suspend dealing with someone or something; to leave someone or something waiting to be finished or continued. □ She left her sentence hanging in midair. □ Tell me the rest of the story. Don't leave me hanging in midair.

leave someone or something in one's hands Fig. to give one control or responsibility for someone or something. □ You left the whole project in my hands! □ I have to leave the care of baby in your hands while I go to the doctor.

leave someone or something in someone's care Go to in the care of someone.

leave someone or something in (something) to permit someone or something to remain in something. □ We left the children in the house while we went out to greet the guests. □ Did you leave the dog in the car? □ Poor puppy! I didn't mean to leave you in.

leave someone or something in the care of someone Go to in the care of someone.

leave someone or something in the trust of someone Go to in the trust of someone.
leave someone or something out of something and leave someone or something out! to neglect to include someone or something in something. □ Please leave me out of it. □ Can I leave John out this time? □ Leave out the last two eggs.

leave someone or something to someone to give or abandon someone or something to someone. □ I leave Mr. Franklin to you. Good luck in dealing with him. □ I leave the whole problem to you. Good luck.

leave someone or something under someone's care Go to in the care of someone.

leave someone or something with someone or something to allow someone or something to remain with someone or something. □ Can I leave Jimmy with you while I shop? □ Do you mind if I leave my papers with the committee, just in case they have time to look at them?

leave someone sitting pretty Go to sitting pretty.

leave someone, something, or some creature alone and let someone, something, or some creature alone; leave someone, something, or some creature be; let someone, something, or some creature be to stop bothering someone or something. □ Don't torment the cat. Leave it alone. □ I don't want your help. Let me alone. □ Don't argue about it. Let it be!

leave someone to it to withdraw and allow someone to finish something alone. □ I hate to leave before the job is finished, but I'll have to leave you to it. □ I will leave them to it. I have to go home now.

leave someone up in the air Fig. to leave someone waiting for a decision. □ Please don't leave me up in the air. I want to know what's going to happen to me. □ Nothing was decided, and they left me up in the air.

leave someone with an impression Go to leave an impression (on someone).

leave something aside! 1. to leave something in reserve. □ Leave some of the sugar aside for use in the icing. □ Leave aside some cookies too. 2. to ignore something, especially a fact. □ Let's leave the question of who will pay for it aside for a while. □ We will leave aside the current situation and talk about the future.

leave something down to leave something in a lowered or low position. □ Leave the window down, please. It's hot in this car. □ Leave the window down. This house is cold enough as it is.

leave something for another occasion and keep something for another occasion to hold something back for later. (Occasion can be replaced with time, day, person, etc.) □ Please leave some cake for another day. □ Don't eat all the cheese. Leave some for another occasion. □ I have to leave some of my earnings for next month.

leave something for someone or an animal to allow something to remain for the use of someone or an animal. □ I will leave this bread here for you, so you won't starve. □ Don't clean it up. Leave it for the dog.

leave something in limbo Go to in limbo.

leave something in ruins Go to in ruins.

leave something in the back of someone's mind Go to in the back of someone's mind.

leave something (lying) around and leave something (lying) about to permit something to lie around unguarded; to leave something somewhere carelessly. □ Don't leave your clothes lying around. Hang them up. □ Don't leave stuff lying about!

leave something on1 1. to continue to wear some article of clothing. □ I think I will leave my coat on. It's chilly in here. □ I'll leave on my coat. 2. to allow something [that can be turned off] to remain on. □ Who left the radio on? □ Please leave on the light for me.

leave something on someone or something to allow something to remain on someone or something. □ Leave the coats on the children. We are taking them out to a movie almost immediately. □ Who left this book on the table?

leave something on someone's shoulders Go to on someone's shoulders.

leave something open to leave a date or time unscheduled. □ I left something open on Friday, just in case we want to leave work early. □ Please leave an appointment open for Mrs. Wallace next week. She will be calling in to our office for an appointment.

leave something to chance to allow something to be settled by chance. □ Plan your day. Don't leave anything to chance. □ It is not a good idea to leave any of this to chance.

leave something to someone 1. Lit. to will something to someone. □ My grandfather left his house to my mother. □ I will leave this watch to one of my grandchildren. 2. to assign work to or reserve a task for someone. □ I will leave this last little bit of the job to you. □ Can I leave this last part to Carl to finish? 3. Go to leave it to someone.

leave something up1 to leave something in a raised or high position. □ It's still warm in here. Please leave the window up. □ Please leave up the window. It's so hot!

leave something up in the air Fig. to leave a matter undecided. (Alludes to something drifting in the air, moving neither up nor down.) □ Let's get this settled now. I don't want to leave anything up in the air over the weekend. □ The whole matter was left up in the air for another week.

leave something up to someone or something Go to up to someone or something.

leave the door open (for something) Fig. to provide for the possibility that something might happen. □ I think that the matter is completely settled, although we have left the door open for one or two last-minute changes.

leave the room 1. to go out of the room. □ I had to leave the room to get drinks for everyone. 2. Euph. to leave to go to the toilet. □ I have to leave the room. I'll be back in a minute.

leave them rolling in the aisles Go to rolling in the aisles.

leave well enough alone Go to let well enough alone.

leave with someone to depart in the company of someone. □ I left with Frank early in the evening and did not see what happened to Tom and Edna. □ Mary is gone. She left with Gerald.

leave word for someone to do something Fig. to leave a message or a request for someone. (See also leave word (with someone)). □ I left word for you to come to my office. □ We left word for her to hurry up and come home.

leave word (with someone) Fig. to leave a message with someone (who will pass the message on to someone else).
lecture at someone (about something) to talk to someone about something in the manner of a lecture. □ There is no need to lecture at me about the problem. I know how serious the matter is. □ Don’t lecture at me all the time!

lecture someone for something to give someone a talking-to about something. □ Please don’t lecture me for being late. It won’t help now, will it? □ There is no point in lecturing us for something we didn’t do.

lecture ((to) someone) about someone or something and lecture (to) someone on something 1. to give an instructional speech to someone about someone or something. □ He always lectured his children about their duty to vote. □ She lectured to all her classes on employment opportunities. 2. to scold someone about someone or something. □ Please don’t lecture me about my behavior. □ I like Ted! Don’t lecture about him.

 leer at someone to gaze at someone flirtatiously or with lust. □ Why are you leering at that woman in the bikini? □ Stop leering at me!

left and right Go to right and left.

The left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing. Prov. One part of an organization does not know what another part is doing. (Biblical.) □ It was evident that the left hand did not know what the right hand was doing when we planned our potluck dinner party, since everyone brought dessert and no one brought a main dish.

left-handed compliment Go to backhanded compliment.

*a leg up Fig. a kind of help where someone provides a knee or crossed hand as a support for someone to place a foot on to get higher, as in mounting a horse or climbing over something. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I gave her a leg up, and soon she was on her horse. □ Can I give you a leg up? □ Could I please have a leg up?

*a leg up on someone Fig. an advantage that someone else does not have. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I have a leg up on Walter when it comes to getting around town, since I have a car. □ I want to practice indoors all winter and get a leg up on Ken, since he thinks he can beat me at tennis.

a legend in one’s own (life)time Fig. someone who is very famous and widely known for doing something special. □ The young golfer became a legend in his own lifetime.

legislate against something to prohibit something; to pass a law against something. □ You can’t just legislate against something. You have to explain to people why they shouldn’t do it. □ The Congress has just legislated against insolvent banks.

legislate for something to pass a law that tries to make something happen. □ The candidate pledged to legislate for tax relief. □ We support your efforts to legislate for lower taxes.

legwork the physical work accompanying a task. □ I don’t mind making the phone calls if you do the legwork. □ I have a gopher to do the legwork for me.

lend a hand (to someone) Go to lend (someone) a hand.

lend an ear to someone or something and lend your ear to someone or something Fig. to listen to someone or what someone has to say. □ Lend an ear to me and I will tell you a story. □ Lend your ear to what I am saying.

lend color to something Fig. to provide an interesting accompaniment for something. □ Your clever comments lent a great deal of color to the slide show of your vacation. □ The excellent master of ceremonies will lend color to any otherwise dry panel discussion.

lend oneself or itself to something Fig. [for someone or something] to be adaptable to something; [for someone or something] to be useful for something. □ This room doesn’t lend itself to bright colors. □ John doesn’t lend himself to casual conversation. □ I don’t think that this gown lends itself to outdoor occasions.

lend (someone) a hand and lend a hand (to someone) Fig. to give someone some help, not necessarily with the hands. □ Could you lend me a hand with this piano? I need to move it across the room. □ Could you lend me a hand with this math assignment? □ I’d be happy to lend a hand.

lend someone a hand with something Fig. to help someone with something. (This need not involve “hands.”) □ Could you please lend us a hand with this? □ Can I lend you a hand with that?

lend something out1 (to someone) to allow someone to borrow something. □ I lent my tuxedo out to a friend who was going to a dance, and now I haven’t anything to wear to the opera. □ I lent out my copy of the book. □ Sorry, I lent it out.

lend something to someone to make a loan of something to someone. □ Never lend money to a friend. □ Would you be able to lend your coat to Fred?

lend your ear to someone or something Go to lend an ear to someone or something.

Lend your money and lose your friend. Prov. You should not lend money to your friends; if you do, either you will have to bother your friend to repay the loan, which will make your friend resent you, or your friend will not repay the loan, which will make you resent your friend. □ Bill: Joe needs a hundred dollars to pay his landlord. I’m thinking about lending it to him. Alan: Lend your money and lose your friend.

lengthen out to stretch or grow longer. □ The days began to lengthen out and we knew summer was upon us. □ As we approached the end of the trail, the distance seemed to lengthen out.

A leopard cannot change his spots. Prov. One cannot change the basic way one is. □ Bill may say he’ll stop being so jealous after Cindy marries him, but I doubt he will. A leopard can’t change his spots.

Less is more. Cliché fewer or small is better. □ Simplicity now rules our lives. Less is more. Smaller houses and cars. The world will be a better place!

The less said (about something), the better. Prov. A way of indicating that you think something should not be talked about any further. □ Jane: How are things going with your divorce proceedings? Ellen: The less said, the better. □ The less said about my financial situation, the better.
less than pleased displeased. □ We were less than pleased to learn of your comments. □ Bill was less than pleased at the outcome of the election.

the lesser of the two the smaller one (of two); the one having the lesser amount. □ The last two pieces of pie were not quite the same size, and I chose the lesser of the two. □ Faced with a basket containing too much and one with too little, Tom chose the lesser.

the lesser of two evils the less bad thing of a pair of bad things. □ I didn't like either politician, so I voted for the lesser of two evils. □ Given the options of going out with someone I don't like and staying home and watching a boring television program, I chose the lesser of the two evils and watched television.

let alone someone or something not to mention or think of someone or something; not even to take someone or something into account. (Fixed order.) □ Do I have a dollar? I don't even have a dime, let alone a dollar. □ I didn't invite John, let alone the rest of his family.

Let bygones be bygones. Cliché Forgive someone for something he or she did in the past. □ Jill: Why don't you want to invite Ellen to your party? Jane: She was rude to me at the office picnic. Jill: But that was six months ago. Let bygones be bygones. □ Nancy held a grudge against her teacher for a long time, but she finally decided to let bygones be bygones.

let down to relax one's efforts or vigilance. □ Now is no time to let down. Keep on your guard. □ After the contest was over, Jane let down a bit so she could relax.

Let every man skin his own skunk. Prov. Everyone should do his own job and not interfere with others. Each person should do his own dirty work. □ We weren't supposed to help each other with the homework. “Let every man skin his own skunk,” the teacher said.

Let every tub stand on its own bottom. Go to Every tub must stand on its own bottom.

let fly with something Fig. to throw or thrust something, such as a rock, ball, punch, etc. □ The pitcher wound up and let fly with a strike—right over the plate. □ Max let fly with a blow to Lefty's chin.

Let George do it. Fig. Let someone else do it: it doesn't matter who. □ Billie always says, “Let George do it.” She is unwilling to help with things that don't interest her.

let go of someone or something to release someone or something. □ Please let go of me! □ Don't let go of the steering wheel.

let go (with something) and cut loose (with something); let loose (with something) 1. to shout something out or expel something; to shout or express something wildly. □ The whole team let go with a loud shout. □ The audience cut loose with a loud cheer. □ to deliver a strong verbal reprimand. □ Molly let loose with a tremendous scolding at Dave. □ Dave cut loose with a venteful retort.

let grass grow under one’s feet Fig. to do nothing; to stand still. □ Mary doesn't let the grass grow under her feet. She's always busy. □ Bob is too lazy. He's letting the grass grow under his feet.

Let her rip! and Let it roll! Inf. Let it go! Let it start! □ Time to start. Let her rip! □ There's the signal! Let it roll!

let it all hang out Inf. to be yourself, assuming that you generally are not; to become totally relaxed and unpretentious. □ Come on. Relax! Let it all hang out. □ I tried to let it all hang out, but I still felt out of place.

Let it be. Leave the situation alone as it is. □ Alice: I can't get over the way he just left me there on the street and drove off. What an arrogant pig! Mary: Oh, Alice, let it be. You'll figure out some way to get even. □ John: You can't! Bill: Can too! John: Can't! Bill: Can too! Jane: Stop arguing! Let it be! That's enough!

Let it go. Forget it; Stop worrying about it. □ Don't get so angry about it. Let it go. □ Let it go. Stop fretting.

Let it roll! Go to Let her rip!

let loose of someone or something 1. to loosen the grasp on someone or something. □ Please let loose of me! □ Will you let loose of the doorknob? 2. to become independent from someone or something. □ She is nearly forty years old and has not yet let loose of her mother. □ Dave can't let loose of his childhood.

let loose (with something) Go to let go (with something).

Let me get back to you (on that). Go to I'll get back to you (on that).

Let me have it! and Let's have it! Inf. Tell me the news. □ Bill: I'm afraid there's some bad news. Bob: Okay. Let me have it! Bill: The plans we made did away with your job. Bob: What? □ John: I didn't want to be the one to tell you this. Bob: What is it? Let's have it!

let me (just) say and just let me say a phrase introducing something that the speaker thinks is important. □ Rachel: Let me say how pleased we all are with your efforts. Henry: Why, thank you very much. □ Bob: Just let me say that we're extremely pleased with your activity. Bill: Thanks loads. I did what I could.

let off (some) steam and blow off (some) steam 1. Lit. [for something] to release steam. □ The locomotive let off some steam after it came to a halt. □ With a great hiss, it let off steam and frightened the children.

let one's emotions show to become independent on someone or something. □ Will you let loose of the doorknob? 2. to become independent from someone or something. □ She is nearly forty years old and has not yet let loose of her mother. □ Dave can't let loose of his childhood.

let loose (with something) Go to let go (with something).

Let me get back to you (on that). Go to I'll get back to you (on that).

Let me have it! and Let's have it! Inf. Tell me the news. □ Bill: I'm afraid there's some bad news. Bob: Okay. Let me have it! Bill: The plans we made did away with your job. Bob: What? □ John: I didn't want to be the one to tell you this. Bob: What is it? Let's have it!

let me (just) say and just let me say a phrase introducing something that the speaker thinks is important. □ Rachel: Let me say how pleased we all are with your efforts. Henry: Why, thank you very much. □ Bob: Just let me say that we're extremely pleased with your activity. Bill: Thanks loads. I did what I could.

let off (some) steam and blow off (some) steam 1. Lit. [for something] to release steam. □ The locomotive let off some steam after it came to a halt. □ With a great hiss, it let off steam and frightened the children. 2. Fig. to work or play off excess energy. □ Those boys need to get out and let off some steam. □ Go out and let off steam! 3. Fig. to release one's pent-up emotions, such as anger, usually verbally. □ I'm sorry I yelled at you. I guess I needed to let off some steam. □ She's not that mad. She's just letting off steam.

let on (about someone or something) to confirm or reveal something about someone or something. □ I won't let on about Kate. □ You promised you wouldn't let on about Sally and her new job! □ He was having money troubles, but he never let on about it to us.

let on something to pretend something. □ She let on that she was a college graduate. □ He looked quite tired, but that wasn't how he let on.

let on (to someone) (about someone or something) to reveal knowledge about someone or something to someone. (See also let on (about someone or something).) □ Please don't let on to anyone about what happened last night. □ I won't let on to anyone.

let one’s emotions show to be emotional, especially where it is not appropriate. □ I’m sorry for the outburst. I didn’t mean to let my emotions show. □ Please stop crying. You mustn’t let your emotions show.
let one’s guard down \(^1\) Fig. to stop guarding oneself against trouble; to relax one’s vigilance. □ He never lets his guard down because he trusts no one.

let one’s hair down 1. Lit. to undo one’s hair and let it fall freely. □ When she took off her glasses and let her hair down, she was incredibly beautiful. 2. Fig. to tell [someone] everything; to tell one’s innermost feelings and secrets. □ Let your hair down and tell me all about it. □ Come on. Let your hair down and tell me what you really think.

let oneself go 1. Fig. to become less constrained; to get excited and have a good time. □ I love to dance and just let myself go. □ Let yourself go, John. Learn to enjoy life. 2. Fig. to let one’s appearance and health suffer. □ When I was depressed, I let myself go and was really a mess. □ He let himself go and gained 30 pounds.

let oneself in for something to make oneself vulnerable to some difficulty. □ I don’t want to let myself in for a lot of extra work. □ You really let yourself in for some problems!

let out [for an event that includes many people] to end. (The people are then permitted to come out.) □ What time does the movie let out? I have to meet someone in the lobby. □ The meeting let out at about seven o’clock. □ School lets out in June.

let out some kind of sound [for a living creature] to make some kind of a noise or sound. □ Be quiet. Don’t let out a sound! □ Suddenly, Jane let out a shriek.

let out (with) something 1. to state or utter something loudly. □ The man let out with a screaming accusation about the person whom he thought had wounded him. □ She let out a torrent of curses. 2. to give forth a scream or yell. □ She let out with a bloodcurdling scream when she saw the snake in her chair. □ They let out with shouts of delight when they saw the cake.

Let’s bump this place! Sl. Let’s get out of this place! Let’s leave! □ Time to go. Let’s bump this place! □ Let’s bump this place! It’s dead here.

Let’s call it a day. Fig. Let us end what we are doing for the day. □ Mary: Well, that’s the end of the reports. Nothing else to do. Sue: Let’s call it a day. □ Bob: Let’s call it a day. I’m tired. Tom: Me too. Let’s get out of here.

Let’s do lunch (sometime). Go to We’ll have to do lunch (sometime).

Let’s do this again (sometime). and We must do this again (sometime), an expression indicating that one member of a group or pair has enjoyed doing something and would like to do it again. □ Bill: What a nice evening. Mary: Yes, let’s do this again sometime. Bill: Bye. Mary: Bye, Bill. □ Sue (saying good night): So nice to see both of you. Mary: Oh, yes. We must do this again sometime.

Let’s dump. Sl. Let’s go. □ It’s late. Let’s dump. □ Let’s dump. I’ve still got a lot to do at home tonight.

Let’s get down to business. Fig. a phrase marking a transition to a business discussion or serious talk. □ John: Okay, enough small talk. Let’s get down to business. Mary: Good idea. □ “All right, ladies and gentlemen, let’s get down to business,” said the president of the board.


Let’s get together (sometime). a vague invitation to meet again, usually said upon departing. (The sometime can be a particular time or the word sometime.) □ Bill: Goodbye, Bob. Bob: See you, Bill. Let’s get together sometime. □ Jane: We need to discuss this matter. John: Yes, let’s get together next week.

Let’s go somewhere where it’s (more) quiet. Let us continue our conversation where there is less noise or where we will not be disturbed. □ Tom: Hi, Mary. It’s sure crowded here. Mary: Yes, let’s go somewhere where it’s quiet. □ Bill: We need to talk. Sally: Yes, we do. Let’s go somewhere where it’s more quiet.

Let’s have it! Go to Let us have it! Let’s not go through all that again. We are not going to discuss that matter again. (Compare this with Do we have to go through all that again?) □ Bill: Now, I still want to explain again about last night. Sally: Let’s not go through all that again! □ Sally: I can’t get over the way you spoke to me at our own dinner table. Fred: I was only kidding! I said I was sorry. Let’s not go through all that again!


let’s say introduces an estimate or a speculation. □ I need about—let’s say—twenty pounds. □ Let’s say I go over and talk to him. What do you think?


Let sleeping dogs lie. Prov. Do not instigate trouble.; Leave something alone if it might cause trouble. □ Jill: Should I ask the boss if he’s upset at my coming in late in the mornings? Jane: If he hasn’t said anything about it, just let sleeping dogs lie. □ I thought I would ask Jill if she wanted me to pay her back right away, but then I decided to let sleeping dogs lie.

let someone down to disappoint someone; to fail someone. □ I’m sorry I let you down. Something came up, and I couldn’t meet you. □ I don’t want to let you down, but I can’t support you in the election.

let someone (get) by and let someone pass by to permit someone to pass. □ Please let me get by. I am in a hurry. □ Let the paramedics by, please.

let someone get by with something to allow someone to do something wrong and not be punished or reprimanded. (An elaboration of get by (with something).) □ She lets those kids get by with anything. □ They won’t let you get by with that!

let someone (get) off (something) to permit someone to disembark, dismount, or leave something. □ Please move and let me get off the bus. □ Let her off!
let someone **get on with** something to permit someone to continue something. □ I will leave now and let you get on with your work. □ She had to settle the matter first. She would not let herself get on with life until the matter was settled.

let someone **(get) past** to allow someone to pass; to get out of the way so someone can pass. □ Please let me get past. I'm in a hurry. □ Do let me past.

let someone **go** Euph. to fire someone. □ They let Jane go from her job. □ I'm afraid we're going to have to let you go.

let someone **have it (with both barrels)** Fig. to strike someone or attack someone verbally. (With both barrels intensifies the phrase; it alludes to firing a double-barreled shotgun.) □ I really let Tom have it with both barrels. I told him he had better not do that again if he knows what's good for him. □ Bob was really angry and let John have it—with both barrels.

let someone **in for** something to cause someone to be involved in something, usually something unpleasant. □ Fred had no idea what his brother had let him in for when he agreed to take his place in the race. □ Jack didn't know what he was letting himself in for when he married that dreadful woman.

let someone **in on** something Go to in on something.

let someone **in on the act** Go to in on the act.

let someone **in on the ground floor** Go to in on the ground floor.

let someone **know (about) something** to tell someone something; to inform someone of something. □ Please let me know about it soon. □ Will you be coming to the picnic? Please let me know.

let someone **off** 1. to permit someone to disembark or leave a means of transportation. □ The driver let Mary off the bus. □ "I can't let you off at this corner," said the driver. □ He let off passengers at every stop. 2. Go to next.

let someone **off (easy)** and let someone **off** to release or dismiss someone without punishment. □ The judge didn't let me off easy. □ The judge let off Mary with a warning.

let someone **off the hook** Go to off the hook.

let someone or an animal **(get) out (of something) 1.** to permit someone or an animal to exit or escape from something or some place. □ Please let the president get out of the car. □ Don't let the snake get out! 2. to permit someone or an animal to evade something. □ I will not let you get out of your responsibilities. □ They wouldn't let me out of the contract.

let someone or an animal **out of something** and let someone or an animal **out** to permit someone or an animal to exit from something or some place. □ Would you please let Ed out of his room? □ Please let Ed out.

let someone or something **alone** and leave someone or something **alone; leave someone or something** to avoid touching, bothering, or communicating with someone or something. □ Leave me alone. I don't want your help. □ Let it alone! Don't touch it! It may be hot!

let someone or something **at** someone or something to permit someone or something to attack or get at someone or something. □ He did that? Just let me at him! □ Let the committee at her, then she'll change her tune.

let someone or something **down** Fig. to fail someone or something; to disappoint someone or a group. □ Please don't let me down. I am depending on you. □ I let down the entire cast of the play.

let someone or something **into** something and let someone or something **in** to permit someone or something to enter something or some place; to make it possible for someone or something to enter something or some place. □ Would you let Ed into his room? He forgot his key. □ Please let in the dog.

let someone or something **through (something)** to permit someone or something to move through an opening or through a congested area. □ The usher wouldn't let me through the door. □ Please let in the ambulance through the crowd.

let someone **pass by** Go to let someone (get) by.

let someone **slide by** Fig. to permit someone to get past a barrier or a challenge too easily. □ You let too many students slide by. You need to be more rigorous. □ Don't let even one unqualified person slide by!

let someone, something, or some creature **alone** Go to leave someone, something, or some creature alone.

let someone, something, or some creature **alone** Go to leave someone, something, or some creature alone.

let something **(get) out** Go to leak something (out).

let something **off** to release something; to give something off. □ The engine let some evil smelling smoke off. □ The flower let off a wonderful smell.

let something **out** 1. Fig. to reveal something; to tell about a secret or a plan. (See also leak something out.) □ It was supposed to be a secret. Who let it out? □ Who let out the secret? 2. Fig. to enlarge an article of clothing. □ She had to let her overcoat out because she had gained some weight. □ I see you have had to let out your trousers.

let something **out** (to someone) to rent something to someone. □ I let the back room out to a college boy. □ I let out the back room to someone.

let something **pass** Fig. to let something go unnoticed or unchallenged. □ Bob let Bill's insult pass because he didn't want to argue. □ Don't worry, I'll let this little incident pass.

let something **ride** Fig. to allow something to continue or remain as it is. □ It isn't the best plan, but we'll let it ride. □ I disagree with you, but I'll let it ride.

let something **slide** Go to let things slide.

let something **slide by** Go to next.

let something **slip by** and let something **slide by** 1. Lit. to permit something to move quickly by oneself. □ He let the ball slip by and he knew he had better get the next one. □ The careless cashier let the leaky milk carton slide by. 2. Fig. to forget or miss an important time or date. □ I'm sorry I just let your birthday slip by. □ I let it slide by accidentally. 3. Fig. to waste a period of time. □ You wasted the whole day by letting it slip by. □ We were having fun, and we let the time slide by.

let something **slip** (out) Fig. to reveal a secret carelessly or by accident. □ I didn't let it slip out on purpose. It was an accident. □ John let the plans slip when he was talking to Bill.
Let the buyer beware. Prov. Cliché When you buy something, you must take precautions against being cheated, because you cannot trust merchants to be honest about what they sell. Do not try to revive past conflicts. (Biblical.) Do let up on Tom. He can’t handle any more work. You had better let up on Tom. He can’t handle any more work. Please let up on the committee. It can only do so much. Do let up. You are getting too upset.

Let us do something. We will do something [together]. Let us go in peace. Let us bow our heads in prayer.

Let well enough alone and leave well enough alone to leave things as they are (and not try to improve them). There isn’t much more you can accomplish here. Why don’t you just let well enough alone? This is as good as I can do. I’ll stop and leave well enough alone.

level a charge against someone. Fig. to place a charge against someone; to accuse someone of something. The neighbors leveled a disturbance of the peace charge against us. The cops leveled an assault charge against Max.

level off. [for variation or fluctuation in the motion of something] to diminish; [for a rate] to stop increasing or decreasing. The plane leveled off at 10,000 feet. After a while the workload will level off. Things will level off after we get through the end of the month.

level out. [for something that was going up and down] to assume a more level course or path. The road leveled out after a while and driving was easier. As we got down into the valley, the land leveled out and traveling was easier. a level playing field. Fig. a situation that is fair to all; a situation where everyone has the same opportunity. (See also level the (playing) field.) If we started off with a level playing field, everyone would have an equal chance.

level something at someone or something to direct something at someone or something; to aim a remark at someone. The sheriff leveled his rifle at the fleeing bandit. Why did you think you had to level that barrage of words at me? I didn’t make the problem. Sam leveled an acid comment or two at the committee.

level something down. to make something level or smooth. The soil is very uneven in this part of the garden. Would you please level it down? The huge earth-moving machines leveled the hill down in preparation for the building of the highway.

level something off. to make something level or smooth. You are going to have to level the floor off before you put the carpet down. Please level off the floor.

level something out to cause something to assume a more level course or path. Level this path out before you open it to the public. They have to level out this roadway.

level something to the ground. to crush or demolish something down to the ground. They were forced to level the building to the ground, because they could not afford to maintain it. The house was leveled to the ground by the tornado.

level something up. to move something into a level or plumb position. Use a piece of wood under the table’s leg to level it up. I will level up the table.

level the (playing) field. Fig. to create a state where everyone has the same opportunity. (See also a level playing field.) Let’s level the playing field and give everyone a chance.

level with someone. (about someone or something) Fig. to be straightforward with someone about something; to be sincere or truthful about someone or something. The police encouraged the criminal to level with them about the crime. Level with me, and tell me what you thought of my cake.

levy something (up)on someone or something to place a tax on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) The Congress was very straight-
lie behind someone or something

forward. It levied room taxes upon rich people. □ The city council levied a heavy tax on hotel guests.

A liar is not believed (even) when he tells the truth. Prov. If people think that you are a liar, they will not believe anything you say. □ As it turned out, Fred was right when he warned his friends that the police were planning to raid their party; but they paid no attention to him, since they knew him to be a liar, and a liar is not believed even when he tells the truth.

liberate someone or something from someone or something to free someone or something from someone or something; to set someone or something free from the control of someone or something. □ The police hoped to liberate the child from his kidnappers. □ We liberated the town from the enemy. □ I liberated the cat from the trap.

license to do something permission, right, or justification to do something. □ You have no license to behave in that manner! □ Who granted you license to enter my house without knocking?

*lick and a promise Fig. a hasty bit of work; a quick once-over. (Typically: finish something with ~; give something ~.) □ I was pressed for time, so I just gave her the housework a lick and a promise. □ Mary spent so much time on her history paper that she had to finish her math homework with a lick and a promise.

lick at something to draw the tongue over something repeatedly. □ Jimmy was just licking at the ice-cream cone, and soon it began to melt and drip off his elbow. □ I don’t just lick at the ice cream. I take big bites of it.

a lick of work a bit of work. (Used with a negative.) □ I couldn’t get her to do a lick of work all day long! □ The boys didn’t do a lick of work while you were away.

lick one’s chops Fig. to show one’s eagerness to do something, especially to eat something. □ We could tell from the way the boys were licking their chops that they really wanted a turn at riding the motorcycle. □ Fred started licking his chops when he smelled the turkey roasting in the oven.

lick one’s lips Fig. to show eagerness or pleasure about a future event. (From the habit of people licking their lips when they are about to enjoy eating something.) □ The children licked their lips at the sight of the cake. □ The author’s readers were licking their lips in anticipation of her new novel.

lick one’s wounds Fig. to recover from a defeat or a rebuke. (Also literal for an animal.) □ After the terrible meeting and all the criticism, I went back to my office to lick my wounds.

lick someone or something into shape to press or force someone or something into good shape or condition. □ The drama coach will try to lick her into shape by performance time. □ Please try to lick this report into shape by tomorrow morning.

lick something into shape and whip something into shape Fig. to put something into good condition, possibly with considerable effort. □ I’ve got about two days more to lick this place into shape so I can sell it. □ I want to whip this house into shape for Saturday night.

lick something off (of) something and lick something off * to remove something from something by licking with the tongue. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The dog licked the grease off of the floor where the meat had dropped. □ The dog licked off the grease.

lick something up * to clean up all of some substance by licking with the tongue. (Usually said of an animal.) □ Don’t worry about the spilled milk. The dog will lick it up. □ The dog licked up the milk.

*licking a spanking; a beating in a fight. (Typically: get ~; take ~; give someone ~.) □ Billy, you had better get in here if you don’t want to get a licking. □ Bob took a real licking in the stock market. □ Tom gave Harry a licking in the fight he was in.

a lid on something 1. Lit. a cover on something, such as a pot, pan, etc. (Typically: get ~; keep ~; put ~.) □ Keep the lid on the pot until the stew is almost done. □ Put the lid on the skillet for just a little while. 2. Fig. a scheme to suppress a scandalous or embarrassing situation and keep it secret. (Typically: get ~; keep ~; put ~.) □ We can’t keep the lid on this any longer. The press has got wind of it.

lie about someone or something (to someone) to say something untrue about someone or something to someone. □ I wouldn’t lie about my boss to anyone! □ I wouldn’t lie about anything like that!

lie ahead of someone or something and lie before someone or something to exist in front of someone or something. □ A small cottage lay ahead of us near the trail. □ A huge mansion lay before the car at the end of the road. 2. to be fixed in the future of someone or something. □ I just don’t know what lies ahead of me. □ We don’t know what lies before our country.

lie alongside ((of) someone or something) to lie next to someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Jimmy came in to lie alongside of his father in bed. □ The puppy lay alongside its mother.

lie around (some place) to recline some place; to spend some time lazily in some place. □ I think I will just lie around the house all day. □ I need to lie around every now and then.

lie at anchor [for a ship] to wait or rest at anchor. □ The ship lay at anchor throughout the day while a shore party searched for the runaway. □ We lay at anchor overnight, waiting for the tide.

lie at death’s door Fig. to be close to dying. □ She lay at death’s door for over a month. □ I do not want to lie at death’s door suffering. I hope to pass on quickly.

lie back to relax; to lean back in a chair and relax. (See also kick back.) □ Just lie back and try to get comfortable. □ I really need to get home and lie back and relax.

lie before someone or something Go to lie ahead of someone or something.

lie behind someone or something 1. [for something] to be positioned to the rear of someone or something. □ A wide expanse of water lay behind the sentry, and a narrow road-
lie below someone or something  Go to below someone or something.

lie beyond someone or something 1. to be located on the other side of someone or something. 2. The stream lies beyond those men you see working in the field. The village lies just beyond that hill there.

lie down on the job to recline. Why don’t you lie down for a while?

lie down on something to recline on something. Don’t lie down on that couch! I will just lie down on my bed for a few minutes.

lie down on the job and lay down on the job Fig. to do one’s job poorly or not at all. (Lay is a common error for lie.) Tom was fired because he was laying down on the job. You mean he was lying down on the job, don’t you?

lie down under something to lie down beneath something. She was tired, so she lay down under a willow tree by the brook. The dog lay down under a lawn chair and slept.

lie fallow 1. Lit. [for farmland] to exist unplanted for a period of time. The fields lay fallow under the burning sun. It had been too wet to plant last spring. 2. Fig. [for a skill and talent] to remain unused and neglected. You should not let your talent lie fallow. Practice the piano before you forget how to play it. His writing had lain fallow for so long that he hardly wrote a proper sentence.

lie in [for a woman] to lie in bed awaiting the birth of her child. The child is due soon, and the mother is lying in at the present time. She did not lie in at all. She worked right up to the onset of labor pains.

lie in ruins to exist in a state of ruin, such as a destroyed city, building, scheme, plan, etc. The entire city lay in ruins. My garden lay in ruins after the cows got in and trampled everything.

lie in something to recline in something, such as a bed, a puddle, etc. I found my wallet lying in a puddle. My money was soaked! We found Jimmy lying in a pile of leaves, napping.

lie in state [for a dead body] to be on display for public mourning. The president will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. Mourners filed past the leader where he lay in state.

lie in store (for someone) Go to in store (for someone).

lie in wait (for someone or something) Fig. to stay still and hidden, waiting for someone or something. Bob was lying in wait for Anne so he could scold her about something.

lie like a rug Sl. to tell lies shamelessly. He says he didn’t take the money, but he’s lying like a rug. I don’t believe her. She lies like a rug.

lie low and lay low Fig. to keep quiet and not be noticed; to avoid being conspicuous. (Lay is a common error for lie.) I suggest you lie low for a few days. The robber said that he would lay low for a short time after the robbery.

lie out (in something) to remain out (unenclosed or unprotected) in some area. Who left my screwdriver lying out in the rain? It’s not lying out. It’s in the drawer.

lie through one’s teeth Fig. to lie boldly. I knew she was lying through her teeth, but I didn’t want to say so just then. If John denies it he’s lying through his teeth, because I saw him do it.

lie to someone (about someone or something) to tell an untruth about someone or something to someone. You wouldn’t lie to me about Sarah, would you? I’m not lying to you!

lie (up)on someone Go to (up)on someone.

lie with someone 1. to recline with someone. Come and lie with me and we will keep warm. Jimmy and Franny were lying with each other to keep warm. 2. Euph. to recline with someone and have sex. She claimed he asked her to lie with him. Do you mean to imply that she lay with him?

lie within something to remain within a defined area or domain. The boundaries of the village lie completely within the river valley. The cost you cited lies within the range I was considering.

Life begins at forty. Prov. By the time you are forty years old, you have enough experience and skill to do what you want to do with your life. (Often said as an encouragement to those reaching middle age.) Alan: Why are you so depressed? Jane: Tomorrow’s my fortieth birthday. Alan: Cheer up! Life begins at forty. For Pete, life began at forty, because by that time he had enough financial security to enjoy himself now and then, rather than having to work all the time.

Life in the fast lane a very active or possible risky way to live. (See also in the fast lane.) Life in the fast lane is too much for me.

Life is just a bowl of cherries. Prov. Everything is going well.; Life is carefree. (Often used ironically, as in the second example.) The real estate salesman tried to convince us that life in the suburbs is just a bowl of cherries. Jill: Hi, Jane. How are you? Jane: Oh, my alarm clock didn’t go off this morning, and then my car wouldn’t start, and I missed the bus and got to work late, and I just found out my rent’s going up fifty dollars a month. Life is just a bowl of cherries.

Life is short and time is swift. Prov. You should enjoy life as much as possible, because it does not last very long. Jill: Want to go to the movies with me? Jane: Oh, I don’t know; I should probably stay at work and finish a few things. Jill: Come on, Jane, life is short and time is swift.

Life is too short. Life is short and there is no point in wasting it on things like worry, hatred, vengeance, etc. I am not going to spend any more time trying to get even
Lightning never strikes (the same place) twice.

light of the party. Fig. a person who is lively and helps make a party fun and exciting.

light out (for some place) Fig. to leave a place in a great hurry for some place. □ I lit out of there for home as fast as I could. □ I lit out of there as fast as I could go.

A light purse makes a heavy heart. Prov. If you do not have enough money, you will worry and be unhappy. □ Nathan is a cheerful person by nature, but since he lost his job, worry has made him gloom. A light purse makes a heavy heart.

light someone or something up1 to shine lights on someone or something. (See also light something up.) □ We lit Fred up with the headlights of the car. □ Light up the stage and let’s rehearse.

light something up1 1. to light a fire, a gas burner, etc. □ I lit the kindling up and soon the fire was going. □ You light up the stove and get dinner going. 2. to light something to smoke, such as a cigarette, pipe, etc. (See also light someone or something up.) □ She lit the cigarette up and took in a great breath of the smoke. □ She lit up a cigarette.

light something with something 1. to set something afire with something else. □ Kelly lit the fire with her last match. □ I will light the fire with a cigarette lighter. 2. to illuminate something using something. □ She lit the room with a few candles. □ We lit the Christmas tree with colored lights.

light up 1. to become brighter. □ Suddenly, the sky lit up like day. □ The room lit up as the fire suddenly came back to life. 2. [for someone] to become interested and responsive in something. □ We could tell from the way Sally lit up that she recognized the man in the picture. □ She lit up when we told her about our team's success.

light (up)on someone or something 1. Lit. to land on some- one or something; to settle on some one or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Three butterflies lit on the baby, causing her to shriek with delight. □ The bees lit on the clover blossom and pulled it to the ground. □ Her glance lit upon a dress in the store window. 2. Fig. to arrive at something by chance; to happen upon something. □ The committee lit upon a solution that pleased almost everyone. □ We just happened to light upon this idea as we were talking to each other.

lighten something up1 to make something lighter or brighter. □ Some white paint will lighten this room up a lot. □ The sunlight came in and lightened up the kitchen.

lighten up to become lighter or brighter. (See also lighten up on someone or something.) □ We applied a new coat of white paint to the walls, and the room lightened up considerably. □ The sky is beginning to lighten up a little.

lighten up on someone or something to be less rough and demanding or rude with someone or something. (See also lighten up.) □ Please lighten up on her. You are being very cruel. □ You are too harsh. Lighten up.

Lighting never strikes (the same place) twice. Prov. The same highly unlikely thing never happens to the same person twice. □ Jill: I'm scared to drive ever since that truck hit my car. Alan: Don't worry. Lightning never strikes the same place twice. □ It's strange, but I feel safer since my apartment was robbed; I figure lightning never strikes the same place twice.
**like a bat out of hell** Inf. very fast or sudden. (Use caution with hell.) □ The cat took off like a bat out of hell. □ The car pulled away from the curb like a bat out of hell.

**like a blind dog in a meat market** Rur. out of control. □ The drunk staggered out of the saloon like a blind dog in a meat market, stumbling all over the sidewalk. □ The kids tore through the museum like a blind dog in a meat market, touching everything they weren't supposed to touch.

**like a bolt from the blue** Go to next.

**like a bolt out of the blue and like a bolt from the blue** Fig. suddenly and without warning. (Alludes to a bolt of lightning coming out of a clear blue sky.) □ The news came to us like a bolt from the blue. □ Like a bolt out of the blue, the boss came and fired us all.

**like a bull in a china shop** Go to a bull in a china shop.

**like a bump on a log** Fig. completely inert. (Derogatory.) □ Don't just sit there like a bump on a log; give me a hand! □ You can never tell what Julia thinks of something; she just stands there like a bump on a log.

**like a can of corn** Rur. very easy. □ Whipping up dinner for twelve is like a can of corn, as far as Jane is concerned. □ The championship game was like a can of corn for our team. We won easily.

**like a fish out of water** Fig. appearing to be completely out of place; in a very awkward manner. □ Bob stood there in his rented tuxedo, looking like a fish out of water. □ Whenever I am with your friends, I feel like a fish out of water. What on earth do you see in them—or me?

**like a house on fire** and **like a house afire** Rur. rapidly and with force. □ The truck came roaring down the road like a house on fire. □ The crowd burst through the gate like a house afire.

**like a kid with a new toy** Fig. very pleased; happily playing with something. □ Every time Bill gets a new gadget for his kitchen, he's like a kid with a new toy. □ Jane is absorbed in that computer. Just like a kid with a new toy.

**like a lamb to the slaughter** Go to a lamb to the slaughter.

**like a million (dollars)** Fig. very good or well. (Usually with verbs such as feel, look, run, etc.) □ This old buggy runs like a million dollars. □ Man, I feel like a million. □ Your new hairdo looks like a million dollars.

**like a sitting duck** Go to a sitting duck.

**like a three-ring circus** Fig. chaotic; exciting and busy. □ Our household is like a three-ring circus on Monday mornings. □ This meeting is like a three-ring circus. Quiet down and listen!

*like a ton of bricks* Inf. like a great weight or burden. (*Typically: fall ~; hit ~; hit someone ~.*) □ Suddenly, the truth hit me like a ton of bricks. □ The sudden tax increase hit like a ton of bricks. Everyone became angry.

**(like) an open book** Fig. [of someone or something] easy to understand. □ Jane's an open book. I always know what she is going to do next. □ The committee's intentions are an open book. They want to save money.

*Like breeds like.* Prov. People tend to raise children who are like them; something tends to give rise to things that resemble it. □ Jill: I think Fred's little boy is going to be just as disagreeable as Fred. Jane: That's no surprise. Like breeds like.

**like crazy** and **like mad** Fig. furiously; very much, fast, many, or actively. □ People are coming in here like crazy. There isn't enough room for them all. □ We sold ice cream like crazy. It was a very hot day.

*like death warmed over* Fig. very ill; appearing very sickly. (*Typically: feel ~; look ~.*) □ Oh dear, I feel like death warmed over. □ Poor Carol said you look like death warmed over.

**like father, like son** Prov. Fathers and sons resemble each other, and sons tend to do what their fathers did before them. □ Jill: George's father smoked all the time, and now George is smoking excessively, too. Jane: Like father, like son, eh? □ I think my son will grow up tall, just like his father. Like father, like son.

**like fighting snakes** Rur. chaotic; challenging. (As if every time one snake is subdued, another one attacks.) □ It's like fighting snakes to get anything done at this time of year. □ Arguing with you is like fighting snakes.

**like flies to manure** Rur. eagerly gathering in large numbers. (Has unpleasant connotations because of the reference to manure.) □ Look at all them folks going to the freak show like flies to manure. □ The reporters hovered around the movie star like flies to manure.

**like gangbusters** with great excitement and speed. (From the phrase “Come on like gangbusters,” a radio show that “came on” with lots of noise and excitement.) □ She works like gangbusters and gets the job done. □ They are selling tickets like gangbusters.

**like greased lightning** Rur. very fast. □ Once I get her tuned up, this old car will go like greased lightning. □ He's a fat kid, but he can run like greased lightning.

**like hell** Go to like the devil.

**like hell and high lightning** Rur. very fast. □ The snowmobiles came zooming down the trail like hell and high lightning. □ The powerboat sped up the river like hell and high lightning.

**like herding frogs** Rur. chaotic; disorderly. (On the image of trying to direct frogs, which will jump any which way.) □ Trying to get those kids to march into the auditorium is like herding frogs. □ Trying to get everybody to cooperate is like herding frogs.

**like I was saying** Go to as I was saying.

**Like it or lump it!** Inf. There is no other choice. Take that or none. □ John: I don't like this room. It's too small. Bill: Like it or lump it. That's all we've got. □ Jane: I don't want to be talked to like that. Sue: Well, like it or lump it! That's the way we talk around here.

**Like it's such a big deal!** Inf. It really isn't all that important! (Sarcastic.) □ So I dropped the glass. Like it's such a big deal. □ Like it's such a big deal. Who cares?

**like it was going out of style** Fig. rapidly or frequently. □ I'm worried about Sally. She's taking aspirin like it's going out of style. □ The kids have been eating sweet corn like it was going out of style.

**like lambs to the slaughter and like a lamb to the slaughter** Fig. quietly and without seeming to realize the likely difficulties or dangers of a situation. □ Young men
fighting in World War I simply went like lambs to the slaughter. □ Our team went on the football field like lambs to the slaughter to meet the league-leaders.

like looking for a needle in a haystack Fig. engaged in a hopeless search. □ Trying to find a white glove in the snow is like looking for a needle in a haystack. □ I tried to find my lost contact lens on the beach, but it was like looking for a needle in a haystack.

like mad Go to like crazy.

Like mother, like daughter. Prov: Daughters resemble their mothers.; Daughters tend to do what their mothers did before them. □ My mother loved sweets, and every time my father saw me with a cookie in my hand, he would sigh, “Like mother, like daughter.” □ Jill: Gina’s beautiful. Jane: Like mother, like daughter; her mother’s gorgeous, too.

like nobody’s business Inf. very well; very much. □ She can sing like nobody’s business. What a set of pipes! □ My mom can cook chocolate chip cookies like nobody’s business.

like nothing on earth 1. Fig. very untidy or very unattractive. □ Joan arrived at the office looking like nothing on earth. She had fallen in the mud. □ Alice was like nothing on earth in that electric yellow dress. 2. Fig. very unusual; very distinctive. □ The new car models look like nothing on earth this year. □ This cake is so good! It’s like nothing on earth!

like one of the family as if someone (or a pet) were a member of one’s family. □ We treat our dog like one of the family. □ We are very happy to have you stay with us, Bill. I hope you don’t mind if we treat you like one of the family.

like pigs to the slaughter Rur. obediently and in large numbers. (See also like lambs to the slaughter.) □ Look at all the people lining up to mail their tax forms on time, like pigs to the slaughter.

like rats abandoning a sinking ship Go to Rats abandon a sinking ship.

like shooting fish in a barrel and as easy as shooting fish in a barrel Rur. ridiculously easy. □ Jane’s a good mechanic. Changing a tire is like shooting fish in a barrel, for her. □ That comedian has an easy job. Making fun of politicians is like shooting fish in a barrel.

like stealing acorns from a blind pig Rur. very easy. □ Getting Mary to sign the house over to me was like stealing acorns from a blind pig. □ Tom: Was it hard to fool so many people? Charlie: Nope. It was like stealing acorns from a blind pig.

*like stink Inf. rapidly. (As fast as a smell spreads. *Typically: go ~; move ~; run ~; swim ~.) □ Those kids moved through the whole test like stink. Real eagereaters. □ The wood chipper went through the brush like stink and turned it into a small pile in minutes.

like taking candy from a baby and as easy as taking candy from a baby Cliché very easy. □ Getting to the airport was easy. It was like taking candy from a baby.

*like the devil and *like the dickens; *like hell Fig. with a fury; in a great hurry; with a lot of activity. (*Typically: fight ~; run ~; scream ~; thrash around ~.) □ We were working like the dickens when the rain started and made us quit for the day.

*like the dickens Go to previous.

*like the wind Fig. very fast; as fast and easy as the wind. (*Typically: go ~; move ~; run ~.) □ Emily’s sleek new bicycle can really go like the wind. □ The racehorse ran like the wind, beating its nearest opponent by several lengths.

like there ain’t no tomorrow Go to next.

like there’s no tomorrow and like there ain’t no tomorrow Rur. eagerly; rapidly; without stopping. □ You can’t go on eating candy bars like there’s no tomorrow. □ Jim’s spending money like there’s no tomorrow.

like to Rur. almost. □ I like to died laughing when I saw Jim come in wearing a dress. □ Mary like to passed out when she saw how bad her house was damaged in the storm.

like to hear oneself talk [for someone] to enjoy one’s own talking more than people enjoy listening to it. □ I guess I don’t really have anything to say. I just like to hear myself talk, I guess. □ There he goes again. He just likes to hear himself talk.

like tryin’ to scratch your ear with your elbow your elbow

like water off a duck’s back Fig. easily; without any apparent effect. □ Insults rolled off John like water off a duck’s back. □ The bullets had no effect on the steel door. They fell away like water off a duck’s back.

like, you know Inf. a combining of the (essentially meaningless) expressions like and you know. (Never used in formal writing.) □ She is, well, like, you know, uncool. □ This is, well, like, you know, too much!

likely as not Fig. probably; with an even chance either way. (*Also: as ~.) □ He will as likely as not arrive without warning. □ Likely as not, the game will be canceled.

liken someone or something to someone or something to compare someone or something to someone or something, concentrating on the similarities. □ He is strange. I can only liken him to an eccentric millionaire. □ The poet likened James to a living statue of Mercury.

the likes of someone or something someone or something similar to that person or thing; the equal or equals of someone or something. □ I never want to see the likes of you again! □ We admired the splendid old ships, the likes of which will never be built again.

Likewise(, I’m sure). Fig. The same from my point of view. (A hackneyed phrase said in greeting someone. See examples.) □ Alice: I’m delighted to make your acquaintance. Bob: Likewise, I’m sure. □ John: How nice to see you! Sue: Likewise. John: Where are you from, Sue?

limber someone or something up to make someone or something more flexible or loose. □ Let me give you a massage; that will limber you up. □ I need to limber up my arms.

limit someone to something 1. to restrict someone to a certain amount or number of something. □ I will have to limit you to two helpings of mashed potatoes. □ I limit
limit something to something to restrict something to a limited set, a certain amount, or a specific number of something. □ Please limit your comments to five minutes. □ Can you limit your remarks to the subject at hand?

the line of least resistance the course of action that will cause least trouble or effort. □ Jane won’t stand up for her rights. She always takes the line of least resistance. □ Joan never states her point of view. She takes the line of least resistance and agrees with everyone else.

*a line on someone or something Fig. an idea on how to locate someone or something; an idea for finding someone who can help with someone or something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I got a line on a book that might help explain what you want to know. □ Sally has a line on someone who could help you fix up your apartment.

line one’s own pocket(s) Fig. to make money for oneself in a greedy or dishonest fashion. □ They are interested in lining their pockets first and serving the people second. □ You can’t blame them for wanting to line their own pockets.

line someone or something up† 1. Lit. to put people or things into a row in front of or against something. □ We lined everyone up against the wall for the photograph. □ Please line up everyone against the wall.

line someone or something up† behind someone or something to put people or things into a line behind someone or something. □ Please line all the children up behind the tallest child. □ Line up everyone behind the curtain.

line someone or something up† (in something) to put people or things into some kind of formation, such as a row, column, ranks, etc. □ The teacher lined the children up in two rows. □ Please line up the children in a row.

line someone or something up† on something to place people or things into a line oriented on one or more things. □ Line them all up on the edge of the grass. □ Line up the children on the white line.

line someone or something up† with someone or something 1. Lit. to place people or things into a line with other people or things. □ Line Fred up with the others. □ Line up these books with the others. □ Please line yourselves up with the others. 2. Lit. to place people or things into a line that is oriented on someone or something. □ Line everyone up with the flagpole so we can march into the hall. □ Please line up everyone with the flagpole straight ahead. 3. Fig. to schedule a meeting date with someone or a group of people. □ Will you line everyone up with us for a Monday morning meeting? □ See if you can line up a meeting with Todd and Frank.

line someone or something up† with something to position someone or something (or a group) in reference to other things. □ Please line the chairs up with the floor tiles. □ Line up this brick with the bricks below and at both sides. That’s the way you lay bricks.

line someone up† behind someone or something Fig. to organize people in support of someone or something. □ I will see if I can line a few supporters up behind our candidate. □ I can line up everyone behind you.

line someone up† (for something) Fig. to schedule someone for something; to arrange for someone to do or be something. □ I lined gardeners up for the summer work on the gardens. □ I lined up four of my best friends to serve as ushers at my wedding.

line someone up† (with someone) Go to line up (with someone).

line something with something to place a layer of something over the inside surface of something. □ You should line the drawers with clean paper before you use them. □ I want to line this jacket with new material.

line up to form a line; to get into a line. □ All right, everyone, line up!

line up against someone or something to organize against someone or something. □ Our people lined up against the candidate and defeated her soundly. □ We will line up against the opposing party as we did during the last election.

line up alongside someone or something to form or get into a line beside someone or something. □ Can you line up alongside the other people? □ Line up alongside the wall and get ready to be photographed.

line up behind someone or something 1. to form or get into a line behind someone or something. □ Please line up behind Kelly. □ Please go and line up behind the sign. 2. and get behind someone or something to organize in support of someone or something. □ We all got behind Todd and got him elected. □ We got behind the most active political party.

line up for something to form or get into a line and wait for something. □ Everyone lined up for a helping of birthday cake. □ Let’s line up for dinner. The doors to the dining room will open at any minute.

line up in(to) something to form or get into a line, row, rank, column, etc. □ Please line up in three columns. □ I wish you would all line up into a nice straight line.

line up on something to form a line oriented on something. □ Line up on the white line painted on the pavement. □ Please line up on the marks on the floor.

line up with someone to get into a line with someone. □ Go over and line up with the others. □ Would you please line up with the other students?

linger around to wait around; to be idle some place. □ Don’t linger around. Get going! □ All the students were lingering around, waiting until the last minute to go into the building.

linger on to remain for a long time; to exist longer than would have been thought. □ This cold of mine just keeps lingering on. □ Some of the guests lingered on for a long time after the party was over.
 linger on (after someone or something) and stay on (after someone or something) to outlast someone or something; to live longer than someone else or long after an event. □ AUNT SARAH lingered on only a few months after Uncle Herman died. □ She lingered on and was depressed for a while.

 linger on something to delay moving on to the next thing; to remain at something and not move on. □ Don’t linger on that one problem so long. □ I don’t want to waste a lot of time lingering on this question.

 linger over something 1. to take too much time or idle over something, such as a meal, a cup of coffee, etc. □ I could linger over coffee all morning, given the chance. □ Don’t linger over your soup. It will get cold. 2. to dawdle over the doing of something. □ You shouldn’t linger over eating your dinner. □ It would be best not to linger over making up your mind.

 link someone or something to someone or something and link someone or something and someone or something together; link someone or something together with someone or something; link someone or something with someone or something 1. to discover a connection between people and things, in any combination. □ I would never have thought of linking Fred to Tom. I didn’t even know they knew each other. □ I always sort of linked Tom with honesty. 2. to connect people and things, in any combination. □ We have to link each person to one other person, using this colored yarn to tie them together. □ We linked each decoration together with another one.

 link someone or something up† to something to connect someone or something to something, usually with something that has a type of fastener or connector that constitutes a link. □ They promised that they would link me up to the network today. □ They will link up my computer to the network today.

 link up to someone or something and link (up) with someone or something Go to link someone or something to someone or something.

 link up to someone or something and link (up) with someone or something 1. to join up with someone or something; to form a connection between people and things, in any combination. □ I have his new e-mail address so I can link up to Bruce. □ Now my computer can link up with a computer bulletin board.

 the lion’s share of something Fig. the largest portion of something. □ I earn a lot, but the lion’s share goes for taxes. □ The lion’s share of the surplus cheese goes to school cafeterias.

 liquor someone up† to get someone tipsy or drunk. □ He liquored her up and tried to take her home with him. □ They liquored up the out-of-town visitors.

 liquor up to drink an alcoholic beverage, especially to excess. □ Sam sat around all evening liquor ing up. □ They seem to liquor up almost every night of the week.

 list someone or something in a written list. □ I will list you as a contributor to the Preservation Fund, if you don’t mind. □ Although she was not registered as such, she listed herself as a stockbroker.

 list someone or something among something to include someone or something in a particular category. □ I list George among the all-time greats. □ I have to list the budget committee as the most efficient ever.

 list someone or something off† to recite a list of people or things, one by one. □ She listed everyone off in order without having to look at her notes. □ She listed off the names of the people who are always late. □ Dale listed each one off.

 list to a direction to lean to one side or another; to lean toward a specific direction. (Usually of ships or boats.) □ The ship had listed to one side since being struck by the speedboat. □ The huge ship listed a tiny bit to starboard.

 listen for someone or something to try to hear someone or something. □ I will have to let you in the front door if you come home late. I will listen for you. □ I am listening for the telephone.

 listen in (on someone or something) 1. to join someone or a group as a listener. □ The band is rehearsing. Let’s go listen in on them. □ It won’t hurt to listen in, will it? 2. to eavesdrop on someone. □ Please don’t try to listen in on us. This is a private conversation. □ I am not listening in. I was here first. You are talking too loud.

 listen to reason to yield to a reasonable argument; to take the reasonable course. □ Please listen to reason, and don’t do something you’ll regret. □ She got into trouble because she wouldn’t listen to reason.

 listen to someone or something 1. to pay attention to and hear someone or something. □ Listen to me! Hear what I have to say! □ I want to listen to his speech. 2. to heed someone, orders, or advice. □ Listen to me! Do what I tell you! □ You really should listen to his advice.

 listen up to listen carefully. (Usually a command.) □ Now, listen up! This is important. □ Listen up, you guys!

 Listeners never hear any good of themselves. Go to Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves.

 litmus test 1. Lit. a test used to determine the acidity or alkalinity of chemical substances. (Acid turns litmus paper red and alkaline compounds turn it blue.) □ I used a litmus test to show that the compound was slightly acid. 2. Fig. a question or experiment that seeks to determine the state of one important factor. □ His performance on the long exam served as a litmus test to determine whether he would go to college. □ The amount of white cells in my blood became the litmus test for diagnosing my disease.

 litter something about and litter something around to cast around something, such as trash, clothing, personal possessions, etc. □ Don’t litter all that stuff about. □ I wish you wouldn’t litter your trash around.

 litter something up† to mess something up with litter, trash, possessions, etc. □ Who littered this room up? □ Who littered up this room?

 Little and often fills the purse. Prov. If you get a little bit of money frequently, you will always have enough. □ Jill: I don’t think I’ll ever be able to save very much; I can only afford to save such a little bit of money from every paycheck. Jane: Ah, but little and often fills the purse.

 A little bird told me. Fig. a way of indicating that you do not want to reveal who told you something. (Sometimes used playfully, when you think that the person you are addressing knows or can guess who was the source of your information.) □ Jill: Thank you for the beautiful pre-
little bit (of something)  

a little bit (of something) a small amount; some. □ Can I have a little bit of candy? □ I need a little bit of time to finish this essay.

little bitty very little. □ Can I have just a little bitty piece of that lemon meringue pie? □ He was just a little bitty boy.

little by little gradually, a little bit at a time. □ I earned enough money, little by little, to buy a car. □ Jimmy crawled, little by little, until he reached the door.

A little (hard) work never hurt anyone. and A little (hard) work never killed anyone. Prov. One should expect to do hard or difficult work and not avoid doing it. □ Go help your father with the yard work. A little hard work never hurt anyone. □ Go ahead. Bring me some more bricks. A little work never killed anyone.

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. and A little learning is a dangerous thing. Prov. Cliché If you only know a little about something, you may feel you are qualified to make judgments when, in fact, you are not. □ After Bill read one book on the history of Venezuela, he felt he was an authority on the subject, but he wound up looking like a fool in discussions with people who knew a lot more about it than he did. A little learning is a dangerous thing.

(a little) new to (all this) an apologetic way of saying that one is experiencing something new or participating in something new. □ I’m sorry I’m slow. I’m a little new to all this. □ She’s new to this. She needs practice.

a (little) nip in the air a cold feeling; cold weather. □ I felt a little nip in the air when I opened the window. □ There’s more of a nip in the air as winter approaches.

a little off Go to a bit off.

little old someone or something ordinary; harmless. (Said to downplay or minimize the importance of something.) □ Aw, honey, I wasn’t gambling. I just went to one little old poker game. □ Charlie: Did you eat that whole chocolate cake that I was saving for the party? Jane: Little old me?

Little pitchers have big ears. Prov. Children like to listen to adult conversations and can understand a lot of what they hear. (Used to warn another adult not to talk about something because there is a child present.) □ I started to tell Mary about the date I had on Saturday, but she interrupted me, saying, “Little pitchers have big ears,” and looked pointedly at her six-year-old daughter, who was in the room with us.

a little pricey Go to a little steep.

little shaver Rur. a child; a baby. □ I think the little shaver needs her diaper changed. □ Tom thinks his grandson is the cutest little shaver there ever was.

a (little) short on one end Rur. short. □ You’ll recognize Bill right away. He’s got red hair, and he’s a little short on one end. □ He’s not small; he’s just short on one end. □ The barber cut my hair a little short on one end.

a little steep and a little pricey Fig. relatively expensive; costing more than one wants to pay. □ The food here is a little pricey, but you get a lot of it.

Little strokes fell great oaks. Prov. You can complete a large, intimidating task by steadily doing small parts of it. □ Jill: How can I possibly write a fifty-page report in two months? Jane: Just write a little bit every day. Little strokes fell great oaks.

Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape. Prov. Truly expert criminals are never caught. □ Everyone’s making such a fuss because they convicted that bank robber, but he must not have been a very dangerous criminal. Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.

Little things please little minds. and Small things please small minds. Prov. People who are not intelligent are pleased by trivial things. (Implies that the person you are talking about is not intelligent.) □ Jill: Nathaniel’s been awfully cheerful today. Jane: Yes, his favorite TV show is on tonight. Jill: Little things please little minds, they say.

a little white lie fig. a small, usually harmless lie; a fib. □ Every little white lie you tell is still a lie and it is still meant to mislead people.

live a dog’s life Go to lead a dog’s life.

live a life of something to have a life of a certain quality or style. □ The movie star lived a life of luxury. □ After Anne won the lottery, she lived the life of a queen.

live above someone or something and live over someone or something to live in a place that is at a higher level than someone or something; to dwell directly over someone or something. □ We used to live above a small grocery store. □ Now we live over a student, who often has noisy parties.

live among someone to live in a community with someone or a community made up of certain people. □ The anthropologist lived among the small tribe for two years. □ They lived among the Jivaro Indians for a brief period.

live and learn Cliché to increase one’s knowledge by experience. (Usually said when one is surprised to learn something.) □ I didn’t know that snakes could swim. Well, live and learn! □ John didn’t know he should water his houseplants a little extra in the dry winter months. When they all died, he said, “Live and learn.”

live and let live Cliché not to interfere with other people’s business or preferences. □ I don’t care what they do! Live and let live, I always say. □ Your parents are strict. Mine just live and let live.

live apart (from someone) to live separated from a person whom one might be expected to live with. □ John lives apart from his wife, who has a job in another city. □ He lives apart, but they are still married.

live around someone or something Go to around someone or something.

live beyond one’s means to spend more money than one can afford. □ The Browns are deeply in debt because they are living beyond their means. □ I keep a budget so that I don’t live beyond my means.

live by one’s wits Fig. to survive by being clever. □ When you’re in the kind of business I’m in, you have to live by your wits. □ John was orphaned at the age of ten and grew up living by his wits.

live by something 1. to live near something. □ We live by a lovely park that is filled with children in the summer. □ I would love to live by the sea. 2. to survive by doing or using something in particular. (See also live by one’s
live in
live in sin
live in hope(s) of
Go to
live in an ivory tower
live in a world of
live for

live happily ever after Cliché to live in happiness after a specific event. (A formulaic phrase at the end of fairy tales.) □ The prince and the princess lived happily ever after. □ They went away from the horrible haunted castle and lived happily ever after.

live high off the hog and live high on the hog Rur. to live well and eat good food. (Note the variation with pretty.) □ After they discovered oil on their land, they lived pretty high on the hog. □ Looks like we’re living high off the hog tonight. What’s the occasion?

live in to live at the residence at which one works. □ In order to be here early enough to prepare breakfast, the cook has to live in. □ Mr. Simpson has a valet, but he doesn’t live in.

live in a world of one’s own Go to in a world of one’s own.

live in an ivory tower Go to in an ivory tower.

live in hope(s) of something to live with the hope that something will happen. □ I have been living in hope that you would come home safely. □ Greg lives in hope of winning a million dollars in the lottery.

live in sin to live with and have sex with someone to whom one is not married. (Sometimes serious and sometimes jocular.) □ Would you like to get married, or would you prefer that we live in sin for a few more years? □ Let’s live in sin. There’s no risk of divorce.

live in something to dwell within something or some place. □ They live in the village. □ She lives in a large house in the country.

live in the best of both worlds Go to the best of both worlds.

live in the boondocks Go to in the boondocks.

live in the fast lane Go to in the fast lane.

live in the past Fig. to live while dwelling on past memories without participating in the present or planning for the future. □ You are just living in the past. Join us in the twenty-first century. □ Living in the past has its advantages.

live in the poorhouse Go to in the poorhouse.

live in the present Fig. to deal with contemporary events and not be dominated by events of the past or planning for the future. □ Forget the past; live in the present. □ It was no longer possible to get Uncle Herman to live in the present.

live in (with someone) [for servants or lovers] to live in a residence that one might be expected only to visit rather than reside in. □ Their maid lives in with them. □ She lived in for a few months before they were married.

live it up to have an exciting time; to do what one pleases—regardless of cost—to please oneself. □ At the party, John was really living it up. □ Come on! Have fun! Live it up!

live large to live in luxury; to spend time in grand style. □ George loved to live large, dining at fine French restaurants.

live like a marked man Go to a marked man.

live next door (to someone) to live in the house or dwelling next to someone. □ I live next door to John. □ John lives next door to me. □ John lives next door.

live off campus Go to off campus.

live off of someone or something to obtain one’s living or means of survival from someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ You can’t live off your uncle all your life! □ I manage to live off of my salary.

live off the fat of the land Fig. to live on stored-up resources or abundant resources. □ If I had a million dollars, I’d invest it and live off the fat of the land. □ I’ll be happy to retire soon and live off the fat of the land.

live off the land to live by eating only the food that one produces from the land; to survive by gathering or stealing food, fruits, berries, eggs, etc., while traveling through the countryside. □ We lived off the land for a few years when we first started out farming. □ The homeless man wandered about, living off the land.

live on (after someone) to outlive someone. □ Aunt Sarah lived on after Uncle Herman only a short time. □ She had hoped to live on after him and have some fun.

live on (after someone or something) to be remembered long after someone or something might otherwise be forgotten or dead, in the case of persons. □ His good works will live on long after him. □ Fears of war will live on after the actual conflict. □ I hope my memory lives on.

live on an amount of money to live on a specific amount of money; to manage to live on a specific amount of money. □ Can you live on only that much money? □ I can live on a very small amount of money.

live on borrowed time Fig. to exist only because of good fortune; to live on when death was expected. □ The doc-
live on one's own

tors told him he was living on borrowed time. □ You are living on borrowed time, so make the best of it.

live on one's own to live independently, in a separate dwelling. □ I moved out of my parents' house because I wanted to live on my own for a while. □ It's time you were living on your own.

live on something to depend on something for sustenance. (Compare this with live off someone or something.) □ I can't live on bread and water. □ We can hardly live on $500 a week.

live on the edge Go to on the edge.

live out of a suitcase Fig. to stay very briefly in several places, never unpacking one's luggage. □ I hate living out of a suitcase. For my next vacation, I want to go to just one place and stay there the whole time.

live out of cans Fig. to eat only canned food. □ You have to have some fresh fruit and vegetables. You can't just live out of cans. □ We lived out of cans for the entire camping trip.

live out one's days and live out one's life to live for the remainder of one's life. (Usually with some reference to a place.) □ Where do you plan to live out your days? □ I will live out my life in sunny Florida.

live over someone or something Go to live above someone or something.

live something down1 to overcome the shame or embarrassment of something. □ You'll live it down someday. □ Wilbur will never be able to live down what happened at the party last night.

live something out1 to act out something such as one's fantasies. □ She tried to live her dreams out. □ He has a tendency to try to live out his fantasies.

live something over to go back and live a part of one's life again in order to do things differently. □ I wish I could go back and live those days over again. Boy, would I do things differently! □ I would like to live that period of my life over again.

live the life of Riley Go to lead the life of Riley.

live through something to endure something; to survive an unpleasant or dangerous time of one's life. □ I almost did not live through the operation. □ I know I can't live through another attack.

live to do something 1. to survive long enough to do something. □ I just hope I live to see them get married and have children. □ Bill wants to live to see his grandchildren grow up. 2. to exist only to do something. □ He lives to work. □ One shouldn't live to eat.

live to the (ripe old) age of something to survive to a specific [advanced] age. □ Sally's aunt lived to the ripe old age of one hundred. □ Ken lived to the age of sixty-two.

live together 1. [for two people] to dwell in the same place. □ I live together with my sister in the house my parents left us. □ Henry and Jill live together in their parents' house. 2. [for two people] to dwell together in a romantic relationship. □ I heard that Sally and Sam are living together. □ They are living together and may get married.

live (together) with someone [for someone] to live with someone else. □ She lives together with her sister in a condo. □ He lives with his family.

live under someone or something to dwell directly beneath someone or something. □ We live under the Johnsons. They are fairly quiet. □ We lived under a law office for a few years.

live under something (negative) to exist under some kind of worry or threat. □ I can't continue to live under the threat of bankruptcy all the time. □ It is hard to live under the worry of another war.

live under the same roof (with someone) Fig. to share a dwelling with someone. (Implies living in a close relationship, as a husband and wife.) □ I don't think I can go on living under the same roof with her. □ She was quite happy to live under the same roof with him.

live up to one's end of the bargain and keep one's side of the bargain; live up to one's side of the bargain; keep one's end of the bargain to carry through on a bargain; to do as was promised in a bargain. □ You can't quit now. You have to live up to your end of the bargain. □ Bob isn't keeping his end of the bargain, so I am going to sue him.

live up to something to fulfill expectations; to satisfy a goal or set of goals. (Often with one's reputation, promise, word, standards, etc.) □ I hope I can live up to my reputation. □ The class lives up to its reputation of being exciting and interesting.

live with someone Euph, to live together with someone; to live in a romantic relationship with someone outside of marriage. □ I lived with my aunt when I was growing up. □ Is Frank living with his girlfriend? □ Sandy is living with her domestic partner.

live with something to put up with something; to endure something. (Does not mean "to dwell with.") □ That is not acceptable. I can't live with that. Please change it. □ Mary refused to live with the proposed changes.

live within one's means to spend no more money than one has. □ We have to struggle to live within our means, but we manage. □ John is unable to live within his means.

live within something 1. to live within certain boundaries. □ Do you think you can live within your space, or are we going to argue over the use of square footage? □ Ted demanded that Bill live within his assigned area. 2. to keep one's living costs within a certain amount, especially within one's budget, means, etc. □ Please try to live within your budget. □ You must learn to live within your take-home pay every month.

live without something to survive, lacking something. □ I just know I can't live without my car. □ I am sure we can live without vegetables for a day or two.

live worlds apart Go to worlds apart.

liven something up1 to make something more lively or less dull. □ Some singing might liven things up a bit. □ The songs livened up the evening.

the living end Fig. the absolute best [person]. □ We really like Ralph. He is the living end as far as his girlfriend is concerned.

Lo and behold! Cliché Look here!; Thus! (An expression of surprise.) □ Lo and behold! There is Fred! He beat us here by taking a shortcut.
load into something [for people] to get into something.  □ Everyone loaded into the bus, and we set off for Denver.  □ The kids all loaded into the station wagon for the trip.

*a load off one’s feet Fig. the weight of one’s body no longer supported by one’s feet, as when one sits down.  (*Typically: get ~; take ~.) □ Come in, John. Sit down and take a load off your feet. □ Yes, I need to get a load off my feet. I’m really tired.

*a load off one’s mind and *a weight off one’s mind Fig. the relief from a mental burden gained by saying what one is thinking or by speaking one’s mind.  (*Typically: get ~; take ~.) □ I think you’ll feel better after you get a load off your mind.

load someone or something down† (with someone or something) to burden someone or something with someone or something.  □ Don’t load down my car with too many people. □ Tom loaded himself down with work every weekend.

load someone or something into something and load someone or something in† to put someone or something into something.  □ Would you load the dishes into the dishwasher? □ Let’s load the kids into the car and go to the zoo. □ Load them in, and let’s go.

load someone or something up† (with someone or something) to burden someone or something greatly or to the maximum with someone or something.  □ I loaded her up with a number of books on investments, so she could learn what to do with her money. □ Don’t load up your shelves with books you will never look at.

load something onto someone or something and load something on† to lift something onto someone or something.  □ We loaded the trunk onto Sam, and he carried it up the stairs into the house. □ Please help me load the boxes onto the cart. □ Load on the boxes, and let’s go.

load something with something to burden something with something; to put a lot of something onto or into something.  □ Load this box with all the clothing you can get into it. □ Don’t load these drawers with so much stuff.

load up (with something) to take or accumulate a lot of something.  □ Don’t load up with cheap souvenirs. Save your money. □ Whenever I get into a used-book store, I load up.

loaded for bear 1. Inf. angry. □ He left here in a rage. He was really loaded for bear. □ When I got home from work, I was really loaded for bear. What a horrible day! 2. Inf. drunk. (An elaboration of loaded, which means “drunk.”) □ By the end of the party, Bill was loaded for bear. □ The whole gang drank for an hour until they were loaded for bear.

loaded to the barrel Go to next.

loaded to the gills and loaded to the barrel Sl. intoxicated. □ He’s loaded to the gills. □ Man, he’s loaded to the barrel and fighting mad.

loaf around to waste time; to idle the time away doing almost nothing. □ Every time I see you, you are just loafing around. □ I enjoy loafing around on the weekend.

loaf something away† to waste away a period of time.  □ You have loafed the entire day away! □ He loafed away the entire day.

loan something to someone to lend something to someone. (Considered to be an error for lend.) □ Can you loan a few bucks to Sam and me? □ I will not loan anything to you.

lob something at someone or something to throw or toss something at someone or something. □ Who lobbed this thing at me? □ They lobbed a stone at the cat, but that only made it mad.

lobby against something to solicit support against something, such as a piece of legislation or a government regulation. □ We sent a lot of lawyers to the state capital to lobby against the bill, but it passed anyway. □ They lobbied against the tax increase.

lobby for something to solicit support for something among the members of a voting body, such as the Congress. □ Tom is always lobbying for some reform bill or other. □ The manufacturers lobbied for tax relief.

local yokel a local resident of a rural place. (Mildly derogatory.) □ One of the local yokels helped me change the tire. □ The local yokels all listen to the same radio station.

lock horns (with someone) Fig. to get into an argument with someone. □ Let’s settle this peacefully. I don’t want to lock horns with the boss. □ The boss doesn’t want to lock horns either.

lock in on someone or something and lock on(to) someone or something Fig. to fix some kind of electronic sensing device on someone or something. □ The enemy pilot was flying just ahead of us. Aiming the laser, we locked in on him and shot him down. □ We locked onto the satellite and got an excellent TV picture.

lock on(to someone or something) to fasten or grab onto someone or something. (See also lock in on someone or something.) □ She locked onto the child and wouldn’t leave his side for an instant. □ I saw the thing I wanted and locked on.

lock someone or an animal (up) in (something) and lock someone or an animal up† to fasten the opening to something so someone, a group, or an animal cannot get out. □ Take Chuck and lock him up in the cell. □ Lock up the killer and throw away the key!

lock someone or something away† to put someone or something away in a locked container or space. □ You will have to lock all the medications away when the grandchildren come to visit. □ They locked away some cash for a rainy day. □ They locked it away.

lock someone or something out of something and lock someone or something out† to lock something to prevent someone or something from getting into it. □ Someone locked me out of my office. □ Who locked out the office stuff this morning?

lock someone or something up† (somewhere) to lock someone or something within something or some place. □ The captain ordered the sailor locked up in the brig until the ship got into port. □ Don’t lock me up! □ The sheriff locked up the crook in a cell.

lock something in† to make something, such as a rate of interest, permanent over a period of time. □ You should try to lock in a high percentage rate on your bonds. □ We locked in a very low rate on our mortgage.

lock something onto someone or something and lock something on† to attach or fix something onto someone or something.  □ Tom loaded himself down with work every weekend.
lock, stock, and barrel Cliché everything. □ We had to move everything out of the house—lock, stock, and barrel. □ We lost everything—lock, stock, and barrel—in the fire.

Lock the stable door after the horse is stolen. Go to Shut the stable door after the horse has bolted.

lodge someone with someone to have someone stay with someone as a guest. □ We lodged the visitor with George for the weekend. □ Would it be possible for us to lodge Mary with you?

lodge something against someone to place a charge against someone. □ The neighbors lodged a complaint against us for walking on their grass. □ I want to lodge an assault charge against Randy.

lodge something against something to place or prop something against something. □ We lodged the chest against the door, making it difficult or impossible to open. □ Let’s lodge the stone against the side of the barn to help support it.

lodge something in something to get something stuck in something or some place. □ She lodged her coat in the door and tore it. □ He lodged a screwdriver in the machine’s gears by accident.

lodge with someone to stay or reside with someone. □ I lodged with my cousin while I was in Omaha. □ Tricia plans to lodge with us while she is here.

log off and log out to record one’s exit from a computer system. (This action may be recorded, or logged, automatically in the computer’s memory.) □ I closed my files and logged off. □ What time did you log out?

log on to begin to use a computer system, as by entering a password, etc. (This action may be recorded, or logged, automatically in the computer’s memory.) □ What time did you log on to the system this morning? □ I always log on before I get my first cup of coffee.

log out Go to log off.

log someone for something 1. to schedule someone for something. □ I am going to log you for sentry duty on the weekends. □ We will have to log Bill for service as a parking attendant. 2. to make a note in a log about someone’s bad behavior. □ The captain logged the first mate for the navigation error. □ I will have to log you for that.

log someone off and log someone out [for someone] to cause someone to exit from a computer system. (This exit may be recorded, or logged, automatically in the computer’s memory.) □ Mary had to rush off to an appointment, so I logged her off.

log someone on (to something) to allow someone to link (electronically) to a computer system. (This action may be recorded, or logged, automatically in the computer’s memory.) □ I will log you on to the system if you forgot how to do it. □ I will log on to the system, who is late.

log someone out Go to log someone off.

log something up to record an amount of something. □ The ship logged many nautical miles up on its last voyage. □ It logged up a lot of miles.

loiter around to idle somewhere; to hang around. □ Stop loitering around! Get going! □ The kids were loitering around for most of the summer.

loiter over something to dawdle or linger over something. □ Don’t loiter over your meal. I want to start the dishwasher. □ I wish you wouldn’t loiter over your chores.

loiter something away† to idle away a period of time. □ Those boys will loiter half their lives away. □ They loitered away their summer vacation.

loll about (some place) to lie, lounge, or drop some place. □ The tired travelers lolled about all over the hotel lobby until their rooms were ready. □ They were still lolling about at three in the afternoon.

loll around to roll, flop, or hang around. □ The dog’s tongue lolled around as it rolled on its back, trying to keep cool. □ Stop lolling around and get to work.

loll back [for a head] to fall or droop backwards. □ As he passed out, his head lolled back and struck the corner of the table. □ Her head lolled back and suddenly she was fast asleep.

loll out [for a tongue] to hang, or droop out. □ The dog’s tongue lolled out as it lay sleeping. □ Since the dog’s tongue lolled out every time it opened its mouth, it is a wonder it didn’t bite it when it closed its mouth.

lollygag (around) to loaf; to loiter. □ How can I get my work done with you lollygagging around? □ I spent my vacation just lollygagging.

the long and the short of it and the short and the long of it Fig. the most important point; the summary of the matter. □ Jill: Is there some reason that you’ve spent the last half hour complaining about Fred? Jane: The long and the short of it is, I hate working with him so much that I’m going to resign. □ Dad keeps saying that he can’t spend the rest of his life in mourning for Mother. I finally asked him if he was thinking of getting married again. “That’s the long and the short of it,” he admitted.

the long arm of the law Fig. the police; the law. □ The long arm of the law is going to tap you on the shoulder some day, Lefty. □ The long arm of the law finally caught up with Gert.

long for someone or something to desire or pine for someone or something. □ She is longing for her old friends. □ Walter longed for his hometown in the mountains.

long gone gone a long time ago; used up a long time ago. □ The ice cream and cake are long gone. You are simply too late for the refreshments.

long in the tooth Fig. old. □ That actor is getting a little long in the tooth to play the romantic lead. □ I may be long in the tooth, but I’m not stupid.

long story short Sl. to make a long story short; Okay, long story short: everything that goes up comes down, okay? □ Then the guy comes over, and—long story short—“You got a match?”

long time no see. Cliché I have not seen you in a long time.; We have not seen each other in a long time. □ Tom:
Hi, Fred. Where have you been keeping yourself? Fred: Good to see you, Tom. Long time no see. [57x819] 12/7/04  13:53  Page 413

The **longest way round is the shortest way home.** Prov. It may seem as if it will take too long to do something carefully and according to directions, but in fact it will take less time than doing something carelessly, because you will not have to fix it afterwards. □ I would advise you to read the instructions before trying to use your new stereo. It takes some time, but the longest way round is the nearest way home.

**look a gift horse in the mouth** Fig. to be ungrateful to someone who gives you something; to treat someone who gives you a gift badly. (Usually with a negative.) □ Never look a gift horse in the mouth. □ I advise you not to look a gift horse in the mouth.

**look about** (for someone or something) to try to locate someone or something. □ I have to look about for someone to serve as a babysitter. □ I don’t see it here. I’ll have to look about.

**look after** someone or something to take care of someone or something. □ Please look after my little boy. □ Will you look after my cat while I’m away? □ Do you want me to look after your car?

**look ahead** to something to try to foresee something; to try to think or plan further than someone or something. □ Come on, Fred! Look ahead! shouted the coach, who was not happy with Fred’s performance. □ Bill: Look alive, Bob! Bob: I’m doing the best I can.

**look alike** to appear similar. □ All these cars look alike these days. □ The twins look alike and not many people can tell them apart.

**look alive!** Act alert and responsive! □ “Come on, Fred! Get moving! Look alive!” shouted the coach, who was not happy with Fred’s performance. □ Bill: Look alive, Bob! Bob: I’m doing the best I can.

**look around** (at something) to investigate something; to study something visually. □ Go into the room and look around at the way they have fixed it up. □ I went in and looked around.

**look around for** someone or something to seek someone or something out. □ Look around for Ted and tell him to come home. □ I looked around for the can opener, but it’s not there.

**look around (in) some place** to investigate some place. □ Look around the kitchen. You will find what you want. □ Tell her to look around in the attic. Maybe the camping gear is there.

**look as if butter wouldn’t melt in one’s mouth** Fig. to appear to be cold and unfeeling (despite any information to the contrary). □ Sally looks as if butter wouldn’t melt in her mouth. She can be so cruel. □ What a sour face. He looks as if butter wouldn’t melt in his mouth.

**look aside** to look to one side; to turn one’s head aside so as not to see someone or something. □ As I approached, he looked aside, pretending not to recognize me. □ She looked aside, hoping I wouldn’t see her.

**look askance at** someone or something Fig. to be surprised or shocked at someone or something. □ The teacher looked askance at the student who had acted so rudely. □ Everyone had looked askance at her efforts as an artist.

**look at someone cross-eyed** Fig. to merely appear to question, threaten, or mock someone. (Often in the negative.) □ You had better be on your best behavior around Tony. Don’t even look at him cross-eyed! □ If you so much as look at me cross-eyed, I will send you to your room.

**look at someone or something to examine someone or something.** □ The doctor needs to look at the wound before you leave. □ You had better have the doctor look at you. That is a nasty wound.

**look at the crux of the matter** and **look at the heart of the matter** look at the root of the matter Go to the crux of the matter.

**look at the heart of the matter** Go to previous.

**Look (at) what the cat dragged in!** Inf. Look who’s here! (A good-humored and familiar way of showing surprise at someone’s presence in a place, especially if the person looks a little rumpled. Compare this with look like something the cat dragged in.) □ Bob and Mary were standing near the doorway talking when Tom came in. “Look what the cat dragged in!” announced Bob. □ Mary: Hello, everybody. I’m here! Jane: Look at what the cat dragged in!

**look away (from someone or something)** to turn one’s gaze away from someone. □ She looked away from him, not wishing her eyes to give away her true feelings. □ In embarrassment, she looked away.

**look back (at someone or something) and look back on (someone or something)** 1. Lit. to gaze back and try to get a view of someone or something. □ She looked back at the city and whispered a good-bye to everything she had ever cared for. □ I went away and never looked back. 2. Fig. to think about someone or something in the past. □ When I look back on Frank, I do remember his strange manner, come to think of it. □ When I look back, I am amazed at all I have accomplished.

**look becoming** on someone Go to becoming on someone.

**Look before you leap.** Prov. Cliché Think carefully about what you are about to do before you do it. □ I’m not saying you shouldn’t sign the lease for that apartment. I’m just saying you should look before you leap. □ fill: I’m thinking about going to night school, Jane: Are you sure you can spare the time and the money? Look before you leap.

**look beyond** someone or something 1. Lit. to try to see to a point farther than someone or something. □ Look beyond Claire at the forest in the distance. □ Look beyond the house and see what you can spot in the trees behind it. 2. Fig. to try to think or plan further than someone or something. □ Sally will be gone soon. Look beyond Sally and decide whom you want to hire. □ Look beyond Tom. Think about how you will deal with the next person who has Tom’s job.

**look daggers at someone** Fig. to give someone a dirty look. □ Tom must have been mad at Ann from the way he
look down (at someone or something) was looking daggers at her. □ Don’t you dare look daggers at me! Don’t even look cross-eyed at me!

look down (at someone or something) 1. to turn one’s gaze downward at someone or something. □ She looked down at me and giggled at the awkward position I was in. □ She looked down and burst into laughter. 2. and look down one’s nose at someone or something; look down on someone or something to view someone or something as lowly or unworthy. □ She looked down at all the waiters and treated them badly. □ They looked down on our humble food. □ Don’t look down your nose at my car just because it’s rusty and noisy.

look fit to kill Fig. [dressed up] to look very fancy or sexy. □ Mary put on her best clothes and looked fit to kill. □ John looked fit to kill in his new tuxedo.

look for something or someone to seek someone or something. □ I am looking for Mr. William Wilson. Do you know where he lives? □ I am looking for the address of Bill Wilson.

look for someone or something high and low and look high and low (for someone or something) to search everywhere for someone or something. □ Where were you? I looked for you high and low. □ I looked high and low for my passport.

look for trouble Go to ask for trouble.

look forward to something to anticipate something with pleasure. □ I’m really looking forward to your visit next week. □ We all look forward to your new book on gardening.

look good on paper to seem fine in theory, but not perhaps in practice; to appear to be a good plan. □ The plan looks good on paper, but it may not work. □ This looks good on paper. Let’s hope it works in the real world.

look here a phrase emphasizing the point that follows. (Can show some impatience.) □ Henry: Look here, I want to try to help you, but you're not making it easy for me. Rachel: I'm just so upset. □ Andy: Look here, I just asked you a simple question! Bob: As I told you in the beginning, there are no simple answers.

look high and low (for someone or something) Go to look for someone or something high and low.

look in (on someone or something) and check in (on someone or something) to see to the welfare of someone or something; to check briefly on someone or something. □ I’ll stop by your house and look in on things while you’re on vacation. □ Yes, just look in and make sure nothing is wrong.

look into something 1. Lit. to gaze into the inside of something. □ Look into the box and make sure you’ve gotten everything out of it. □ Look into the camera’s viewfinder at the little red light. 2. and check into something; see into something Fig. to investigate something. □ I’ll have to look into that matter. □ The police checked into her story. □ Don’t worry about your problem. I’ll see into it.

look like a candidate for a pair of wings Go to a candidate for a pair of wings.

look like a case of something Go to a case of something.

look like a (dead) ringer (for someone) Go to a (dead) ringer (for someone).

look like a million dollars Go to like a million dollars.


look like death warmed over Go to like death warmed over.

look like someone or something to resemble someone or something. □ You look like my cousin Fred. □ This one looks like an apple.

look like something to give the appearance of predicting (something). □ The sky looks like rain. □ No, it looks like snow. □ Oh, oh. This looks like trouble. Let’s go.

look like something the cat dragged in Fig. to look very shabby, worn, exhausted, or abused. (Sometimes with drug.) □ That new sofa of theirs looks like something the cat dragged in. □ Poor Dave looks like something the cat dragged in. He must have been out late last night.

look like the cat that swallowed the canary Fig. to appear as if one had just had a great success. □ After the meeting John looked like the cat that swallowed the canary. I knew he must have been a success. □ Your presentation must have gone well. You look like the cat that swallowed the canary.

Look me up when you’re in town. When you next come to my town, try to find me (and we will get together). (A vague and perhaps insincere invitation.) □ Bob: Nice to see you, Tom. Bye now. Tom: Yes, indeed. Look me up when you’re in town. Bye. □ Sally (on the phone): Bye. Nice talking to you. Mary: Bye, Sally. Sorry we can’t talk more. Look me up when you’re in town.

look none the worse for wear Go to none the worse for wear.

look on to be a spectator and watch what is happening without participating. □ The beating took place while a policeman looked on. □ While the kittens played, the mother cat looked on contentedly.

look on someone as something to view or think of someone as something. □ I look on you as a very thoughtful person. □ Mary looked on Jane as a good friend.

look on the bright side Fig. consider the positive aspects of a negative situation. □ Look on the bright side. Things could have been much worse than they are.

look on (with someone) to share and read from someone else’s notes, paper, book, music, etc. □ I don’t have a copy of the notice, but I will look on with Carlo. □ Carla has a copy of the music. She doesn’t mind if I look on.

look out Go to watch out for someone or something.

look out for number one Go to look after number one.

look out for someone Go to watch out for someone.

look out (of) something to gaze outward from inside something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Look out of the window and see if it is raining. □ I looked out of the door to see what the weather was like.
look (out) on(to) something [for something] to face onto something or some place.  □ The balcony looks out onto the meadow.  □ My window looks onto the street.

look someone in the eye Go to next.

look someone in the face and look someone in the eye; stare someone in the face Fig. to face someone directly. (Facing someone this way is a sign of sincerity.) □ I don’t believe you. Look me in the eye and say that.  □ She looked him in the face and said she never wanted to see him again.

look someone or something overľ to examine someone or something. □ I think you had better have the doctor look you over.  □ Please look over these papers.

look someone or something upľ and hunt someone or something upľ 1. to seek someone, a group, or something out. □ I lost track of Sally. I’ll try to look her up and get in touch with her. □ I am going to look up an old friend when I am in Chicago. □ I am going to hunt that old gang up. □ Ted came into town and looked up his favorite pizza place. 2. to seek information about someone or something in a book or listing. □ I don’t recognize his name. I’ll look him up and see what I can find. □ I’ll look up this person in a reference book. □ She looked herself up in the telephone book to make sure her name was spelled correctly.

look the other way 1. Lit. to look in the opposite direction. □ To make sure it’s safe to cross the street, look the other way before you step off the curb. 2. Fig. to ignore something on purpose. □ John could have prevented the problem, but he looked the other way. □ By looking the other way, he actually made the problem worse.

look through something 1. to gaze through something. □ Look through the window at what the neighbors are doing. □ Look through the binoculars and see if you can get a better view. 2. to examine the parts, pages, samples, etc., of something. □ Look through this report and see what you make of it. □ I will look through it when I have time.

look to be a million miles away Go to a million miles away.

look to one’s laurels Fig. to take care not to lower or diminish one’s reputation or position, especially in relation to that of someone else potentially better. □ With the arrival of the new member of the football team, James will have to look to his laurels to remain as the highest scorer. □ The older members of the team will have to look to their laurels when the new players arrive.

look to someone or something (for something) to expect someone or something to supply something. □ Children look to their parents for help. □ Tom looked to the bank for a loan.

look to the naked eye Go to the naked eye.

look toward someone or something to face in the direction of someone or something. □ Look toward Sarah and see where she is standing. Isn’t that a lovely garden she’s in? □ Look toward the sea and see what a sunset is meant to look like.

look under the hood to examine the engine of a car; to check the oil, water, and other such routine items associated with the engine of a car. □ I finished putting gas in. I need to look under the hood. □ Do you want me to look under the hood, sir?

look up to show promise of improving. □ My prospects for a job are looking up. □ Conditions are looking up.

look up and down (for someone or something) to look everywhere for someone or something. □ Where is Kelly? I looked up and down for her. □ I can’t find her. I looked up and down, but no Kelly.

look up and down something to gaze up and then down something, such as a street. □ We looked up and down the street and saw no cars, no houses, and no people. □ Mary looked up and down the highway, but she could not find her lost hubcap.

look up at someone or something to raise one’s gaze to someone or something. □ Would you please look up at me while I am talking to you? I hate to be ignored. □ Look up at the top of that building.

look up from something to gaze upwards; to stop reading or working and lift one’s gaze upward. □ She looked up from her reading and spoke to us. □ Mary looked up as we came into the room.

look up to someone Fig. to view someone with respect and admiration. □ Bill really looks up to his father. □ Everyone in the class looked up to the teacher.

look (up)on someone or something as something to view someone or something as something; to consider someone or something to be something. □ I look upon Todd as a fine and helpful guy. □ I look on these requests as an annoyance.

look (up)on someone or something with something to view someone or something with an attitude, such as scorn, favor, anger, disgust, etc. □ She looked upon all of us with scorn. □ Bill looked on the food setup before him with disgust.


Look who’s talking! Fig. You are guilty of doing the same thing that you have criticized someone else for doing or that you accused someone else of doing. □ Andy: You criticize me for being late! Look who’s talking! You just missed your flight! Jane: Well, nobody’s perfect. □ Mary: You just talk and talk, you go on much too long about practically nothing, and you never give a chance for anyone else to talk, and you just don’t know when to stop! Sally: Look who’s talking!

looking like a sitting duck Go to a sitting duck.

looking over one’s shoulder Fig. keeping watch for danger or threats to oneself. □ Bob’s a little paranoid. He’s always looking over his shoulder.

* a look-see Rur. a look at someone or something; a peek. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~; take ~.) □ A: Do you think they have finished painting your office yet? B: Let’s go down there and take a look-see.

loom large (on the horizon) Cliché to be of great importance, especially when referring to an upcoming problem, danger, or threat. □ The exams were looming large on the horizon. □ Eviction was looming large when the tenants could not pay their rent.
loom out of something  to appear to come out of or penetrate something. □ A truck suddenly loomed out of the fog and just missed hitting us. □ A tall building loomed out of the mists.

loom up  to appear to rise up [from somewhere]; to take form or definition, usually threatening to some degree. □ A great city loomed up in the distance. It looked threatening in the dusky light. □ A ghost loomed up, but we paid no attention, since it had to be a joke. □ The recession loomed up, and the stock market reacted.

a loose cannon  a person whose actions are unpredictable and uncontrollable. □ As it turned out, he’s not just a loose cannon. He makes sense. □ Some loose cannon in the State Department has been leaking stories to the press.

Loose lips sink ships. Don’t talk carelessly because you don’t know who is listening. (From wartime. Literally, “Don’t reveal even the location of a loved one on a ship, because the location could be communicated to the enemy by a spy.”) □ You never know who is going to hear what you say and how they will use what they hear. Remember, loose lips sink ships.

a loose translation  Go to a free translation.

loosen someone or something up 1 to make someone’s muscles and joints move more freely by exercising them. □ The exercise loosened me up quite nicely. □ It loosened up my legs. □ I have to do some exercises to loosen myself up.

loosen someone up 2 Fig. to make someone or a group more relaxed and friendly. □ I loosened up the audience with a joke. □ Loosen yourself up. Relax and try to enjoy people.

loosen up  to become loose or relaxed. □ Loosen up. Relax. □ We tried to get Mary to loosen up, but she did not respond.

lopped something off (of) something and lopped something off 2 to chop or cut something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Lop that long branch off the tree before you put the saw away, will you? □ Please lop off that branch.

lope along  to move along, bounding. □ The dog loped along at a very even pace, answering to his master’s whistle. □ The horses loped along, eager to get home.

(lord) high muck-a-muck  Rur. a very important person. (Humorous.) □ Jim’s acting like he’s some kind of lord high muck-a-muck. What’s gotten into him? □ Mary got a promotion, so now she’s a real high muck-a-muck.

lord it over someone  Fig. to dominate someone; to direct and control someone. □ Mr. Smith seems to lord it over his wife. □ The boss lords it over everyone in the office.

Lord knows I’ve tried. Fig. I certainly have tried very hard. □ Alice: Why don’t you get Bill to fix this fence? Mary: Lord knows I’ve tried. I must have asked him a dozen times—this year alone. □ Sue: I can’t seem to get to class on time. Rachel: That’s just awful. Sue: Lord knows I’ve tried. I just can’t do it.

Lord love a duck! Fig. My goodness! (An exclamation of surprise.) □ Lord love a duck! How that rain is coming down! □ Lord love a duck! Did you see that cat chasing that dog?

Lord willing and the creek don’t rise  Go to God willing and the creek don’t rise.
lose one's hold on someone or something 1. Lit. to fail to keep one's handhold on someone or something. □ I lost my hold on the child, and she nearly slipped away. □ She lost her grip on the bag of jewels and it fell overboard. 2. and lose one's hold over someone or something Fig. to give up control over someone or something. □ The manager lost her hold on her employees and was fired. □ Fred is losing his grip on his workers. □ He is losing his hold over his empire.

lose one's lunch Go to blow (one's) lunch.

lose one's reason Fig. to lose one's power of reasoning, possibly in anger. □ I was so confused that I almost lost my reason. □ Bob seems to have lost his reason when he struck John.

lose one's shirt Fig. to lose a lot of money; to lose all of one's assets (as if one had even lost one's shirt). □ I almost lost my shirt on that deal. I have to invest more wisely. □ One's assets (as if one had even lost one's shirt). □ I lost sight of Alice as she walked into the room.

lose one's temper (at someone or something) Fig. to become angry at someone or something. □ Lisa lost her temper and began shouting at Bob. □ I hate to lose my temper at someone. I always end up feeling guilty.

lose one's touch (with someone or something) Fig. to lose one's ability to handle someone or something. □ I seem to have lost my touch with my children. They won't listen to me anymore. □ We've both lost our touch as far as managing people goes.

lose one's train of thought Fig. to forget what one was talking or thinking about. □ Excuse me, I lost my train of thought. What was I talking about? □ Your question made the speaker lose her train of thought.

lose oneself in someone or something to be thoroughly absorbed in someone or something; to become engrossed in someone or something. □ Frank loses himself in his children when he is at home. □ When I lose myself in my work, time just rushes by.

lose out 1. to lose in competition; to lose one's expected reward. □ Our team lost out because our quarterback broke his leg. □ I ran my best race, but I still lost out. 2. lose out (on something) Go to miss out (on something).

lose out to someone or something to lose a competition to someone or something. □ Our team lost out to the other team. □ Bill lost out to Sally in the contest.

lose patience (with someone or something) to stop being patient with someone or something; to become impatient with someone or something. □ Please try to be more cooperative. I'm losing patience with you.

lose sight of someone or something 1. Lit. to have one's vision of someone or something fade because of distance or an obstruction. □ I lost sight of Alice as she walked into the distance. □ We lost sight of the ship as it sailed out of the harbor. 2. Fig. to forget to consider someone or something. □ Don't lose sight of Alice and her basic contributions. □ Don't lose sight of the basic value of the land on which the house sits.

lose sleep over someone or something and lose sleep about someone or something Fig. to worry about someone or something a lot, sometimes when one should be sleeping. (Often used with any and the negative.) □ Yes, Kelly is in a little bit of trouble, but I'm not going to lose any sleep over her. □ Don't lose any sleep over the matter. □ I refuse to lose sleep about it.

lose some amount of time [for some amount of time] to be wasted. □ We lost a lot of time waiting for Hermione. □ He lost no time in getting out of there.

lose something at something to lose a wager at playing something or at gambling. □ I lost a fortune at gambling. □ We lost all our money at dice.

lose something in something to misplace something in something. □ I lost my wallet in the barn. □ Did someone lose something in the dining room?

lose something to someone to yield or give up something in defeat to someone. □ We lost the case to the opposing lawyers. □ Mary lost her title to last year's runner-up.

lose the use of something to be deprived of the use of something. □ After the accident, I lost the use of my left arm for a few days. □ Andy lost the use of the car for a week.

lose to someone or something to be defeated by someone or something. □ I lost to Wendy in the sales contest. □ Our team lost to the Adamsville Raiders for the seventh year in a row.

lose touch with reality to began to think unrealistically; to become unrealistic. □ I am so overworked that I am losing touch with reality. □ The psychotic criminal had lost touch with reality.

lose touch with someone or something Go to lose contact with someone or something.

lose trace of someone or something Rur. to fail to maintain a way of finding someone or something. □ I lost trace of Walter after we left high school. □ I lost trace of the stock certificates after about twenty years.

lose track of someone or something to lose contact with someone; to forget where something is. □ I lost track of all my friends from high school. □ Tom has lost track of his glasses again.

a losing streak Fig. a series of losses [in sports, for instance]. (*Typically: be on ~; have ~; continue one's ~.) □ The team was on a losing streak that started nearly three years ago.

lost and gone forever lost; permanently lost. □ My poor doggy is lost and gone forever. □ My money fell out of my pocket and I am sure that it is lost and gone forever.

a lost cause a futile attempt; a hopeless matter. □ Our campaign to have the new party on the ballot was a lost cause. □ Todd gave it up as a lost cause.

*lost in something enveloped in something; engrossed in something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Ed sat under the tree, lost in reverie. □ Excuse me. I didn't hear you. I was lost in my own thoughts.

*lost on someone Fig. wasted on someone; not valued or appreciated by someone. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ My jokes are lost on him. He is too literal. □ The humor of the situation was lost on Mary. She was too upset to see it.

lost without someone or something unable to function without someone or something. □ I am just lost without you. □ The engineer is lost without his pocket computer.
lost-and-found an office or department that handles items that someone has lost that have been found by someone else. The lost-and-found office had an enormous collection of umbrellas and four sets of false teeth! I found a book on the seat of the bus. I turned it in to the driver, who gave it to the lost-and-found office.

a lot of give-and-take Fig. a lot of two-way discussion. It was a good meeting. There was a lot of give-and-take, and we all learned. Fig. a lot of negotiating and bargaining. After an afternoon of give-and-take, we were finally able to put all the details into an agreement.

*a lot of nerve Fig. great rudeness; a lot of audacity or brashness. He walked out on her, and that took a lot of nerve! You have a lot of nerve! You took my parking place! Fig. courage. He climbed the mountain with a bruised foot. That took a lot of nerve. He has a lot of nerve to go into business for himself.

*a lot of promise much promise for the future. This bush is small, but it shows a lot of promise. This is a good meeting. There was a lot of give-and-take.

a lot of someone or something and lots of people or things a large number of people or things; much of something. I got a lot of presents for my birthday. I ate lots of cookies after dinner.

Lots of luck! Good luck! I'm glad you're giving it a try. Lots of luck! Lots of luck in your new job! You don't have a chance! Good luck, you'll need it! (Sarcastic.) Think you stand a chance? Lots of luck! You a senator? Lots of luck!

lots of people or things Go to a lot of someone or something.

loud and clear clear and distinctly. (Originally said of radio reception that is heard clearly and distinctly.) Tom: If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times: Stop it! Do you hear me? Bill: Yes, loud and clear. I hear you loud and clear.

lounge around (some place) to pass time idly some place. I am going to lounge around the house this morning. Don't lounge around all day.

louse someone or something up Inf. to ruin something; to mess someone or something up. You really loused me up! You got me in a real mess! Who loused up my scheme?

lousy with someone or something Inf. having lots of someone or something. (Like an infestation of lice.) Old Mr. Wilson is lousy with money. Tiffany is lousy with jewels and furs, but she's got bad teeth.

love at first sight Fig. love established when two people first see one another. Bill was standing at the door when Ann opened it. It was love at first sight. It was love at first sight when they met, but it didn't last long.

Love begets love. Prov. If you behave lovingly to other people, they will behave lovingly to you. Child: I hate Tammy! She's always mean to me. Father: If you're nicer to her, maybe she'll change her ways. Love begets love.

Love is blind. Cliché If you love someone, you cannot see any faults in that person. Jill: I don't understand why Joanna likes Tom. He's inconsiderate, he's vain, and he isn't even good-looking. Jane: Love is blind.

Love makes the world go round. Prov. Life is more pleasant when people treat each other lovingly. Come on, guys, stop fighting with each other all the time. Love makes the world go round.

Love me, love my dog. Prov. If you love someone, you should accept everything and everyone that the person loves. Jill: I wish you'd keep your dog out of the house when I come over. Jane: Love me, love my dog. Most of Alice's friends didn't like her sister, but they accepted her because Alice insisted, "Love me, love my dog."

The love of money is the root of all evil. Go to Money is the root of all evil.

Love will find a way. Prov. People who are in love will overcome any obstacles in order to be together. (Sometimes used ironically, to suggest that someone is in love with whatever he or she is struggling to be near, as in the second example.) Jill: I feel so sorry for Lily and Craig. They just got engaged, and now his job is transferring him across the country. Jane: Love will find a way, I'm sure. Alan: Fred's feeling discouraged because he didn't get the loan he needed to buy the sports car he wants. Bill: I'm sure he'll get that car eventually. Love will find a way.

Love you! Inf. You are great! (Often insincere.) See ya around, Martin. Let's do lunch! Love ya! Bye-bye. Nice talking to you, babe. Love you!

a love-hate relationship Fig. a relationship of any kind that involves both devotion and hatred. Tommy has a love-hate relationship with his teacher. Mostly, though, it's hate lately.

Lovely weather for ducks. Cliché a greeting meaning that this unpleasant rainy weather must be good for something. Bill: Hi, Bob. How do you like this weather? Bob: Lovely weather for ducks.

Sally: What a lot of rain! Tom: Yeah. Lovely weather for ducks. Don't care for it much myself.

low man on the totem pole Fig. the least important or lowest-ranking person of a group. I was the last to find out because I'm low man on the totem pole. I can't be of any help. I'm low man on the totem pole.

*a low profile Fig. a persona or character that does not draw attention. (Typically: assume ~; have ~; keep ~; give oneself ~.) I try to be quiet and keep a low profile. It's hard because I just love attention.

*the lowdown (on someone or something) the full story about someone or something. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) I need to get the lowdown on John. Is he still an accountant? Sally wants to get the lowdown on the new pension plan. Please tell her all about it.

lower one's sights Fig. to set one's goals lower. (Alludes to pointing the barrel of a rifle lower to lower the aim of the rifle.) Even though you get frustrated, don't lower your sights. I shouldn't lower my sights. If I work hard, I can do what I want.

lower one's voice Fig. to speak more softly. Please lower your voice or you'll disturb the people who are working. He wouldn't lower his voice, so everyone heard what he said.

lower oneself to some level Fig. to bring oneself down to some lower level of behavior. I refuse to lower myself to your level. Has TV news lowered itself to the level of the tabloids?
lower someone’s ears Rur. to cut someone’s hair. □ I asked the barber to lower my ears. □ Looks like somebody lowered Joe’s ears!

lower someone’s spirits Go to someone’s spirits.

lower the boom on someone Fig. to scold or punish someone severely; to crack down on someone; to throw the book at someone. □ If Bob won’t behave better, I’ll have to lower the boom on him. □ The teacher lowered the boom on the whole class for misbehaving.

low-hanging fruit Fig. the easiest person(s) to sell something to, to convince of something, or to fool. (From the much older easy pickings.) □ People who always want to be the first to buy something, they’re low-hanging fruit for this product. □ Don’t be satisfied with the low-hanging fruit. Go after the hard-sell types.

luck into something to find something by luck; to get involved in something by luck. □ I lucked into this apartment on the very day I started looking. □ We lucked into a good deal on a used car.

the luck of the draw the results of chance; the lack of any choice. □ Why do I always end up with the luck of the draw? □ The team was assembled by chance. It was just the luck of the draw that we could work so well together.

luck out to be fortunate; to strike it lucky. □ I really lucked out when I ordered the duck. It’s excellent. □ I didn’t luck out at all. I really make the right choice.

luck out of something to get out of something by luck alone. □ I lucked out of taking a driving test. I only had to pass a vision test to get my license. □ Man, I really lucked out of it.

Lucky at cards, unlucky in love. Prov. If you frequently win at card games, you will not have happy love affairs. (Can imply the converse, that if you do not win at card games, you will have happy love affairs.) □ Fred: I wish I was George. He always wins tons of money at our poker games. Alan: Don’t be jealous of him. Lucky at cards, unlucky in love.

a lucky break and a nice break; a big break significant good fortune or opportunity. □ I need a lucky break about now. □ She’s never had a lucky break. □ Mary is going to get a big break soon.

a lucky dog Fig. a lucky person. □ You won the lottery? You are a lucky dog!

lucky for you a phrase introducing a description of an event that favors the person being spoken to. □ Andy: Lucky for you the train was delayed. Otherwise you’d have to wait till tomorrow morning for the next one. Fred: That’s luck, all right. I’d hate to have to sleep in the station. □ Jane: I hope I’m not too late. Sue: Lucky for you, everyone else is late too.

*a lucky streak and *a streak of luck Fig. a series of lucky wins in gambling or games. (“Typically: be on —; have —) □ Thanks to a lucky streak, I won enough in Las Vegas to pay for the trip.

the lull before the storm and the calm before the storm a quiet period just before a period of great activity or excitement. (Literal in reference to weather.) □ It was very quiet in the cafeteria just before the students came in for lunch. It was the lull before the storm. □ In the brief calm before the storm, the clerks prepared themselves for the doors to open and bring in thousands of shoppers.

lull someone into a false sense of security Cliché to lead someone into believing that all is well before attacking or doing someone bad. □ We lulled the enemy into a false sense of security by pretending to retreat. Then we launched an attack. □ The boss lulled us into a false sense of security by saying that our jobs were safe and then let half the staff go.

lull someone or an animal to sleep to quiet and comfort someone or an animal to sleep. □ The sound of the waves lulled me to sleep. □ The dog’s heartbeat lulled her puppies to sleep.

lumber along to lope or walk along heavily and awkwardly. □ The horses were lumbering along very slowly because they were tired out. □ They were lumbering along, hoping to get there on time.

lumber off to move or lope away heavily and awkwardly. □ The frightened bear lumbered off, and we left in a hurry. □ He lumbered off, leaving us there alone.

*lump in one’s throat the feeling of something in one’s throat—as if one were going to cry. (“Typically: get —; have —; give one —) □ Whenever they play the national anthem, I get a lump in my throat. □ I have a lump in my throat because I’m frightened.

Lump it! Inf. Forget it!; Go away! □ Well, you can just lump it! □ Lump it! Drop dead!

lump someone and someone else together and lump something and something else together to classify people or things as members of the same category. □ You just can’t lump Bill and Ted together. They are totally different kinds of people. □ I tend to lump apples and oranges together.

the lunatic fringe the most extreme members of a group. □ Most of the members of that religious sect are quite reasonable, but Lisa belongs to the lunatic fringe. □ Many people try to avoid eating a lot of fat, but Mary is part of the lunatic fringe and will eat anything.

lunch off something to make a lunch by eating something or part of something. □ We will be able to lunch off the leftover turkey for days! □ I can lunch off what is in the refrigerator. Don’t worry about me.

lunch out to eat lunch away from one’s home or away from one’s place of work. □ I think I’ll lunch out today. I’m tired of carrying lunches. □ I want to lunch out today.

lunge at someone or something to jump or dive at someone or something. □ The dog lunged at the man, but he got out of the way without getting bitten. □ The dog lunged at the bicycle.

lunge for someone or something to charge or jump at someone or something; to attack someone or something. □ The mugger lunged for her, but she dodged him. □ Ted lunged for the door, but Bill beat him to it.

lurch at someone or something and lurch toward someone or something to sway or turn quickly toward someone or something. □ Todd lurched at the door and got it open just as the guard saw him. □ Bill lurched toward the ship’s rail and hung on.
lurch forward to jerk or sway forward. ☐ The car lurched forward and shook us around. ☐ When the train lurched forward, we were pushed back into our seats.

lure someone or something away† (from someone or something) to entice or draw someone away from someone or something. ☐ Do you think we could lure her away from her present employment? ☐ They were not able to lure away many of the employees of the other companies.

lure someone or something in to something and lure someone or something in† to entice someone or something into something or a place. ☐ The thief tried to lure the tourist into an alley to rob him. ☐ Using an old trick, the thief lured in the tourist.

lurk around to slink or sneak around somewhere. ☐ Who is that guy lurking around the building? ☐ Stop lurking around.

lust after someone and lust for someone to desire someone sexually. ☐ You could see that Sam was lusting after Sally. ☐ Roger claims that he does not lust for anyone.

lust for something Fig. to desire something. ☐ He says he lusts for a nice cold can of beer. ☐ Mary lusts for rich and fattening ice cream.

luxuriate in something to indulge oneself in something; to enjoy the luxury of something. ☐ She stood in front of the mirror, luxuriating in her lovely new coat. ☐ They were all luxuriating in the warm, bubbling waters of the hot tub.
mad about someone or something Go to crazy about someone or something.

*mad as a hatter and *mad as a march hare 1. crazy. (Alludes to the crazy characters in Lewis Carroll’s Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. *Also: as ~.) □ Poor old John is as mad as a hatter. □ All these screaming children are driving me mad as a hatter. 2. angry. (This is a misunderstanding of mad in the first sense. *Also: as ~.) □ You make me so angry! I'm as mad as a hatter. □ John can’t control his temper. He’s always mad as a hatter.

*mad as a hornet and *mad as a wet hen; *mad as hell very angry. (*Also: as ~. Use hell with caution.) □ You make me so angry. I’m as mad as a hornet. □ What you said made Mary mad as a wet hen. □ Those terrorists make me mad as hell.

mad as a march hare Go to mad as a hatter.

mad as a wet hen Go to mad as a hornet.

mad as hell Go to mad as a hornet.

*mad (at someone or something) angry at someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; make someone ~.) □ Don’t get mad at me. I didn’t do it. □ I got mad at my car. It won’t start.

mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets) and angry enough to chew nails; mad enough to spit nails Inf. Fig. very angry, as if to be able to bite through metal nails. □ I am mad enough to chew nails! Who took my checkbook? □ Her sudden tirade made him angry enough to chew nails. □ He stomped in, mad enough to chew nails and spit rivets.

mad enough to kick a cat Rur. very angry. □ Stay out of my way. I'm mad enough to kick a cat! □ The team lost. The coach was mad enough to kick a cat.

mad enough to spit nails Go to mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets).

made conspicuous by one’s absence Go to conspicuous by one’s absence.

made for each other [of two people] very well suited romantically. □ Bill and Jane were made for each other. □ Mr. and Mrs. Smith were not made for each other. They really don’t get along.

made for someone created to please someone or look good on someone in particular. □ This hat was made for me. □ This suit was just made for me!

made for something to have been designed or manufactured for some purpose; to be very suitable for something or some purpose. □ This night was made for love. □ This wrench is manufactured from the strongest metal. It is made for jobs just like this one.

made from the same mold Go to cut from the same cloth.

made to measure [of clothing] made especially to fit the measurements of a particular person. □ Jack has his suits made to measure because he’s rather large. □ Having clothes made to measure is rather expensive.

made to order made to one’s own measurements and on request. (See also make something to order.) □ This suit fits so well because it’s made to order. □ His feet are so big that all his shoes have to be made to order.

maiden voyage Fig. the first voyage of a ship or boat. □ The liner sank on its maiden voyage. □ Jim is taking his yacht on its maiden voyage.

mail something from some place to send something by mail from a particular place. □ I mailed the check from my office. □ I will mail it from the main post office.

mail something to someone to send something to someone by mail. □ I mailed the check to you yesterday. □ I mailed a gift to my niece.

main strength and awkwardness Fig. great force; brute force. □ They finally got the piano moved in to the living room by main strength and awkwardness. □ Lifting the antique table must be done carefully. This is not a job requiring main strength and awkwardness.

maintain someone in something to keep or provide for someone in a certain style or condition. □ I insist that you maintain me in the style to which I have become accustomed. □ He had hoped to maintain himself in comfort.

maintain something at something to keep something at a certain level, setting, degree, amount, etc. □ You must maintain the temperature at 30 degrees Celsius. □ We have to maintain the temperature at a very high level.

major in something to specialize in a certain subject in college. □ I majored in history in college. □ I want to major in math.

make a beeline for someone or something Fig. to head straight toward someone or something. (Alludes to the straight flight of a bee.) □ Billy came into the kitchen and made a beeline for the cookies. □ After the game, we all made a beeline for John, who was serving cold drinks.

make a believer (out) of someone to convince someone decisively about something. □ The game they played made a believer out of me; from now on, I’m betting on them. □ It was an interesting discussion, but it did not make a believer out of me.

make a big deal about something Go to make a federal case out of something.

make a (big) stink (about someone or something) and raise a (big) stink (about someone or something) Fig. to make trouble about someone or something. □ Why did you raise a big stink about it? □ Jim is making a stink about Alice.

make a bolt for someone or something Fig. to run quickly to or at someone or something. □ The child came into the
**make a break for someone or something**  
Fig. to run suddenly toward someone or something; to seize an opportunity to run toward someone or something.  
□ The crook made a break for the cop in order to get his gun.  
□ Max made a break for the door.

**make a bundle and make a pile** to make a lot of money.  
□ John really made a bundle on that deal.  
□ I’d like to make a pile and retire.

**make a check (out!) (to someone or something)** Fig. to write a check to someone or a group.  
□ Please make the check out to Bill Franklin.  
□ Make out a check to me.  
□ Please make a check out to the bank.  
□ Make a check to the phone company.

**make a check over to someone or something** to endorse the back of a check, making it payable to someone or a group.  
□ Would you make the check over to my bank?

**make a check to someone or something** to write a check to someone. (See also make a check out (to someone or something).)  
□ The check should be for fifty dollars. Please make it to me.  
□ Make the check to Jim.  
□ She made the check to the bank, and sent it off in the mail.

**make a clean breast of something (to someone)** Fig. to admit something to someone.  
□ You should make a clean breast of the matter to someone.  
□ You’ll feel better if you make a clean breast of the incident.

**make a clean sweep** Fig. to do something completely or thoroughly, with no exceptions.  
□ The boss decided to change the direction of the company, so he made a clean sweep and fired all the top management.  
□ They made a clean sweep through the neighborhood, repairing all the sidewalks.

**make a comeback** to return to one’s former (successful) career.  
□ After ten years in retirement, the singer made a comeback.  
□ You’re never too old to make a comeback.

**make a dash for someone or something** to run quickly for someone or something.  
□ Suddenly Max made a dash for Lefty and punched him in the stomach.  
□ John made a dash for the bathroom as soon as they arrived home.

**make a day of doing something** and make a day of it to spend the whole day doing something.  
□ We went to the museum to see the new exhibition and then decided to make a day of it.  
□ They made a day of cleaning the attic.

**make a day of it** Go to previous.

**make a deal with someone** to strike a bargain with someone.  
□ I want to buy your car and I think I can make a deal with you.  
□ I will make a deal with you that you will like.

**make a dent in something**  
1. Lit. to make a depression in something.  
□ I kicked the side of the car and made a dent in it.  
□ Please don’t make a dent in the side of the house.  

   2. Fig. to use only a little of something; to make a small amount of progress with something.  
□ Look at what’s left on your plate! You hardly made a dent in your dinner.  
□ I’ve been slavery all day, and I have hardly made a dent in my work.

**make a difference in someone or something** to cause a noticeable change in someone or something.  
□ Getting a job made a big difference in my lifestyle.  
□ His mother’s death made a difference in his attitude toward doctors.

**make a difference to someone** [for one choice or another] to matter to someone.  
□ The big one or the little one—does it really make a difference to anyone?  
□ It makes quite a difference to me!

**make a face (at someone) and make faces (at someone)**  
1. to show a funny or distorted expression to someone in ridicule.  
□ Mother, Billy made a face at me!  
□ The teacher sent Jane to the principal for making a face in class.

   2. to attempt to communicate to someone through facial gestures, usually an attempt to say “no” or “stop.”  
□ I started to tell John where I was last night, but Bill made a face so I didn’t.  
□ John made a face at me as I was testifying, so I avoided telling everything.

**make a fast buck and make a quick buck** to make money with little effort or in a short time.  
□ Tom is always ready to make a fast buck.  
□ I made a quick buck selling used cars.

**make a federal case out of something and make a big deal about something** to exaggerate the seriousness of something.  
□ Come on. It was nothing! Don’t make a federal case out of it.  
□ I only stepped on your toe. Don’t make a big deal about it.

**make a fool (out) of someone and make a monkey (out) of someone** to make someone look foolish.  
□ John made a monkey out of himself while trying to make a fool out of Jim.  
□ John made a fool out of himself at the party.  
□ Are you trying to make a monkey out of me?

**make a fresh start** Go to a fresh start.

**make a friend and make friends** to establish a link of friendship with someone.  
□ I have never found it difficult to make friends.  
□ Mary had to make new friends when she changed schools.

**make a fuss (over someone or something)**  
1. to worry about or make a bother about someone or something.  
□ Why do you make a fuss over a problem like that?  
□ Please don’t make a fuss. Everything will be all right.  
□ To be very solicitous and helpful toward a person or a pet.  
□ How can anyone make a fuss over a cat?  
□ John made a fuss out of the whole thing when his mother made a fuss over him.  
□ to argue about someone or something.  
□ Please don’t make a fuss over who gets the last cookie.  
□ Please discuss it. Don’t make a fuss over it!

**make a go of something** to succeed at something. (Often with it.)  
□ She just didn’t have the energy or inclination to make a go of her marriage.  
□ I did everything I could to make a go of it.

**make a grab at someone or something** to grasp at someone or something.  
□ Don made a grab at Betsy, but she eluded him.  
□ Kelly made a grab at the ball, but it went on past her.

**make a great show of something** Fig. to do something obvious; to do something in a showy fashion.  
□ Ann made a great show of wiping up the drink that John spilled.  
□ Jane displayed her irritation at our late arrival by making a great show of serving the cold dinner.

**make a guess** Go to take a guess.
make a habit of something to do something so often that it becomes a habit.  □ You mustn’t make a habit of interrupting. □ I make a habit of counting my change.

make a hit with someone to please someone; to impress someone. □ The dessert you served really made a hit with the guests. □ Her talk made a hit with the audience.

make a killing Fig. to have a great success, especially in making money. □ John has got a job selling insurance. He’s not exactly making a killing. □ Bill made a killing at the racetrack yesterday.

make a (kind of) life for oneself to develop and live a particular kind of lifestyle for oneself. □ She made a good life for herself in New York City, working as a freelancer.

Make a lap! Sl. to sit down. □ Hey, make a lap and get out of the way! □ Pull up a chair and make a lap!

make a laughingstock of someone or something to make oneself a source of ridicule or laughter; to do something that invites ridicule. □ Laura made herself a laughingstock by arriving at the fast-food restaurant in full evening dress. □ The board of directors made the company a laughingstock by hiring an ex-convict as president.

make a living by doing something Go to next.

make a living from something and make a living by doing something to earn a living from something or by doing something. □ John makes a living from painting houses. □ Can you really make a living by selling jewelry?

make a long story short and cut a long story short to leave out parts of a story to make it shorter; to bring a story to an end. (A formula that introduces a summary of a story or a joke. See also long story short.) □ And—to make a long story short—I never got back the money that I lent him. □ If I can make a long story short, let me say that everything worked out fine.

make a man of someone Fig. to make a young male into an adult male. □ The experience will make a man of Ted. □ Send Wally into the army. That’ll make a man of him.

make a meal of something 1. to eat something. □ The cat made a meal of the fish. □ They made a meal of the roast beef and enjoyed it very much. 2. to eat enough of something to consider it or have it as a full meal. □ I really don’t want to make a meal of lettuce alone. □ Can we make a meal of this turkey, or should we save some for sandwiches?

make a mental note of something to remember something. □ So, you want to be considered for a job. I’ll make a mental note of that. □ Please make a mental note of my telephone number.

make a mess of something Fig. to mess something up; to ruin something. □ Give it a try, but don’t make a mess of it. □ Jerry made a mess of the kitchen.

make a mistake to commit an error; to do something wrong accidentally. □ I made a mistake and I am really sorry about it.

make a mockery of something to make a deliberate parody or a poor imitation of something. □ What a mess. You made a mockery of the task. □ You have made a mockery of my position!

make a monkey (out) of someone Go to make a fool (out) of someone.

make a mountain out of a molehill Cliché to make a major issue out of a minor one; to exaggerate the importance of something. □ Come on, don’t make a mountain out of a molehill. It’s not that important. □ Mary is always making mountains out of molehills.

make a move on someone to attempt to seduce someone. □ Was he making a move on me? I think he was. □ Jed is known for making moves on young women.

make a name (for oneself) Fig. to become famous. □ Sally wants to work hard and make a name for herself. □ It’s hard to make a name without a lot of talent and hard work.

make a night of it Fig. to spend the entire evening or night doing something. (Especially when one had intended to devote only a little time to the outing.) □ We went out to have a bite to eat and were having such a good time that we decided to make a night of it. □ I did not want to make a night of it, so I left early.

make a note of something 1. Lit. to write something down as a reminder. □ Please make a note of it so you will remember. □ I will make a note of it and try to remember where I put the note. 2. Fig. to make a mental note of something. □ You want to be considered for promotion. I’ll make a note of it. □ Please make a note of it.

make a nuisance of oneself to be a constant bother. □ I’m sorry to make a nuisance of myself, but I do need an answer to my question. □ Stop making a nuisance of yourself and wait your turn.

make a paper trail Go to a paper trail.

make a pass at someone to flirt with or suggest sexual activity with someone. □ Can you believe it? Larry made a pass at me! □ No one ever makes a pass at me.

make a pass at something to fly over or close by something. □ The plane made a pass at the landing field and pulled up at the last minute. □ The bird made a pass at me because I got too close to its nest.

make a pig of oneself Fig. to eat too much, too fast, or noisily; to eat more than one’s share. □ Don’t make a pig of yourself! □ Sam is making a pig of himself and taking more than his share.

make a pile Go to make a bundle.

make a pitch (for someone or something) Fig. to say something in support of someone or something; to attempt to promote, sell, or advance someone or something. □ Bill is making a pitch for his friend’s new product again. □ The theatrical agent came in and made a pitch for her client. □ Every time I turn on the television set, someone is making a pitch.

make a play (for someone) to attempt to attract the romantic interest of someone. □ Ann made a play for Bill, but he wasn’t interested in her. □ I knew he liked me, but I never thought he’d make a play.

make a point and make points 1. Lit. to score a point in a game. □ Bob made a point in the last match. □ Karen made twenty points in the second half. 2. Fig. to state an item of importance. (See also make a point of someone or something: make points (with someone). □ You made a point that we all should remember. □ He spoke for an hour without making a point.
make a point of doing something

make a point of doing something and make a point of something Fig. to make an effort to do something. □ Please make a point of mailing this letter. It’s very important. □ The hostess made a point of thanking me for bringing flowers.

make a point of someone or something and make an issue of someone or something Fig. to turn someone or something into an important matter. □ Please don’t make a point of John’s comment. It wasn’t that important. □ I hope you make an issue of Tom’s success and the reasons for it.

make a practice of something and make something a practice to turn something into a habitual activity. □ Jane makes a practice of planting daisies every summer. □ Her mother also made it a practice.

make a quick buck Go to make a fast buck.

make a reservation and make reservations to reserve a seat, as in an airplane, restaurant, or theater in advance; to reserve a room, as in a hotel in advance. □ Did you make a reservation or are we just going to chance getting a table? □ I made reservations for a flight at twelve noon.

make a run for it Fig. to run fast to get away or get somewhere. □ When the guard wasn’t looking, the prisoner made a run for it. □ In the baseball game, the player on first base made a run for it, but he didn’t make it to second base.

make a scene and create a scene Fig. to make a public display or disturbance. □ When John found a fly in his drink, he started to create a scene. □ Oh, John, please don’t make a scene. Just forget about it.

make a secret of something to act as if something were a secret. □ I’m not making a secret of it. I am quitting this job. □ Mary made a secret of her intentions.

make a start on something to set out to do something; to make a beginning on something. □ See if you can make a start on the project. □ I will try to make a start on the cleaning before I leave today.

make a stink (about something) Go to make a stink (about something).

make a virtue of necessity Prov. to do what you have to do cheerfully or willingly. □ When Bill’s mother became sick, there was no one but Bill to take care of her, so Bill made a virtue of necessity and resolved to enjoy their time together.

make advances at someone Go to next.

make advances to someone and make advances at someone to flirt with someone; to begin to seduce someone. □ She began making advances to me, and I left the room. □ Mary made advances at every male she encountered.

make allowance(s) for someone or something 1. to allow time, space, food, etc., for someone or something. □ When planning the party, please make allowances for John and his family. □ I’m making allowance for ten extra guests. 2. to make excuses or explanations for someone or something; to take into consideration the negative effects of someone or something. □ You’re very late even when we make allowance for the weather. □ We have to make allowance for the age of the house when we judge its condition.

make amends (to someone) (for someone or something) to make up to someone for something that someone or something did. □ Don’t worry. I will make amends to her for my sister, who behaved so badly. □ I will try to make amends for the accident. □ I can make amends to Sam, I’m sure.

make an all-out effort Go to an all-out effort.

make (an amount of) headway 1. Lit. to move forward. □ Even in a light wind, the ship could not make any headway. 2. Fig. to advance toward completing a task. □ With the help of Garret, Christopher made a lot of headway on the project.

make an appearance to appear; to appear in a performance. □ We waited for thirty minutes for the professor to make an appearance, then we went home. □ The famous singing star made an appearance in Detroit last August.

make an appointment (with someone) to schedule a meeting with someone. □ I made an appointment with the doctor for late today. □ The professor wouldn’t see me unless I made an appointment.

make an entrance to enter [a place], in some formal or special way, as onto the stage in a play or opera. □ She made her entrance too early and threw everyone into confusion.

make an example of someone to do something to someone that shows the bad results of bad behavior; to point to someone as a bad example. □ Even in a light wind, the ship could not make any headway. □ The judge said that he would make an example of Sally and would fine her the maximum amount. □ The teacher made an example of me to the class, with a detention on the first day of school.

make an exception (for someone) to suspend a rule or practice for someone in a single instance. □ Please make an exception just this once. □ The rule is a good one, and I will not make an exception for anyone.

make an exhibition of oneself to show off; to try to get a lot of attention for oneself. □ She is not just dancing, she is making an exhibition of herself. □ Whenever Rudy drinks, he makes an exhibition of himself.

make an honest woman of someone Fig. to marry a woman. (Intended as jocular.) □ So you finally made an honest woman out of Denise. □ She had wanted Max to make an honest woman of her, but you can’t depend on Max to do anything right.

make an impression on someone to produce a positive memorable effect on someone while one is present. (Akin to leave an impression on someone.) □ Tom made quite an impression on the banker.

make an issue of someone or something Go to make a point of someone or something.

make an offer one cannot refuse Go to an offer one cannot refuse.

make an uproar Go to create an uproar.

make application (to someone or something) (for something) to apply to a person or an office for something. □ You must make application to the committee for admission. □ Can I make application to this office for a scholarship?

make arrangements for someone to plan accommodations for someone. □ John is coming for a visit next week.
Please make arrangements for him at the hotel. □ I will make arrangements for everyone when I call the hotel.

**make arrangements to** do something to plan to do something; to facilitate the doing of something. □ Please make arrangements to have all this stuff hauled away. □ We will make arrangements to be there on time.

**make arrangements (with someone) (for something)** to make plans with someone for something. □ I will make arrangements with Fred for the loan. □ We can make arrangements for a car with the manager.

**make as if to** do something to act as if one were about to do something. □ The chief made as if to run away but changed his mind. □ Dora made as if to smack the child.

**make away with** someone or something and **make off with** someone or something to take someone or something away; to make someone or something disappear. □ The robber made away with the jewelry. □ The maid quickly made off with the children. We only saw them for a moment.

**make believe that**... to pretend that... □ Make believe that you have a million dollars. What would you do with it?

**make (both) ends meet** to earn a sizable amount of money. (Usually in reference to a meager living with little if any money after basic expenses.) □ I have to work at two jobs to make ends meet. □ Through better budgeting, I am learning to make both ends meet.

**make certain of** something to check something in order to be sure. □ Please make certain of what you want to do. □ Would you please make certain of the number of things you want to order?

**make change (for someone) (for something)** 1. to return change [coins] for someone to use for some purpose. □ Will you please make change for me for the telephone? □ I will make change for the telephone for you. 2. to return change [coins or bills or both] to someone for paper money. □ The clerk refused to make change for her for the dollar bill. □ I will be happy to make change for a ten for you.

**make chin music** Fig. to talk or chatter. □ We sat around all evening making chin music. □ You were making chin music when you should have been listening.

**make contact with** someone Go to contact with someone.

**make cracks about** someone or something Fig. to make jokes or smart remarks about someone or something. □ Stop making cracks about my cousin. □ Ken made a few cracks about the movie.

**make demands of** someone or something and **make demands on** someone or something to expect someone or something to do something or act in a particular way. □ Please don’t make demands of everyone in the shop. □ The boss is making a lot of demands on the new machinery.

**make do (with someone or something)** to do as well as possible with someone or something. (See also do with someone or something.) □ You’ll have to make do with less money next year. The economy is very weak. □ We’ll have to make do with John even though he’s a slow worker.

**make every effort to** do something to try very hard to accomplish something. □ I will make every effort to be there on time.

**make eyes at** someone Fig. to flirt with someone. □ Mother, he’s making eyes at me! □ Jed tried to make eyes at all the young women.

**make faces (at someone)** Go to make a face (at someone).

**make fast work of** someone or something Go to make short work of someone or something.

**make for** somewhere to set out for somewhere; to run or travel to somewhere. □ Wilbur made for Philadelphia when he heard the police in the Big Apple were after him. □ Barlowe made for the stairs, but two shots rang out, and he knew it was all over for Mary.

**make free with** someone to exploit someone; to take advantage of someone. □ You shouldn’t make free with your employees. They are liable to take you to court. □ He was making free with his secretary, having her do his private business.

**make fun of** someone or something to ridicule someone or something. □ Are you making fun of me? □ I am making fun of your hat.

**make good as** something to succeed in a particular role. □ I hope I make good as a teacher. □ John made good as a football player.

**make good (at something)** to succeed at something. □ Bob worked hard to make good at selling. □ Jane was determined to make good.

**make good money** to earn a sizable amount of money. □ Ann makes good money at her job. □ I don’t know what she does, but she makes good money.

**make good on something** 1. to fulfill a promise. □ Tom made good on his pledge to donate $1,000. □ Bill refused to make good on his promise. 2. to repay a debt. (See also set something right.) □ I couldn’t make good on my debts, and I got in a lot of trouble. □ If you don’t make good on this bill, I’ll have to take back your car.

**make good time** to proceed at a fast or reasonable rate. □ On our trip to Toledo, we made good time. □ I’m making good time, but I have a long way to go.

**make (good) use of** something to use something well. □ I am sure I can make good use of the gift you gave me. □ We will make use of this book.
make hamburger (out) of someone Go to make mincemeat (out) of someone.

Make haste slowly. and More haste, less speed. Prov. Act quickly, but not so quickly that you make careless mistakes. □ Jane: Why are you throwing your clothes around the room? Alan: You told me to get my things packed in a hurry. Jane: Yes, but make haste slowly; otherwise we'll have to spend an hour cleaning up the mess you make. □ I know you want to finish that sweater by Joe's birthday, but you're knitting so fast that you make mistakes. More haste, less speed.

Make hay while the sun shines. Prov. If you have an opportunity to do something, do it before the opportunity expires. □ Jane: While my husband's out of town, I'm going to watch all the movies he wouldn't take me to see. Jane: Why not? Make hay while the sun shines.

make heads or tails of someone or something Fig. to understand someone or something that someone has said. (Usually with the negative.) □ I can't make heads or tails of Fred. □ No one can make heads or tails of this problem.

make inroads into something Fig. to succeed in getting something done or at least started. □ George was unable to make inroads into solving the problem. □ We are making no inroads into the high-priority project.

make it 1. to achieve one's goals. □ I can see by looking around this room that you have really made it. □ I hope I make it someday. But if not, I tried. 2. Sl. to copulate (with someone). □ There was no doubt in his mind that those bedroom eyes were telling him their owner wanted to make it. □ She wanted to make it, but he convinced her they should wait.

make it big to become successful, especially financially. □ I always knew that someday I would make it big. □ My brother made it big, but it has just led to tax problems.

make it by the seat of one's pants Go to by the seat of one's pants.

make it hot for someone Fig. to make things difficult for someone; to put someone under pressure. □ Maybe if we make it hot for them, they'll leave. □ John likes making it hot for people. He's sort of mean.

make it one's business to do something and take it upon oneself to do something Fig. to do something on one's own even if it means interfering in something that does not directly concern one. (As opposed to minding one's own business.) □ I know it doesn't concern me, but I made it my business to call city hall because someone had to. □ Jane took it upon herself to find out exactly what had happened to the old lady.

Make it snappy! Inf. Hurry up!; Move quickly and smartly. □ Andy: Make it snappy! I haven't got all day. Bob: Don't rush me. □ Mary: Do you mind if I stop here and get some film? Bob: Not if you make it snappy! Mary: Don't worry. I'll hurry.

make it (to) some place to reach some place; to be able to attend an event at a place. □ I couldn't make it to the party. □ He didn't think his car could make it to Cleveland.

make it to something; make it as far as something Go to make it (until something).

Make it two. I wish to order the thing that someone else just now ordered. (Said to food or drink server.) □ Bill (speaking to the waiter): I'll have the roast chicken. Mary: Make it two. □ Waiter: Would you like something to drink? Tom: Just a beer. Waiter (turning to Mary): And you? Mary: Make it two.

make it (until something) and make it to something; make it as far as something to endure until something; to last until some time or until reaching some place. □ I hope my car can make it to the next town. □ Do you think you can make it until we come to a hotel?

make it worth someone's while Euph. to tip or offer special (usually extra) payment to someone. □ I made it worth the waiter's while to give us good service. □ If you'll throw a few contracts my way, I'll make it worth your while.

make last-ditch effort Go to last-ditch effort.

make life miserable for someone to give someone misery; to be a great nuisance to someone. □ This nagging backache is making life miserable for me. □ I wish you would stop making life miserable for me.

make light of something to treat something as if it were unimportant or humorous. □ I wish you wouldn't make light of his problems. They're quite serious. □ I make light of my problems, and that makes me feel better.

make like someone or something to act like someone or something. □ Why don't you make like a bunny and run away? Beat it! □ Would you please make like a butler and hold the door open for me?

make little of someone or something to minimize someone or something; to play someone or something down; to belittle someone or something. □ John made little of my efforts to collect money for charity. □ The neighbors made little of John and thought he would amount to nothing.

make love (to someone) 1. to kiss and caress someone. □ Ernest made love to Linda in the garden in the moonlight. □ She liked the way he made love to her—all that poetry. 2. Euph. to have sex with someone. □ I really think that he wanted to make love to me. □ She did not want to make love to him.

make mention of someone or something to mention someone or something. □ Did you have to make mention of Sally? I'm angry with her. □ I will have to make mention of your failure to secure additional business.

make merry to have fun; to have an enjoyable time. □ The guests certainly made merry at the wedding. □ The children were making merry in the backyard.

make mincemeat (out) of someone and make hamburger (out) of someone Fig. to beat or pound someone or something; to treat someone or something roughly. (As if chopping someone up.) □ If you don't behave, I'll make mincemeat out of you. □ Do you want Fred to make hamburger out of you?

Make mine something. I wish to have the thing named. (The something can be a particular food or drink, a flavor of a food, a size of a garment, or a type of almost anything. Most typically used for food or drink.) □ Bill: I want some pie. Yes, I'd like apple. Tom: Make mine cherry.
make out like a bandit

make (one's) peace with someone to set things right with someone; to make amends with someone. I will make my peace with Jane. You needn't be the one to patch things up. Let's go make peace with Karen.

make one's way along something to move along something slowly or carefully. Todd made his way along the slippery walk. The old man made his way along the street carefully.

make one's way back (to something) to work one's way back to something or some place. I made my way back to the little town in the densest fog I have ever seen. I went for a walk and got lost. It took hours for me to make my way back.

make one's way in the world Fig. to succeed in the world independently. I intend to prepare myself to make my way in the world by getting a college degree. I know that all my children can make their way in the world.

make one's way through something Go to pick one's way through something.

make oneself at home to make oneself comfortable as if one were in one's own home. Please come in and make yourself at home. I'm glad you're here. During your visit, just make yourself at home.

make oneself conspicuous to attract attention to oneself. Please don't make yourself conspicuous. It embarrasses me. Ann makes herself conspicuous by wearing brightly colored clothing.

make oneself heard to speak loudly so that one will be heard above background noise. I had to shout to make myself heard. He screamed to make himself heard over the sound of the plane's engines.

make oneself miserable to do things which cause one to be unhappy. You're just making yourself miserable by trying to do something you aren't qualified to do. I'm not making myself miserable! You're making me miserable.

make oneself or something a laughingstock Go to make a laughingstock of oneself or something.

make oneself scarce Fig. [for someone] to become difficult to find; [for someone to] go into hiding. Tom is mad and is looking for you. Better make yourself scarce. Make yourself scarce! Here comes the sheriff.

make (onesel|l) up to put makeup on oneself. I have to make up now. I go on stage in ten minutes. I will make myself up. I don't need your help.

make or break someone [of a task, job, career choice] to bring success to or improve, or ruin, someone. The army will either make or break him. It's a tough assignment, and it will either make or break her.

make (out) after someone or something to run after someone or something; to start out after someone or something. Paul made out after Fred, who had taken Paul's hat. The police officer made out after the robber.

make (out) for someone or something to run toward someone, something, or some place. They made out for Sam as soon as they saw him coming. The boys made for the swimming pool as soon as the coach blew the whistle.

make out like a bandit Aur. to make a large profit. Joe's making out like a bandit, selling expensive cameras.

make off with someone or something Go to make away with someone or something.

make off with something Go to stretch something.

make one's (own) bed 1. Lit. to restore order to the bed-clothes on one's own bed. Jimmy, you are old enough to make your own bed. 2. Fig. to be the cause of one's own misery. Well, I guess I made my own bed. Now I have to lie in it. "We all make our own beds," said the minister.
[make (out) like something] Rur. to pretend something.

Let's make out like we're cowboys and Indians.

Joe made out like he had a lot of money, and folks believed him.

He made out that he hadn't seen me.

We all made out that we hadn't heard the sound.

[make out (with someone)] to kiss and pet with someone.

All evening long, he was trying to make out with me.

Sharon was trying to make out with Bill.

[make out (with something)] to check something.

If I can't make out with a crew of four, I'll have to ask for more help.

Tom made fast work of his dinner so he could go out and play.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?

[make reservations] Go to make a reservation.

[make room (for someone or something)] to provide space for someone or something.

Make room for Sam. He needs a place to sit.

Can you make room for this package?
make someone's position clear to clarify where someone stands on an issue. 1 I don’t think you understand what I said. Let me make my position clear. 2 I can’t tell whether you are in favor of or against the proposal. Please make your position clear.

make someone’s skin crawl Go to make someone’s flesh crawl.

make someone sick to disgust someone. 1 I am really tired of your vile talk. You make me sick! 2 She screamed at him that he made her sick and then she ran out of the house.

make someone sick at heart Go to sick at heart.

make someone stir crazy Go to stir crazy.

make someone the scapegoat for something to make someone take the blame for something. 1 They made Tom the scapegoat for the whole affair. It wasn’t all his fault. 2 Don’t try to make me the scapegoat. I’ll tell who really did it.

make someone up† to put makeup on someone. 1 You have to make the clowns up before you start on the other characters in the play. 2 Did you make up the clowns?

make something to attend an event. 1 I hope you can make our party. 2 I am sorry, but I won’t be able to make it.

make something a practice Go to make a practice of something.

make something about someone or something to make comments, remarks, a furor, a fuss, etc., about someone or something. 1 Why are you making such a furor about such a minor matter? 2 You are making too many negative remarks about Sue.

make something against someone or something to build a legal case, argument, speech, etc., against someone or something. 1 The prosecutor made a strong case against Tim. 2 I made a strong speech against the proposed legislation.

make something at someone to make some sign or signal at or to a person. 1 Carlo made a sign at Bill, who seemed to know just what to do. 2 Jimmy made an obscene gesture at me!

make something clear to someone to help someone understand something. 1 Let me help make the contract clear to you. 2 I want to make it clear to you, so ask questions if you want.

make something for someone or something to prepare something for someone or something. 1 I made a big bowl of fruit salad for the visitors. 2 James made a cake for the party.

make something from scratch Go to make from scratch.

make something from something to make something from certain parts or ingredients. 1 I made this cake from fresh butter and eggs. 2 They made the fences from the stones of a ruined Roman fort.

make something good Go to set something right.

make something in something to make money in a particular enterprise. 1 She made a lot of money in real estate. 2 I hope to make some money in the stock market.

make something of someone or something to succeed with improving someone or something; to turn someone or something into someone or something worthwhile. 1 I tried to make something of you, but you had to do things the way you saw fit. 2 I think I can make something of this script.

make something of something 1. to make an interpretation of something. 2 What do you make of this letter? 3 Look through this and see what sense you make of it. 2. to turn an incident into a dispute. (Usually with it. Often as an invitation to fight. See also make something (out) of something.) 4 Do you want to make something of it? 5 He looks like he wants to make something of it.

make something off of someone or something to make money from someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) 1 Are you trying to make your fortune off of me? 2 We think we can make some money off the sale of the house.

make something out† to see, read, or hear something well enough to understand it. 1 What did you say? I couldn’t quite make it out. 2 Can you make out what he is saying?

make something out of nothing 1. Lit. to create something of value from nearly worthless parts. 1 My uncle—he sells sand—made a fortune out of nothing. 2 My model airplane won the contest even though I made it out of scrap. 3 Relax, John, you’re making a big problem out of nothing. 4 You have no evidence. You’re making a case out of nothing.

make something out of something 1. Lit. to make something out of parts or raw materials. 1 I will make the cake out of the very best ingredients. 2 Can you make a salad out of these vegetables? 2. Fig. to make an interpretation of something. 1 Can you make anything out of this message? I don’t understand it. 2 I’m sorry, I can’t make any sense out of it. 3. Fig. to interpret something negatively. (See also make something of something.) 4 The hostess made too much out of my absence.

make something out to be something else to portray something as something else. 1 You are trying to make this tragedy out to be a minor matter. 2 They made the disease out to be something far more serious than it really is.

make something over† to do something over†.

make something right Go to set something right.

make something to order to custom-make an item; to make an item to fit someone’s specifications. (See also made to order.) 1 The tailor made the jacket to order for me. 2 The carpenter made the built-in bookcase to order for us.

make something up† 1. to redo something; to do something that one has failed to do in the past. 1 Can I make the lost time up? 2 Can I make up the test that I missed? 2. to assemble something. 1 We will ship the parts to China where we will make up the computers with cheap labor. (See also make the bed (up).) 2 Have they finished making up the pages for the next edition of the magazine? 3. to think up something; to make and tell a lie. 1 That’s not true! You just made that up! 2 I didn’t make it up! 3 You made up that story! 4. to mix something up; to assemble something. 1 John: Is my prescription ready? Druggist: No, I haven’t made it up yet. 2 I’ll make up your prescription in a minute.
make something up\(^1\) from something to create something from something. I will make some stew up from the ingredients available in the fridge. I will make up a stew from the leftovers.

make something up\(^1\) out of whole cloth Fig. to fabricate a story or a lie. That’s a lie. You just made that up out of whole cloth. That’s a lie. You just made up that story out of whole cloth.

make something up to someone to make amends to someone. I’m so sorry. I will do what I can to make it up to you. I will make it up to them. Don’t worry.

make something with something to make something out of something. I will make the cake with margarine rather than butter. Can you make our coffee with spring water, please?

make sure (of something) to check something and be certain about it. Please make sure of your facts before you write the report. We made sure of the route we had to follow before we left. Please double-check and make sure.

make the arrangements Euph. to arrange a funeral. When my father died, I was the one who made the arrangements.

make the bed (up)\(^1\) and make someone’s bed (up)\(^1\) to restore a bed to an unslept-in condition. I make my bed every morning. The maid goes to all the rooms to make the beds. Please make all the beds up today.

make the best of a bad job Prov. to try to salvage something from a ruined situation. When the dry cleaners ruined Mrs. Anderson’s coat, they made the best of a bad job by offering to buy her another one.

make the best of something to do as well as possible with something that is not too promising. I don’t like it, but I will try to make the best of my summer landscaping job by getting a good tan. I will make the best of it, for a while anyway.

make the fur fly and make the feathers fly Fig. to cause a fight or an argument; to make trouble or additional work. She’ll really make the fur fly. When those two get together, they’ll really make the fur fly. When those two get together, they’ll really make the fur fly. They hate each other.

make the grade to be satisfactory; to be what is expected. I’m sorry, but your work doesn’t exactly make the grade. This meal doesn’t just make the grade. It is excellent.

make the most of something to make something appear as good as possible; to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible. Mary knows how to make the most of her talents. They designed the advertisements to make the most of the product’s features.

make the scene 1. Sl. to attend an event. We plan to make the scene, but we may be a bit late. I hope everybody can make the scene. 2. Sl. to understand a situation; to appreciate the situation. I can’t quite make the scene, but it looks like Willie punched the guy over here. Then he moved to the window over here, and that’s when the woman across the street saw him. I can make the scene. It’s just like you said, except Willie came in and found the guy laid out on the floor.

make the team to have been qualified enough to be selected to play on a sports team. I tried out, but I didn’t make the team.

make time for someone or something Go to time for someone or something.

make time (with someone) to flirt with, date, or hang around with someone. I hear that Tom’s been making time with Ann. I hear they’ve been making time for months.

make (too) much of someone or something to pay too much attention to someone or something. We all believe you are making much of Tom when he has done no more than anyone else. Don’t make too much of it. It was really nothing.

make tracks (for something) Fig. to move rapidly toward something or some place. The cowboys all made tracks for the chuck wagon. Let’s make tracks! Here comes the sheriff.

make trouble to cause trouble or additional work. I don’t want to make trouble, but I have a few suggestions that could make things work more smoothly.

make up to put on makeup. I have to go make up before Joe comes to pick me up.

make up a foursome to assemble into a team of four people. We have three people now. Who can we get to make up a foursome? Let’s make up a foursome and play bridge.

make up for lost time to catch up; to go fast to balance something or some place. Make it up to Donna, and she doesn’t even notice. When my father died, I was the one who made the arrangements.

make use of someone or something to utilize someone or something; to do something useful with someone or something. Can you make use of these papers? We were unable to make use of the items you shipped to us.

make war (on someone or something) 1. Lit. to attack someone or something and start a war. The small country’s generals made war on the United States, hoping for foreign aid when they lost the war. 2. Fig. to actively oppose
someone or something. □ The police made war on violent street crime.

make water Euph. to urinate. □ She's got some kind of condition where it hurts when she makes water. □ Can we stop at this here gas station? I need to make water.

make waves Sl. to cause difficulty. (Often in the negative.) □ Just relax. Don't make waves. □ If you make waves too much around here, you won't last long.

make way to make progress; to move ahead. (Originally nautical. See also make way (for someone or something).) □ Is this project making way? □ A sailboat can't make way if there is no wind.

make way (for someone or something) to clear a path for someone or something. □ Make way for the stretcher. □ Here comes the doctor—make way!

make with something Sl. to deliver something. □ Come on, make with the stuff you promised! □ Make with the information, Max, or you will stay in jail even longer! □ Come on, make with the cash. □ I want to know. Come on, make with the answers!

Make your mind up†. Fig. Please make a decision.; Please choose. □ Henry: I don't have all day. Make up your mind. Rachel: Don't rush me. □ Bob: Make your mind up. We have to catch the plane. Mary: I'm not sure I want to go.

Make yourself at home. Fig. Please make yourself comfortable in my house. (Also a signal that a guest can be less formal.) □ Andy: Please come in and make yourself at home. Sue: Thank you. I'd like to. □ Bill: I hope I'm not too early. Bob: Not at all. Come in and make yourself at home. I've got a few little things to do. Bill: Nice place you've got here.

man about town a fashionable man who leads a sophisticated life. □ He prefers a nightclub to a quiet night at home—a man about town. □ Bob's too much of a man about town to go to a football game.

a man of few words Fig. someone, not necessarily a man, who speaks concisely or not at all. □ He is a man of few words, but he usually makes a lot of sense.

a man of the cloth Fig. a clergyman. □ Father Brown is a man of the cloth and is welcome at our table for dinner every Sunday.

Man proposes, God disposes. Prov. People may make plans, but they cannot control the outcome of their plans. □ Jill: Are you really going to be able to finish writing your novel by the end of the year? Bob: Man proposes, God disposes.

man's best friend Fig. a dog; dogs in general. □ Man's best friend just peed all over my shoes!

A man's home is his castle. Prov. Cliché One can do whatever one wants to in one's own home. □ Don't tell me not to go around the house in my underwear. A man's home is his castle. □ I'll play my radio loud if I want to. A man's home is his castle.

man's inhumanity to man Fig. human cruelty toward other humans. □ It doesn't take a war to remind us of man's inhumanity to man.

manage with someone or something to do as well as possible with only someone or something (less than one had hoped for). □ We wanted Kelly to help us, but we will manage with Larry. □ I am sure we can manage with the money that we have.

manage without someone or something to do as well as possible without someone or something. □ Carla said that she just can't manage without Jerry. □ We just can't manage without some more money.

maneuver for something to get into position for something. □ Sally is maneuvering for a shot at a promotion. □ Todd maneuvered for some attention, but they ignored him.

maneuver someone into something to lure, position, or deceive someone into (doing) something. □ I will see if I can maneuver him into accepting the offer. □ He was maneuvered into accepting the offer.

maneuver someone out of something to trick someone out of getting or achieving something. □ Are you trying to maneuver me out of the running for the job? □ The runner maneuvered her opponent out of first place.

manna from heaven Fig. unexpected help or comfort. (A biblical reference.) □ The arrival of the rescue team was like manna from heaven to the injured climber. □ The offer of a new job just as she had been fired was manna from heaven to Joan.

Many a true word is spoken in jest. and There's many a true word spoken in jest. Prov. Just because something is said as a joke, it can still be true. □ Fred: Why did you make a joke about my being stingy? Do you really think I'm cheap? Ellen: Of course not, don't be silly. It was just a joke. Fred: But many a true word is spoken in jest.

many (and many)’s the time there have been many times. □ Many and many's the time I warned him not to go to the swimmin' hole by himself. □ Many's the time she's forgiven her husband.

Many are called but few are chosen. Prov. Many people may answer a call for something, but only a few people are finally selected. (Biblical.) □ When it comes to getting into a good college, many are called but few are chosen.
Many hands make light work. Prov. If everyone helps with a large task, it will get done easily and quickly. □ Cleaning up the banquet room won’t take long if we all help; many hands make light work. □ You do have a lot of dishes to wash, but you also have all of us to help you, and many hands make light work.

map something out1 to plot something out carefully, usually on paper. □ I have a good plan. I will map it out for you. □ I will map out the plan for you.

mar something up1 to dent or scratch something; to harm the smooth finish of something. □ Please don’t mar the furniture up. □ Don’t mar up my desk.

march against someone or something to march in a demonstration against someone or something. □ The demonstrators marched against the mayor. □ The citizens got together and marched against crime and injustice.

march behind someone or something Go to behind someone or something.

March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb. and In like a lion, out like a lamb. Prov. The month of March usually starts with cold, unpleasant weather, but ends mild and pleasant. (Either part of the proverb can be used alone.) □ March certainly is coming in like a lion this year; there’s been a snowstorm every day this week. □ fill: Today is March twenty-fifth, and it’s beautiful and warm outside, when just two weeks ago, everything was covered with ice. Jane: In like a lion and out like a lamb, all right.

march from some place (to some place) to move along, walking with purposeful steps, from some place to some place. □ The army marched from one town to another. □ They marched to the battlefield from town.

march in (a) single file Go to in (a) single file.

march in step (with someone) Go to in step (with someone).

march on 1. Lit. to continue marching. □ Please march on. Don’t stop here; there are other parts of the parade coming along behind you. □ Let’s march on. We have a long way to go. 2. Fig. [for time] to continue. □ Time marches on. We are all getting older. □ As the days march on, try to get everything completed.

march out of time (with someone or something) Go to out of step (with someone or something).

march past someone or something to move in a file or formation past someone or something. □ The people in the parade marched past the children standing on the curb. □ The soldiers marched past the general.

march to (the beat of) a different drummer Fig. to believe in a different set of principles. □ John is marching to a different drummer, and he doesn’t associate with us anymore. □ Since Sally started marching to the beat of a different drummer, she has had a lot of great new ideas.

mark my word(s) Fig. remember what I’m telling you. □ Mark my word, you’ll regret this. □ This whole project will fail—mark my words.

mark someone down1 [for a teacher] to give someone a low score. □ He’ll mark you down for misspelled words. □ I marked down Tom for bad spelling.

mark someone for life Fig. to affect someone for life. □ The tragedy marked her for life and she was never the same. □ She was marked for life by her brother’s untimely death.

mark someone or something off1 and mark someone or something out1 to cross off the name of someone or something. □ They were late, so I marked them off. □ I marked off the late people. □ Could you mark that title out? It has been discontinued.

mark someone or something out1 Go to previous.

mark someone or something with something 1. to use something with which to mark someone or something. □ She marked one of the twins with a sticker so she could identify him later. □ fill: marked the ones that were sold with a wax pencil. 2. to place a particular kind of mark on someone or something. □ The attendant marked the concertgoers who had paid with a rubber stamp. □ Frank marked the book with his initials.

mark something as something to make a mark next to the name of something on a list indicating what the thing is. □ I will mark this one as expired. □ This one is marked as needing repair work.

mark something down1 1. Lit. to write something down on paper. □ She marked the number down on the paper. □ She marked down the number. 2. Fig. to reduce the price of something. □ We are going to mark all this merchandise down next Monday. □ We marked down the merchandise.

mark something in1 to write or make a mark on something, perhaps in a box or on a line. □ I will mark an X in the box by your name. □ I’ll mark in the X.

mark something up1 1. to mess something up with marks. □ Don’t mark up your book! □ Who marked this book up? 2. to grade a paper and make lots of informative marks and comments on it. □ The teacher really marked up my term paper. □ Why did you mark my test up so much? I hardly made any errors. 3. to raise the price of something. □ The grocery store seems to mark the price of food up every week. □ They don’t mark up the price of turkey at Thanksgiving.

mark time Fig. to wait; to do nothing but wait. □ I’ll just mark time till things get better. □ Do you expect me to just stand here and mark time?

*a marked man Fig. to be someone, usually a male, who is in danger from harm by someone else. (*Typically: be ~; live like ~.) □ Bob’s a marked man. His parents found out that he’s skipping school. □ Fred’s a marked man, too. Jack is looking for him to get his money back.

maroon someone on an island to strand someone on something; to abandon someone on something, such as an island. □ The pirate captain marooned his first mate on a small island in the Caribbean. □ Through a navigation error, I marooned myself on a tiny island east of Guam.

a marriage made in heaven and a match made in heaven a happy or harmonious marriage or partnership. (See also Marriages are made in heaven.) □ The partnership of George and Ira Gershwin was a match made in heaven; they wrote such beautiful songs.

Marriages are made in heaven. Prov. You cannot foretell who will marry whom.; Two people may love each other very much but may end up not marrying each other,
and two people who do not even know each other may marry each other in the end. □ Tom and Eliza were childhood sweethearts, had a happy family, and now are celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Marriages are made in heaven.

**marry above oneself** Fig. to marry someone in a higher social class than oneself. □ They say she married above herself, but who cares? □ Scott thought it would not be possible to marry above himself.

**marry below oneself** and **marry beneath oneself** Fig. to marry someone in a lower social class than oneself. □ He married beneath himself, but he is happy, and what more is required of a marriage? □ He did not want to marry beneath himself.

**marry in haste, (and) repent at leisure.** Prov. If you marry someone you do not know well, or decide to marry someone without first carefully considering what you are doing, you will probably regret it for a long time. □ Sally wanted some time to consider Sam's proposal of marriage; she had heard the saying, “Marry in haste, and repent at leisure.”

**marry into something** to become a part of a family or a fortune by marriage. □ She married into money, they say. □ I always wanted to marry into a large family until I found out what that means in terms of buying gifts.

**marry one’s way out of something** to get out of something, such as poverty, by marrying someone. □ She was able to marry her way out of poverty but regretted it in the long run. □ Sally married her way out of one unhappy home into another one.

**marry someone off† (to someone)** to manage to get someone married to someone or out of the house or family. □ Her parents wanted nothing more than to marry her off to a doctor. □ They married off their children soon.

**marry up (with someone)** Rur. to marry someone. □ They married up in the spring. □ Jane's going to marry up with someone or something quite excit- ing to her.

**marry someone or something together** to organize or gather someone or something together. □ The leader marshaled all his people together in preparation for the parade. □ Let's marshal the troops together for the attack.

**marvel at someone or something** Fig. to express wonder or surprise at someone or something. □ I can only marvel at Valerie and all she has accomplished. □ We all marveled at the beauty of the new building.

a **marvel to behold** someone or something quite exciting or wonderful to see. □ Our new high-definition television is a marvel to behold. □ Mary's lovely new baby is a marvel to behold.

**mash on something** to press on something, such as a button. (Southern.) □ He kept mashing on the doorbell until someone responded. □ Just mash on this button if you want someone to come.

**mash something up†** to crush something into a paste or pieces. □ Mash the potatoes up and put them in a bowl. □ Mash up the potatoes and serve them to our guests.

**mash something with something** 1. to use something to mash something up. □ Vernon mashed the potatoes with a spoon because he couldn't find the masher. □ Gerald used the heel of his shoe to mash the wasp. 2. to combine ingredients while mashing. □ Mash the turnips with the butter.

**mask something out†** to conceal or cover part of something from view. □ The trees masked the city dump out, so it could not be seen from the street. □ The trees masked out the dump.

**masquerade as someone or something** to appear disguised as someone or something; to pretend to be someone or something. □ We decided to masquerade as ghosts for the party. □ Mr. Wilson, who is a bit overweight, masqueraded as Cinderella's coach.

a **match for someone, something, or an animal someone, something, or an animal that is the equal of someone, something, or some other animal, especially in a contest. □ My older brother is no match for me; he's much weaker. □ Your horse is no match for mine in a race. Mine will always win.

a **match made in heaven** Go to a marriage made in heaven.

**match someone against someone else or something** against someone else to challenge someone with something else in a contest; to challenge something with something else in a contest. □ I will match my boxer against your boxer any day. □ I'll match myself against you any day!

**match someone or something in something** to equal someone or something in some quality. □ I am sure I match her in wisdom if not in grace and beauty. □ You do not match her in any way.

**match someone (up†) (with someone) and match something (up†) (with something)** to pair or breed people or animals. □ I will match Carl up with Kelly and George with Jane. □ I will match up Carl with Kelly.

**match up** [for things or people] to match, be equal, or complementary. □ These match up. See how they are the same length? □ Sorry, but these two parts don't match up.

**match up to something** [for something] to match, be equal to, or complementary to something. □ This sock does not match up to the other one. □ This one matches up to all the others.

**match wits (with someone)** Fig. to enter into intellectual competition with someone. □ Whenever I try to match wits with Fred, he always ends up running circles around me with his clever repartee.

**mate someone with someone** and **mate an animal with some other animal** to pair or breed people or animals. □ The king sought to mate his daughter with the son of a magician. □ Harry wanted to mate his guppies with June's guppies.

**mate with an animal** [for an animal] to copulate with its own kind. □ The gander mated with the goose in the barnyard. □ The coyote acted as if it wanted to mate with the dog.

**mate with someone** to marry with someone, and presumably, to copulate with someone. □ Did you meet anyone you would like to mate with and spend the rest of your life with?
materialize out of nowhere  Go to out of nowhere.

a matter of life and death  Cliché  an issue of great urgency; an issue that will decide between living and dying. □ We must find a doctor. It's a matter of life and death. □ A matter of life and death demands that I return home at once.

a matter of opinion  the question of how good or bad someone or something is. □ It's a matter of opinion how strong the company is. John thinks it's great and Fred thinks it's poor.

matter to someone  to be important to someone. □ Does money really matter to you? □ Yes, it matters to me a lot.

max out  to reach one's maximum in something, such as weight in weight lifting or credit on a credit card. □ Andy finally maxed out at 300 pounds. □ Randy just knew when he had maxed out. Something in his body told him to stop.

maxed out 1. Sl. exhausted; tired. □ I am just maxed out. I haven't been getting enough sleep. □ I had to stop work because I was too maxed out. 2. Sl. intoxicated. □ Sam was maxed out and seemed happy enough to sit under the table and whimper. □ I hadn't seen Barlowe so maxed out in years. He was nearly paralyzed.

may as well  Go to might as well.

May I be excused? May I leave this place, please?; May I leave to use the toilet? □ Nature calls. May I be excused? □ The student raised her hand and said, "Teacher, may I be excused?"

May I help you? Go to Could I help you?; How may I help you?

May I see you again? Go to Could I see you again?; Could I speak to someone?

May I speak to someone? Go to Could I speak to someone?

May I take a message? Go to Could I take a message?

May I take your order (now)? Go to Could I take your order (now)?

May I tell him who's calling? Go to Could I tell him who's calling?

May I use your powder room? Go to Could I use your powder room?

Maybe some other time, and We'll try again some other time. a polite phrase said by a person whose invitation has just been turned down by another person. □ Bill: Do you think you can come to the party? Bob: I'll have to beg off. I have another engagement. Bill: Maybe some other time. □ John: Can you and Alice come over this Friday? Bill: Gee, sorry. We have something else on. John: We'll try again some other time.

mean business  to be very, very serious. □ Stop laughing! I mean business. □ I could tell from the look on her face that she meant business.

mean by something  to intend a certain meaning by words or deeds. □ What do you mean by that? □ I did not mean anything special by my remarks.

mean (for someone) to do something  to intend (for someone) to do something. □ John meant to go with us to the zoo. □ John meant for Jane to do the dishes.

mean lean times (ahead)  Go to lean times (ahead).

mean no offense  not to intend to offend. (See also take no offense.) □ I'm really sorry. I meant no offense. □ It was simply a slip of the tongue. He meant no offense by it.

mean nothing (to someone)  1. not to make sense to someone. □ This sentence means nothing to me. It isn't clearly written. □ I'm sorry. This message means nothing. 2. [for someone] not to have feeling for someone or something. □ Do I mean nothing to you after all these years? □ Do all those years of devotion mean nothing?

mean something as something  to intend something to be understood as something. □ Do you mean your remarks as criticism? □ I meant my comment as encouragement.

mean something for someone or something  1. Lit. to imply something important for someone or something; to be important or meaningful for someone or something. □ Are your comments supposed to mean something special for me? □ I mean these remarks for the government. 2. Fig. to intend for someone or something to have or receive something. □ Do you mean this gift for me? □ I mean this gift for the entire community.

mean something (to someone)  1. Lit. to make sense to someone. □ Does this line mean anything to you? □ Yes, it means something. 2. Fig. [for someone] to cause positive feelings in another person. □ You mean a lot to me. □ This job means a lot to Ann.

a mean streak  Fig. a tendency for a person to do things that are mean. □ I think that Wally has a mean streak that no one ever saw before this incident.

mean to (do something)  to intend to do something. □ Did you mean to do that? □ No, it was an accident. I didn't mean to.

mean well  to intend to be nice, polite, helpful, etc., but fail in the effort. □ I know you mean well, but your comments are sort of insulting.

meanner than a junkyard dog (with fourteen sucking pups)  Rur. cruel; eager to fight. □ Don't mess with her. She's meaner than a junkyard dog with fourteen sucking pups. □ They say Jim's meaner than a junkyard dog, but really, he's a sweetheart.

meant to be  destined to exist. □ Our love was meant to be! □ It was not meant to be.

meant to be something  destined or fated to be something. □ Jane was meant to be a chemist. □ I was meant to be rich, but something didn't work right!

measure someone against someone else or something against something else  to compare someone with someone else; to compare something with something else. □ Daniel measured his brother against the boy next door. □ We measured the new building against the older ones and found the new one lacking in many respects. □ I measured myself against Tom and found him superior in almost everything.

measure someone up against someone or something to place someone up against someone or something else for the purpose of comparing size or other qualities. □ Please measure Fred up against Tom and see who has the best qualifications. □ Can you measure Brian up against the mark on the wall to see how tall he is growing?

measure something off  to determine the length of something. □ He measured the length of the room off and wrote
down the figure in his notebook. □ Fred measured off the width of the house. □ Fred measured a few feet of string off, and cut it with a knife.

**measure something out** to measure and distribute something as it is being taken out, unwrapped, unfolded, etc. □ Carl measured the grain out a cup at a time. □ He measured out the grain little by little.

**measure up (to someone or something)** to compare well to someone or something. □ He just doesn’t measure up to Sarah in intelligence. □ This meal doesn’t measure up to my expectations.

**meddle in** to intrude [oneself] into something. □ I wish you wouldn’t meddle in my affairs. □ Please don’t meddle with me. I am in a bad mood. □ Would you please stop meddling with my computer?

**mediate between** someone and someone else to negotiate an agreement between people. □ I will have to mediate between Mary and Vernon. □ No one wants to mediate between them.

**meditate on** someone or something to reflect on someone or something. □ Judy was instructed to meditate on a flower. □ I will meditate on that happy thought.

*meek as a lamb* of someone shy, quiet, and docile. □ Betsy terrorizes the other children, but she’s as meek as a lamb around her elders.

**melt** (of something) to melt in a liquid. □ The ice cubes melted away quickly in the intense heat. □ When the wax candles melted away, they ruined the lace tablecloth.

**melt away** to melt into a liquid. □ The sun melted the ice away. □ The ice cream melted into a sticky soup.

**melt down** 1. [for something] to melt to a liquid at its container. □ This tray will melt in the oven, so keep it out of there. □ The ice on the streets melted down, it was safe to drive again. 2. [for something frozen] to melt. □ When the wax candles melted away, they ruined the lace tablecloth.

**melt in** one’s mouth 1. to taste very good. (Also can be literal.) □ This cake is so good it’ll melt in your mouth. □ John said that the food didn’t exactly melt in his mouth. 2. [of meat] to be very, very tender. □ My steak is so tender it could melt in my mouth. □ This filet will melt in your mouth!

**melt in something** 1. [for something] to melt to a liquid at a high temperature. □ Sure the plastic cup will melt in such heat. □ This tray will melt in the oven, so keep it out of there. 2. [for something] to dissolve in a particular liquid. □ Sugar melts in hot water easily. □ Will this substance melt in heated water?

**melt into** something to melt and change into a different state. □ All the ice cream melted into a sticky soup. □ The candles melted into a pool of colored wax in all the heat we had last summer.

**melt something away** to cause something to melt into a liquid. □ The sun melted the ice away. □ The sun melted away the ice.
melt something down\(^1\) to cause something frozen to melt; to cause something solid to melt. □ The rays of the sun melted the candle down to a puddle of wax. □ The heat melted down the ice.

melt something into something to cause something to change its state when melting. □ The ice melted into a cold liquid that we could drink. □ We melted the fat into a liquid that we could deep-fry in.

Men are blind in their own cause. Prov. If you believe in something very fervently, you will not recognize the flaws in what you believe or the dangers associated with it. □ Jill: Lyle is so intent on converting people to his religion, that he doesn’t see that his constant preaching is alienating his friends. Jane: Men are blind in their own cause.

Men make houses, women make homes. Prov. Men are often the ones who build or acquire houses for their families, but women provide the things that make a house into a home. □ When William moved into his own apartment, his mother insisted on choosing and arranging the furniture and decorations for him. “Men make houses, women make homes,” she said, “and I want you to have a home as nice as the one you grew up in.”

mend (one’s) fences 1. Lit. to repair fences as part of one’s chores. □ Tom is mending fences today at the south end of the ranch. 2. Fig. to restore good relations (with someone). □ I think I had better get home and mend my fences. I had an argument with my daughter this morning. □ Sally called up her uncle to apologize and try to mend fences.

mend one’s ways Fig. to improve one’s behavior. □ John used to be very wild, but he’s mended his ways. □ You’ll have to mend your ways if you go out with Mary. She hates people to be late.

* a mental block (against something) Fig. to have some psychological barrier that prevents one from doing something. (Typically: get \(~\); have \(~\); give someone \(~\).) □ Perry has a mental block against speaking in public.

mention someone or something in passing to mention someone or something casually; to mention someone or something while talking about someone or something else. □ He just happened to mention in passing that the mayor had resigned. □ John mentioned in passing that he was nearly eighty years old.

mention someone or something in something 1. to name someone or something in a particular context. □ We mentioned you in regard to nominations for the congress. □ Everyone mentioned your book in the discussions. 2. to name someone or something in a will, lecture, story, article, etc. □ They mentioned your name in the discussion. □ Uncle Herman mentioned you in his will.

mention something to someone to refer to something while talking to someone. □ Please mention it to your father. □ You had better not mention that to anyone.

a mere trifle Fig. a tiny bit; a small, unimportant matter; a small amount of money. □ But this isn’t expensive! It costs a mere trifle!

merge in(to something) to join into something. □ The stream merged into the main channel of the river.

merge someone or something into something and merge someone or something in\(^1\) to route someone or something into something else. □ They merged the marchers into the parade and no one ever knew they were late. □ We merged in the latecomers to the parade at an intersection.

merge something with something else to join two things together. □ The management merged the sales division with the marketing division. □ We merged the accounting department with the auditing department.

merge with someone or something to join with someone or something. □ Ted merged with Fred and they created a very profitable partnership. □ Our company merged with a larger one, and we all kept our jobs. □ This stream merges with a larger stream about two miles to the west.

*merry as a cricket and *merry as the day is long very happy and carefree. (Typically: as \(~\).) □ Mary is as merry as a cricket whenever she has company come to call. □ The little children are as merry as the day is long.

merry as the day is long Go to previous.

mesh together to fit together. □ Their interests and personalities mesh together perfectly. □ Their ideas don’t mesh together too well.

mesh with something to fit with something. □ Your idea just doesn’t mesh with my plans. □ Currently, your proposed project doesn’t mesh at all well with our long-range planning.

mess about Go to mess around.

mess about (with something) Go to mess around (with something).

mess around and mess about 1. to waste time; to do something ineffectually. □ Stop messing around and get busy. □ I wish you wouldn’t mess about so much. You waste a lot of time that way.
2. to play [with someone] sexually. □ Those two have been messing around. □ Pete was messing around with Maria during the summer.

mess around (with something) and mess about (with something); monkey around (with something) 1. to play with or fiddle with something idly and with no good purpose. □ Don’t mess around with the ashtray. □ You’ll break it if you don’t stop messing with it. 2. to experiment with something; to use and learn about something. □ We had been messing about with some new video techniques when we made our discovery. □ The people in this lab are messing around with all kinds of polymers.

mess someone over\(^1\) Sl. to treat someone badly; to beat or harm someone. □ Max messed Lefty over and sent him to the hospital. □ Max messed over Lefty.

mess someone’s face up\(^1\) Sl. to beat someone about the face. □ The champ threatened to mess the challenger’s face up. □ The champ broke the challenger’s nose and really did mess up his face.

mess someone up\(^1\) Sl. to rough someone up; to beat someone up. □ The robbers threatened to mess Bob up if he didn’t cooperate. □ John messed up Bill a little, but no real harm was done.

mess something up\(^1\) to make something disorderly; to create disorder in something; to throw someone’s plans awry. □ You really messed this place up! □ Who messed up my bed?
mess up—to make an error; to do something wrong; to flub up. □ I hope I don’t mess up on the quiz. □ You really messed up and now you’re in big trouble!

mess with someone or something and monkey with someone or something to bother or interfere with someone or something. □ Come on, don’t monkey with my new camera. □ Don’t mess with me unless you want trouble.

messed up 1. confused. □ I’m sort of messed up since my divorce. □ Most kids are sort of messed up at this age. 2. intoxicated. □ Somehow I must have got messed up. What caused it, do you think? □ Everybody at the party was too messed up to drive home.

metamorphose into something to transform into something. □ This ugly caterpillar will surely metamorphose into something beautiful. □ At about eighteen, Wally metamorphosed into a reasonably handsome young man.

mete something out1 to measure something out. □ She meted the solution out carefully into a row of test tubes. □ She meted out the cookies to each of them.

*method in one’s madness Fig. a purpose in what one is doing, even though it seems to be crazy. (*Typically: be ~; have ~.) □ What I’m doing may look strange, but there is method in my madness. □ Wait until she finishes; then you’ll see that she has method in her madness.

a middle ground a position of compromise; a state of thinking where two opposing parties can discuss an issue politely and productively. □ If we could only reach a middle ground on this issue, things wouldn’t be so confrontational.

the middle of nowhere a very isolated place. □ I don’t want to stay out here in the middle of nowhere. □ I was stranded in the middle of nowhere for an hour with a flat tire.

might and main Cliché great physical strength; great force. □ The huge warrior, with all his might and main, could not break his way through the castle gates. □ The incredible might and main of the sea crushed the ship against the cliff.

might as well and may as well a phrase indicating that it is probably better to do something than not to do it. □ Bill: Should we try to get there for the first showing of the film? Jane: Might as well. Nothing else to do. □ Andy: May as well leave now. It doesn’t matter if we arrive a little bit early. Jane: Why do we always have to be the first to arrive?

might as well be hung for a sheep as (for) a lamb Rur. might as well commit a large fault as a small one, since the same punishment will result. □ I’ll take the expensive fishing rod. My wife will be mad at me no matter how much I spend, so I might as well be hung for a sheep as for a lamb.

might could Rur. might be able to. □ Charlie: Can you come out with me after work? Tom: I might could. I’ll have to see if my wife has other plans. □ I might could help you, if you’ll tell me what’s the matter.

Might makes right. Prov. Cliché The stronger of two opponents will always control the situation. □ Child: How come the country with the biggest army always tells the other countries what to do? Father: Might makes right.

migrate between some place and some place else to change residence from one place to another, perhaps repeatedly. □ These birds migrate between the north and the south. □ They migrate between their cottage in the North in the summer and their condo in Florida in the winter.

migrate (from some place) (to some place) [for a population] to move from some place to another. □ They migrate to Canada from South America.

*a mile a minute Fig. very fast. (*Typically: go ~; move ~; talk ~; travel ~.) □ She talks a mile a minute and is very hard to keep up with.

a milestone in someone’s life and an important milestone in someone’s life a very important event or point in one’s life. (From the [former] stone markers at the side of a road showing the distance to or from a place.) □ Joan’s wedding was a milestone in her mother’s life. □ The birth of a child is a milestone in every parent’s life.

militate against something [for something] to work against something. □ Everything you have said today militates against an early settlement to our disagreement. □ This really militates against my going to college.

the milk of human kindness Fig. natural kindness and sympathy shown to others. (From Shakespeare’s play Macbeth, I. v.) □ Mary is completely hard and selfish—she doesn’t have the milk of human kindness in her. □ Roger is too full of the milk of human kindness and people take advantage of him.

milk someone for something Fig. to pressure someone into giving information or money. □ The reporter milked the mayor’s aide for information. □ The thief milked me for $20.

mill around and mill about to wander or move around aimlessly within a small area. □ Everyone was milling around, looking for something to do. □ The students milled about between classes.

The mill cannot grind with water that is past. Prov. Do not waste the opportunities you now have. Do not waste time wishing for what you had in the past. □ If you want to go abroad, do it now, while you’re young and have the money. The mill cannot grind with water that is past.

*a million miles away Fig. lost in thought; [of someone] daydreaming and not paying attention. (Only one’s mind is far away. *Typically: be ~; look to be ~; seem ~.) □ He was a million miles away during the entire lecture. □ Look at her. She is a million miles away, not paying any attention to what she is doing.

The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small. Prov. It may take a long time, but evil will always be punished. □ fill: It really doesn’t seem right that Fred can be so horrible and dishonest, but he always gets everything he wants, Jane: Be patient. The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small.
a millstone about one’s neck a continual burden or handicap. □ This huge and expensive house is a millstone about my neck. □ Bill’s inability to control his temper is a millstone about his neck.

mince (one’s) words to soften the effect of one’s words. □ Tell me what you think, and don’t mince your words. □ A frank person never minces words.

Mind if...? Go to (Do you) mind if...?

mind one’s own business Fig. to attend only to the things that concern one. □ Leave me alone, Bill. Mind your own business. □ I’d be fine if John would mind his own business.

mind one’s p’s and q’s. Prov. to behave properly; to display good manners. □ When you children go to visit Aunt Muriel, you’ll have to mind your p’s and q’s; not like at home, where I let you do as you please. □ We’d better mind our p’s and q’s for this new teacher; I hear he’s very strict.

mind over matter Fig. [an instance where there are] intellectual powers overriding threats, difficulties, or problems. □ You need to concentrate harder. Pay no attention to your surroundings. This is a case of mind over matter.

mind the store and watch the store Fig. to take care of local matters. □ Please stay here in the office and mind the store while I go to the conference. □ I had to stay home and watch the store when Ann went to Boston.

mind you a phrase introducing something that should be taken into consideration. □ He’s very well dressed, but mind you, he’s got plenty of money to buy clothes. □ Lisa is unfriendly to me, but mind you, she’s never very nice to anyone.

Mind your own beeswax. to mind one’s own business. (Juvenile.) □ You just mind your own beeswax! □ Lay off! Mind your own beeswax!

Mind your own business, and Get your nose out of my business.; Keep your nose out of my business. Fig. Stop prying into my affairs. (Not at all polite. The expressions with get and keep can have the literal meanings of removing and keeping removed.) □ Andy: This is none of your affair. Mind your own business. Sue: I was only trying to help. □ Bob: How much did you pay in federal taxes last year? Jane: Good grief, Bob! Keep your nose out of my business! □ Tom: How much did it cost? Sue: Tom! Get your nose out of my business! □ “Hey!” shrieked Sally, jerking the checkbook out of Sue’s grasp. “Get your nose out of my business!”

mine for something to dig into the ground in search of a mineral, a metal, or an ore. □ The prospectors ended up mining for coal. □ What are they mining for in those hills?

a mine of information Fig. someone or something that is full of information. □ Grandfather is a mine of information about World War II. □ The new search engine is a positive mine of useful information.

mingle in (with someone) to join in with someone; to mix with people. □ I am going to go into the hall and mingle in with the rest of the guests. □ Ken came into the room and mingled in at once.

mingle someone with someone else and mingle something with something else to mix people together; to mix things together. □ Try to mingle your friends with mine. □ You had better not mingle your money with that of the corporation.

mingle with someone to mix with people. □ Try to mingle with the guests. □ I would like to get out and mingle with people more.

minister to someone or something to take care of someone or something’s needs. □ Sarah tried to minister to the people of the village. □ He sought to minister to the grief of the widow.

minor in something to study a secondary subject in college. (Compare this with major in something.) □ I minored in math in college. □ I decided to minor in history.

the minute something happens the point in time at which an event happens. □ I’ll be inside the minute it rains. □ Call me the minute you get to town.

a miscarriage of justice a wrong or mistaken decision, especially one made in a court of law. □ Sentencing the old man on a charge of murder proved to be a miscarriage of justice. □ Punishing the student for cheating was a miscarriage of justice. He was innocent.

Misery loves company. Prov. Unhappy people like other people to be unhappy too. □ Jill: Why is Linda criticizing everybody today? Jane: Her boss criticized her this morning, and misery loves company. □ I should probably feel bad because my sister is so depressed, but I’m pretty depressed myself. Misery loves company.

Misfortunes never come singly. Prov. Bad things tend to happen in groups. □ I already told you that my wife lost her job. Well, misfortunes never come singly; our house was robbed last night.

mislead someone about something to misrepresent something to someone. □ I hope you are not trying to mislead me about the price. □ I’m afraid I misled you on this matter.

misplace one’s trust (in someone) to put trust in the wrong person; to put trust in someone who does not deserve it. □ The writer misplaced his trust in his editor. □ The voters misplaced their trust in the corrupt politician.

miss a trick Fig. to miss an opportunity or chance. (Typically with the negative.) □ She hardly ever misses a trick. □ Mr. Big never misses a trick. □ How did a smart guy like you miss a trick like that?

A miss is as good as a mile. Prov. Almost having done something is the same as not having done it at all, since in both cases the thing does not get done. □ We only missed the train by one minute! Well, a miss is as good as a mile.

miss out (on something) and lose out (on something) to fail to participate in something; to fail to take part in something. □ I’m sorry I missed out on the ice cream. □ I lost out on getting in the class photo because I was sick that day.

miss (something) by a mile Fig. to fail to hit something by a great distance; to land wide of the mark. □ Ann shot the arrow and missed the target by a mile. □ “Good grief, you missed by a mile,” shouted Sally.

miss the boat 1. Lit. to miss out (on something); to be ignorant (of something). □ Pay attention, John, or you’ll miss the boat and not learn algebra. □ Tom really missed
mix something up to bring something into disorder; to throw something into a state of confusion. □ Don't mix up the papers on my desk. □ He mixes up things in his eagerness to speak.

mix something up (with something) 1. to mix or stir something using a mixing or stirring device. □ He mixed the batter up with a spoon. □ First, mix up the batter. 2. to combine substances and mix them together. □ Please mix the egg up with the sugar first. □ Please mix up the egg with the sugar.

mix something up with something else Go to mistake something for something else.

mix with someone or something to mix socially with someone or a group. □ Tom dislikes Bill and Ted so much that he could never mix with them socially. □ She finds it difficult to mix with friends.

mix with something [for a substance] to combine with a substance. □ Will this pigment mix with water? □ Water will not mix with oil.

a mixed bag a varied collection of people or things. (Refers originally to a bag of game brought home after a day’s hunting.) □ The new students in my class are a mixed bag—some bright, some positively stupid. □ The furniture I bought is a mixed bag. Some of it is antique and the rest is quite contemporary.

*mixed feelings (about someone or something) uncertainty about someone or something. (“Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I have mixed feelings about Bob. Sometimes I think he likes me; other times I don't. □ I have mixed feelings about my trip to England. I love the people, but the climate upsets me.

*mixed up in something involved in something, especially something wrong or illegal. (“Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ The youth has had problems ever since he got mixed up in a group of boys that stole a car.

*mixed up with someone else involved with another person, possibly romantically. (“Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I hear that Sam is mixed up with Sally. □ Who is Jerry mixed up with now?

moan about something to complain about something. □ What are you moaning about? □ I am not moaning about anything.

moan something out to say something in a moan. □ The injured woman moaned the name of her assailant out. □ She moaned out the name.

moan with something to groan because of pain or pleasure. □ The patient moaned with pain and fear. □ Ken moaned with pleasure.

mock something up to make a model or simulation of something. □ The engineers mocked the new car design up for the managers to see. □ They mocked up the new car design.

model someone on someone and model something on something to use something as a pattern for something; to use someone as a pattern for someone. □ I will model my house on the house we saw in the Mediterranean. □ She tried to model herself on her mother.
model something in something to make a model of something in a particular substance. She modeled the figure in clay. I modeled a bear in modeling clay.

model something on something Go to model someone on someone.


modulate to a (different) key to change from one musical key to another by means of a musical transition. Suddenly, the organist modulated to a key that was too high for most of the singers. I will have to modulate to a lower key before I start the next hymn.

moist around the edges intoxicated. Charlie is more moist around the edges. He is soused. Didn’t that guy seem a little moist around the edges?

mold something out of something and mold something from something to form something, using a pliable substance, such as clay, plastic, wet concrete, etc. She molded a small turtle out of the moist clay. Elaine molded a turtle from the clay.

the moment everyone has been waiting for Go to the big moment.

the moment of truth Fig. the point at which someone has to face the reality of a situation. The moment of truth is here. Turn over your exam papers and begin. Now for the moment of truth when we find out whether we have got planning permission or not.

Monday’s child is fair of face. A child born on Monday will be good-looking. (This comes from a rhyme that tells what children will be like, according to which day they are born: “Monday’s child is fair of face, / Tuesday’s child is full of grace, / Wednesday’s child is full of woe, / Thursday’s child has far to go, / Friday’s child is loving and giving, / Saturday’s child works hard for a living, / But a child that is born on the Sabbath day / Is blithe and bonny, good and gay.”) Joan is so pretty, she must be a Monday’s child. Monday’s child is fair of face.

Money burns a hole in someone’s pocket. An expression describing someone who spends money as soon as it is earned. Sally can’t seem to save anything. Money burns a hole in her pocket. If money burns a hole in your pocket, you never have any for emergencies.

Money does not grow on trees. It is not easy to get money. (Implies that the person you are addressing spends money too easily.) Child: Can I have ten dollars to go to the movies? Father: Ten dollars?! Money doesn’t grow on trees.

money from home 1. easily gotten money. (Underworld.) There is nothing to a simple con job like this. It’s money from home. This job is like taking candy from a kid. It’s money from home. 2. something as welcome as long-awaited money from home. This cool drink is money from home right now. Having you visit like this is like getting money from home, Mary.

Money is no object, and Expense is no object. Fig. It does not matter how much something costs. Please show me your finest automobile. Money is no object. I want the finest earrings you have. Don’t worry about how much they cost because expense is no object.

Money is power. Do you have money, you can get things and do things. Emily wanted a career that would make her a lot of money, since money is power.

Money is the root of all evil, and The love of money is the root of all evil. People do many evil things in order to get rich. Money is the root of all evil. (Biblical. Compare this with Idleness is the root of all evil.) Fred: I know I could make more money if I just knew the right things to invest in. Ellen: Don’t worry so much about money. It’s the root of all evil, after all. As the newspapers continued to report the dastardly things the wealthy young banker had done to become even wealthier, people shook their heads and remarked, “The love of money is the root of all evil.”

Money talks. Fig. Money gives one power and influence to help get things done or get one’s own way. Don’t worry, I have a way of getting things done. Money talks. I can’t compete against rich old Mrs. Jones. She’ll get her way because money talks.

monkey business and funny business silliness; dishonest tricks. That’s enough monkey business. Now, settle down. Stop the funny business. This is serious!

Monkey see, monkey do. Children imitate what they see other people doing. I don’t let my children watch TV programs that show kids being disrespectful to their elders. I know what would happen if I did: monkey see, monkey do.

monkey suit a tuxedo. (Jocular. Possibly in reference to the fancy suit worn by an organ-grinder’s monkey.) Do I have to wear a monkey suit to dinner? All the men except me wore monkey suits at dinner on the cruise.

monkey with someone or something Go to mess with someone or something.

months running Go to days running.

mooch (something) from someone to beg something from someone. Can I mooch a match from you? Go mooch some money from Fred. Why do you always mooch from people?

moon about someone or something and moon over someone or something Fig. to pine or grieve about someone or something. Stop mooning about your cat. Cats always come back eventually. Jill is still mooning over Robert.

moon something away Fig. to waste time pining or grieving. Don’t moon the whole year away! You have mooned away half the year. Now pull yourself together!

mop something down! to clean a surface with a mop. Please mop this floor down now. Please mop down this floor.

mop something off! to wipe the liquid off something. Please mop the counter off with paper towels. Map the counter.

mop something up! to clean up something, such as a spill, with a mop or with a mopping motion. Please mop this mess up. I will mop up this mess.

mop something up! with something to clean or remove something from something else using a mop, rag, towel,
mop the floor up with someone: to overwhelm and physically subdue someone; to beat someone. \[\square\] Stop talking like that, or I'll mop the floor up with you! \[\square\] Did you hear that? He threatened to mop up the floor with me!
mop up (after someone or something) 1. Lit. to clean up with a mop a sloppy mess made by someone or something. \[\square\] I am the one who has to mop up after the mess you made! 2. Fig. to rectify a problem that someone or something has created. \[\square\] You made a fuss in the conference and upset everyone. I spent hours mopping up after you in private meetings with all in attendance.
mope around to go about in a depressed state. \[\square\] Since her dog ran away, Sally mopes around all day. \[\square\] Don't mope around. Cheer up!
a mopping-up operation a clean-up operation; the final stages in a project where the loose ends are taken care of. \[\square\] It's all over except a small mopping-up operation. \[\square\] The mopping-up operation from the hurricane should cost just under twenty million.
moralize about someone or something to utter moral platitudes about someone or something. \[\square\] There is no point in moralizing about Carlo. He can't be changed. \[\square\] Why are you moralizing about the election? The people are always right.
more and more an increasing amount; additional amounts. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
moralize about something: to utter moral platitudes about something. \[\square\] There is no point in moralizing about Carlo. He can't be changed. \[\square\] Why are you moralizing about the election? The people are always right.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
more dead than alive Fig. exhausted; in very bad condition; near death. (Almost always an exaggeration.) \[\square\] We arrived at the top of the mountain more dead than alive. \[\square\] The marathon runners stumbled one by one over the finish line, more dead than alive.
moralize about something: to utter moral platitudes about something. \[\square\] There is no point in moralizing about Carlo. He can't be changed. \[\square\] Why are you moralizing about the election? The people are always right.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
moralize about something: to utter moral platitudes about something. \[\square\] There is no point in moralizing about Carlo. He can't be changed. \[\square\] Why are you moralizing about the election? The people are always right.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
morbidly excessive or exaggerated. \[\square\] As I learn more and more, I see how little I really know. \[\square\] Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.
motion (for) someone to do something
to give someone a hand signal to do something.

motion someone aside
to give a hand signal to someone to move aside. (See also motion someone to one side.)
He motioned her aside and had a word with her. I motioned aside the guard and asked him a question.

motion someone away from someone or something
to give a hand signal to someone to move away from someone or something.
She motioned me away from Susan. The police officer motioned the boys away from the wrecked car.

motion someone to one side and motion someone to the side
to give someone a hand signal to move to the side of something, such as the road. (Very similar to motion someone aside.)
The cop motioned her to the side of the road. Claire motioned Fred to one side, where she spoke to him.

motion to someone
to make some sort of hand signal to a person.
Did you motion to me? What do you want? I did not motion to you.

mound something up
to form something into a mound.
Mound the dirt up around the base of the shrub. Please mound up the leaves around the rosebushes.

mount something against someone or something
to create or instigate something against someone or something.
The prosecutor mounted a questionable case against Robert. The state mounted a very complex case against the company.

mount something on something
to place or attach something onto something. Mount the butterflies on plain white paper. Sue mounted her favorite stamps on a display board.

mount up
to get up on a horse. Mount up and let’s get out of here! Please mount up so we can leave. [for something] to increase in amount or extent. Expenses really mount up when you travel. Medical expenses mount up very fast when you’re in the hospital.

mourn for someone or something and mourn over someone or something
to grieve for someone or something. Everyone will mourn for you when you go. We all mourned over the end of the holiday. There is no point in mourning over your cat. It won’t come back.

The mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken.
Proverb. It is dangerous to always depend on just one thing, because if it fails you, you will not have any alternatives. Don’t put all your money in a single bank account.
The mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken.

a mouth full of South
Sl. a southern accent. You sure do have a mouth full of South. I just love to hear a man with a mouth full of South.

mouth off
to speak out of turn; to backtalk. If you mouth off, I will ground you for three weeks. Don’t mouth off at me, buster!

mouth on someone
to inform the authorities on someone; to tattle on someone. Max mouthed on his accomplice and got him arrested. You had better not mouth on me!

a movable feast
Lit. a religious holiday that is on a different date from year to year. Easter is the best known movable feast. Fig. a meal that is served in motion or with different portions of the meal served at different locations. (Fig.) We enjoyed a real movable feast on the train from Washington to Miami.

move a mile a minute
Go to a mile a minute.

move about
Go to move around.

move ahead of someone or something
to advance beyond someone or something. All my coworkers are moving ahead of me in salary. What am I doing wrong? The police moved ahead of the parade, pushing back the crowd.

move along
continue to move; to start moving out of the way. (Often a command.) The crowd moved along slowly. Please just move along. There is nothing to see here.

move around and move about
to move here and there a bit; to stir; to walk around a bit. Don’t move around at all! I wish you would stop moving about.

move as one
Go to as one.

move aside
To step or move out of the way. Please move aside. Could you please move aside so we can get this cart through?

move at a fast clip
Go to at a fast clip.

move at a good clip
Go to at a good clip.

move away (from someone or something)
to withdraw from someone or something. Please don’t move away from me. I like you close by. I have to move away from the smoking section. There was too much smoke there, so I moved away. to move, with one’s entire household, to another residence. Timmy was upset because his best friend had moved away. They moved away just as we were getting to know them.

move back (from someone or something)
to move back and away. (Often a command.) Please move back from the edge. Please move back!

move beyond someone or something
Go to beyond someone or something.

move clear of something
Go to clear of something.

move close to someone or something
Go to close to someone or something.

move down
to move oneself farther down a line of things. Someone else needs to sit on this bench. Please move down. Could you move down a little so we can have some more room?

move forward with something
to advance with something; to make progress with something. Let us try to move forward with this matter at once. I want to move forward with the project at a fast pace.

move (from some place) (to some place)
to travel from one place to another. The whole family moved from Denver to Chicago. We moved to the country.
move heaven and earth to do something Fig. to make a major effort to do something.  □ “I'll move heaven and earth to be with you, Mary,” said Bill.  □ I had to move heaven and earth to get there on time.

move in for the kill Go to close in for the kill.

move in (on someone) to come to live with someone.  □ My brother moved in on me without even asking.  □ I don't mean to move in on you. I just need a place for a few days.

move in (on someone or something) 1. Lit. to move closer to someone or something; to make advances or aggressive movements toward someone or something. (See also move in (on someone).) □ The crowd moved in on the frightened guard. □ They moved in slowly. 2. Fig. to attempt to take over or dominate someone or something. □ The police moved in on the drug dealers. □ Max tried to move in on the rival gang's territory.

move in the fast lane Go to in the fast lane.

move in with someone to take up residence with someone. □ Sally moved in with Sam. □ Jimmy moved in with his brother and shared expenses.

move into full swing Go to in full swing.

move into high gear Go to in full swing; in high gear.

move in(to something) 1. Lit. [for someone] to come to reside in something or some place. □ I moved into a new apartment last week. □ When did the new family move in? 2. Lit. to enter something or some place. □ The whole party moved into the house when it started raining. □ All the children just moved in and brought the party with them. 3. Fig. to begin a new line of activity. □ After failing at real estate, he moved into house painting. □ It looked like he could make some money, so he moved into the stock market with his assets.

move like stink Go to like stink.

move like the wind Go to like the wind.

move off campus Go to off campus.

move off (from someone or something) to move away from someone or something. □ The doctor moved off from the patient, satisfied with her work. □ The officer stopped for those people on. They are in the way.

move off (to the side) with someone Go to off (to the side) with someone.

move on to continue moving; to travel on; to move along and not stop or tarry. □ Move on! Don't stop here! □ Please move on!

move on someone to attempt to pick up someone; to attempt to seduce someone. □ Don't try to move on my date, old chum. □ Harry is trying to move on Tiffany. They deserve each other.

move on something to do something about something. □ I will move on this matter only when I get some time. □ I have been instructed to move on this and give it the highest priority.

move on (to something) to change to a different subject or activity. □ Now, I will move on to a new question. □ That is enough discussion on that point. Let's move on.

move out (from under someone or something) Go to out (from under someone or something).
moving three times is as bad as a fire. Prov. If you move your household three times, you will lose or damage as many things as a fire in your house would have destroyed or damaged.  

Mr. Nice Guy a friendly, forgiving fellow.  

Mr. Right the one man who is right for a woman to marry.

much ado about nothing Cliché a furor over something unimportant. (The name of a Shakespeare play.)  

much in evidence Cliché very visible or evident.  


much of a muchness too much of something that there is generally a lot of.  

muck something up1 to ruin something.  

muddle along to progress in confusion; to continue awkwardly.  

muddle around to work inefficiently.  

muddle something up1 to mix something up; to make something confusing.  

muddler, muddling something up1 to mix something up; to make something confusing.  

muddied up to drive.  

muddy the water Fig. to make something less clear; to make matters confusing; to create difficulty where there was none before.  

muffle something up1 to deaden or stifle a sound.  

muff one’s lines Go to fluff one’s lines.
mulct something out of someone to cheat something away from someone. □ Are you trying to mulct my inheritance out of me? □ Max tried to mulct every last cent out of his victim.
mull something over to think about something; to ponder or worry about something. □ That’s an interesting idea, but I’ll have to mull it over. □ I’ll mull over your suggestions and reply to you next week.
multiply by something to use the arithmetic process of multiplication to expand numerically a certain number of times. □ To get the amount of your taxes, multiply by .025. □ Can you multiply by sixteens?
multiply something by something to use the arithmetic process of multiplication to expand numerically a particular number a certain number of times. □ Multiply the number of dependents you are claiming by one thousand dollars. □ Multiply 12 by 16 and tell me what you get.
amultitude of sins Fig. many kinds of sins or errors. □ The term offensive covers a multitude of sins.
Mum’s the word. Fig. a pledge not to reveal a secret or to tell about something or someone. □ “Mum’s the word,” said Jane to ease Mary’s mind about her secret.
munch out SL to overeat. □ I can’t help it. Whenever I see french fries, I just have to munch out. □ I try not to munch out more than once a week.
mung something up SL to mess something up. □ Don’t mung it up this time. □ The team munged up the play, and the coach blasted them but good.
murder on something very destructive or harmful to someone or something. □ Running a marathon is murder on your knees. □ This dry weather is murder on my crops.
murder will out. Prov. Murder will always be discovered.; A bad deed will be found out. □ Horace thought he had disposed of his victim in such a way that no one would ever discover his crime, but murder will out.
murmur against someone or something to grumble about someone or something. □ Everyone was murmuring against the manager. □ The citizens will begin murmuring about the government soon.
murmur at someone or an animal to say something softly or indistinctly to someone or an animal. □ Stop murmuring at me. Speak up! □ Gene sat alone, murmuring at his favorite cat for over an hour.
muscle in (on someone or something) to try forcefully to displace someone or take over someone’s property, interests, or relationships. □ Are you trying to muscle in on my scheme? □ If you try to muscle in, you’ll be facing big trouble.
muscle someone out of something and muscle someone out† to force someone out of something; to push someone out of something. (Can be physical or by coercion.) □ Are you trying to muscle me out of my job? □ The younger people are muscling out the older ones.
muse over someone or something to reflect or meditate on someone or something. □ We were just now musing over Sarah and the way she has changed. □ Tom is so strange. I was musing over his behavior just yesterday.
mushroom into something Fig. to grow suddenly into something large or important. □ The question of pay sud-
denly mushroomed into a major matter. □ The unpaid bill mushroomed into a nasty argument and, finally, a court battle.
music to someone’s ears Fig. a welcome sound to someone; news that someone is pleased to hear. □ A: Here’s your paycheck for this month. B: Ah, that’s music to my ears!
muss someone or something up† to put someone or something into disarray. □ Don’t muss me up! □ You mussed up my hair. □ I’m afraid I mussed myself up a little.
muster out of something to be discharged from military service. □ He mustered out of the service before his time was up. □ I want to know how I can muster out too.
muster something up† to call up some quality, such as courage. □ Do you think you can muster enough courage up to do the job? □ Can you muster up enough strength to do the job?
mutiny against someone or something 1. to rebel against a ship’s captain or the captain’s authority. □ The crew mutinied against the officers. □ They know better than to mutiny against an authority as great as that held by Captain Bligh. 2. to rebel against someone or something. □ It does no good to mutiny against the professor. □ The students mutinied against the school’s administration.
mutter about someone or something to grumble or complain about someone or something. □ Are you muttering about me? What is your complaint? □ Why is everyone muttering about the food here? It is excellent.
mutter something about someone or something to say something softly and indistinctly about someone or something. □ I heard him mutter something about being late. □ Sharon is muttering something about Dave. What does she mean?
mutter something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.
My cup runneth over. Prov. I have received so many benefits that I cannot contain them all. (Said when you feel overcome because many good things have happened to you.) □ This week, I finished paying off my mortgage, my arthritis improved, and my first grandchild was born. My cup runneth over. □ Janet was speechless with happiness when she saw how many of her friends and relatives had joined together to give her a surprise party. “My cup runneth over,” she finally said.
My foot! Inf. I do not believe it!; Like hell! (An exclamation of contradiction.) □ Your prices are the best in town, my foot! I know two places cheaper. □ She’s going to marry you? My foot!
(My) goodness (gracious)! a general expression of interest or mild amazement. □ Bill: My goodness! The window is broken! Andy: I didn’t do it! Bill: Who did, then? □ “Goodness! I’m late!” said Kate, glancing at her watch. □ “Goodness gracious! Are you hurt?” asked Sue as she helped the fallen student to his feet.
my gut tells me (that) my instincts tell me that. (This refers to one’s gut reaction or gut response.) □ My gut tells me that her idea is a sound one. □ This looks good on paper, but my gut tells me that it is all wrong.
(My) heavens! Inf. a mild exclamation of surprise or amazement. □ Bill: Heavens! The clock has stopped. Bob: Don’t you have a watch? □ Sally: The police are parked in...
our driveway, and one of them is getting out! Mary: My heavens!

**My house is your house.** and **Our house is your house.** Fig. a polite expression said to make a guest feel at home. (From the Spanish phrase *Mi casa, su casa.*) □ Bill: Hello, Tom. Tom (entering): So nice you can put me up for the night. Bill: My house is your house, make yourself at home. □ Mary: Come in, you two. Bill: Thanks. Sue: Yes, thank you. Mary: Well, what can I get you? My house is your house.

(My,) how time flies. 1. Time has gone by quickly, it is time for me to go. □ Bill: Look at the clock! Mary: How time flies! I guess you’ll be going. Bill: Yes, I have to get up early. □ John: My watch says it’s nearly midnight. How time flies! Jane: Yes, it’s late. We really must go. 2. Time passes quickly. (Said especially when talking about how children grow and develop.) □ “Look at how big Billy is getting,” said Uncle Michael. “My, how time flies.” □ Tom: It seems it was just yesterday that I graduated from high school. Now I’m a grandfather. Mary: My, how time flies.

**My lips are sealed.** Fig. I will tell no one this secret or this gossip. □ Mary: I hope you don’t tell anyone about this. Alice: Don’t worry. My lips are sealed. □ Bob: Don’t you dare tell her I told you. Bill: My lips are sealed.


**my one and only** one’s spouse or lover. (See also the one and only.) □ Look at the time. I’ve got to get home to my one and only. □ You’re my one and only. There is no one else for me.

**My pleasure.** 1. You’re welcome. It is my pleasure to do so. (From It’s my pleasure. There is a stress on both words.) □ Mary: Thank you for bringing this up here. Bill: My pleasure. □ Jane: Oh, Doctor, you’ve really helped Tom. Thank you so much! Doctor: My pleasure. 2. Happy to meet you.; Happy to see you. □ Sally: Bill, meet Mary, my cousin. Bill: My pleasure.
nag at someone (about someone or something) to pester someone about someone or something. □ Don’t keep nagging at me about her. □ Stop nagging at me!
nail someone down⁴ (on something) Go to pin someone down⁴ (on something).
nail someone’s ears back⁴ Fig. to scold someone severely. □ I’m going to nail your ears back for doing that! □ Who’s going to nail back my ears?
nail someone’s(s) hide to the wall Go to next.
nail someone to a cross and nail someone’s(s) hide to the wall Fig. to punish or scold someone severely. (Literally, to crucify someone or to nail someone’s skin to the wall like that of a captured animal.) □ That guy was really mad. He really nailed you to a cross. □ She must hate your guts. She sure nailed your hide to the wall.
nail something back⁴ to secure something back out of the way by nailing it. □ Please nail the shutters back so they won’t bang against the house. □ I’ll nail back the shutters.
nail something down⁴ 1. to secure something down by nailing it. □ Please nail the floorboard down or someone will trip over it. □ I’ll nail down these floorboards. 2. Go to pin something down.
nail something into something to drive a nail or something similar into something. □ She nailed the hanger into the wall to hold the picture up. □ Please nail in this tack.
nail something onto something and nail something to something; nail something on⁴ to attach something onto something by nailing. □ Suzy nailed the hanger onto the side of the house. □ She nailed on the bracket. □ Laura nailed the bracket to the wall.
nail something up⁴ 1. to put something up, as on a wall, by nailing. □ Please nail this up. □ I’ll nail up this picture for you. 2. to nail something closed; to use nails to secure something back out of the reach of someone or something. □ Sam nailed the door up so no one could use it. □ Who nailed up the door? I can’t get in!
*naked as a jaybird Cliché naked; bare. (*Also: as ~.) □ Two-year-old Matilda escaped from her nurse, who was bathing her, and ran out naked as a jaybird into the dining room. □ Uncle John sometimes spends a whole day walking around his house as naked as a jaybird.
*the naked eye the human eye, unassisted by optics, such as a telescope, microscope, or spectacles. (*Typically: appear to ~; look to ~; see with ~; visible to ~.) □ I can’t see the bird’s markings with the naked eye. □ The scientist could see nothing in the liquid with the naked eye, but with the aid of a microscope, she identified the bacteria. □ That’s how it appears to the naked eye.
the naked truth the complete, unembellished truth. □ Sorry to put it to you like this, but it’s the naked truth. □ I can take it. Just tell me the naked truth.
the name of the game Inf. the way things are; the way things can be expected to be. □ The name of the game is money, money, money. □ I can’t help it. That’s the name of the game.
name someone after someone else and name someone for someone else to give someone (usually a baby) the name of another person. □ We named our baby after my aunt. □ My parents named me for my grandfather.
named someone as something to select someone as something. □ The mayor named Karen as corporate council. □ The president named himself as chairman of the new committee.
name someone for someone else Go to name someone after someone else.
name someone or something for someone or something to name someone or something, using the name of someone or something, in any combination. □ I named her for the beauty of the rising sun. □ They named the mountain for the first person to see it.
Name your poison. Go to What’ll it be?
narrow something down⁴ (to people or things) to reduce a list of possibilities from many to a selected few. □ We can narrow the choice down to green or red. □ We narrowed down the choice to you or Paul.
narrow squeeze Fig. a success almost not achieved; a lucky or marginal success; a problem almost not surmounted. □ That was a narrow squeeze. I don’t know how I survived. □ Another narrow squeeze like that and I’ll give up.
Nature abhors a vacuum. Prov. If there is a gap, something will fill it. □ Jill: As soon as the beggar who used to work that corner left, another one showed up. Jane: Nature abhors a vacuum.
a nature stop Fig. a stop to use the toilet, especially during road travel. □ I think I need a nature stop when it’s convenient. □ I left my comb back at the last nature stop.
nause someone out⁴ Sl. to make someone ill; to disgust someone. (From nauseate.) □ That’s awful. I bet it nauseates Jennifer out. □ This day nauseated everybody I know. □ He nauseated himself out just thinking of the accident.
near at hand close or handy (to someone). □ Do you have a pencil near at hand? □ My dictionary isn’t near at hand.
the nearer the church, the farther from God. Prov. Church officials, or people who live near the church, are not truly pious. □ Jill: I think our pastor is an evil man. Jane: I didn’t think evil men could be pastors. Jill: Of course they can! The nearer the church, the farther from God.
nearly jump out of one’s skin Go to (almost) jump out of one’s skin.
*neat as a pin Cliché neat and orderly. (*Also: as ~.) □ Brad is such a good housekeeper; his apartment is always as neat as a pin. □ Joanne certainly is well-organized. Her desk is neat as a pin.
Necessity is the mother of invention. Prov. When people really need to do something, they will figure out a way to do it. ☐ When the fan belt on Linda's car broke in the middle of the desert, Linda used her stockings as a replacement. Necessity is the mother of invention.

Necessity knows no law. Prov. If you are desperate, you may have to do illegal things. ☐ I'm an honest person by nature, but I lost my job, and my kids needed food and clothes, and it seemed like the best way to get money was to deal in illegal drugs. Necessity knows no law.

neck and neck Fig. exactly even, especially in a race or a contest. ☐ John and Tom finished the race neck and neck. ☐ Mary and Ann were neck and neck in the spelling contest. Their scores were tied.

neck with someone to engage in amorous kissing and caressing with someone. ☐ Ted is over there necking with Molly. ☐ Molly is necking with Ted and thinking of Ken.

need a firm hand Go to a firm hand.
need a helping hand Go to a helping hand.
need a pick-me-up Go to a pick-me-up.
need doing and need (to be) done [is] required to be done. (The second form, although widespread, is considered by some to be less standard than the first.) ☐ This chair needs fixing. ☐ This chair needs fixed.

need I remind you that... and need I remind you of... a phrase that introduces a reminder. (A little haughty or parental.) ☐ Bill: Need I remind you that today is Friday? Bob (sarcastically): Gee, how else would I have known? ☐ John: Need I remind you of our policy against smoking in the office? Jane: Sorry, I forgot.

Need I say more? Is it necessary for me to say any more? ☐ Mary: There's grass to be mowed, weeds to be pulled, dishes to be done, carpets to be vacuumed, and there you sit! Need I say more? Tom: I'll get right on it. ☐ "This project needs to be finished before anyone leaves tonight," said Alice, hovering over the office staff. "Need I say more?"

need so bad one can taste it Go to so bad one can taste it.

need some elbow room Go to some elbow room.
need some shut-eye Go to some shut-eye.

need something like a hole in the head not to need something at all. ☐ I need a house cat like I need a hole in the head! ☐ She needs another car like she needs a hole in the head.

need something yesterday Inf. to require something in a very big hurry. ☐ Yes, I'm in a hurry! I need it yesterday! ☐ When do I need it? Now! Now! No, I need it yesterday!

need (to be) done Go to need doing.

needle someone about someone or something to pester or bother someone about someone or something. ☐ Please don't needle me about Jane. ☐ Stop needling me about eating out.

needless to say It is so obvious that it doesn’t need to be said, but.... ☐ Needless to say, I should have spent more time on the report, but I just didn’t have it.

Needs must when the devil drives. Prov. When you are desperate, you must do things you ordinarily would not do. ☐ We're going to have to get an enormous loan to pay for your mother's surgery. I hate to go into debt, but needs must when the devil drives.

neglect to do something to fail to do something. ☐ I hope you do not neglect to lock the door. ☐ He neglected to water the plants.

negotiate (with someone or something) (over someone or something) and negotiate (with someone or something) (about someone or something) to bargain with someone or a group about someone or something. ☐ We decided to negotiate with them over the terms of the contract. ☐ We want to negotiate with them about the cost of the goods. ☐ They refused to negotiate with our purchasing agent.

neighbor on something to be directly adjacent to something. ☐ Our house neighbors on a park. ☐ The park neighbors on a stretch of beach.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be. Prov. It is difficult to be friends with someone who owes you money or with someone to whom you owe something, so it is better not to borrow or lend in the first place. ☐ After losing several of my favorite books because I didn’t have the nerve to insist that my friends return them, I learned that it is best to neither a borrower nor a lender be.

Neither can I. I cannot do that either. (Any subject pronoun can be used in place of I.) ☐ Bill: No matter what they do to them, I just can’t stand sweet potatoes! Bob: Neither can I. ☐ John: Let’s go. I cannot tolerate the smoke in here. Jane: Neither can I.

neither does someone [does] not either. ☐ Susan does not own a cat, and neither does Mary. ☐ Bill doesn’t want to see a movie tonight, and neither do I.

neither fish nor fowl Cliché not any recognizable thing. ☐ The car that they drove up in was neither fish nor fowl. It must have been made out of spare parts. ☐ This proposal is neither fish nor fowl. I can't tell what you're proposing.

neither here nor there Cliché of no consequence or meaning; irrelevant and immaterial. ☐ Whether you go to the movie or stay at home is neither here nor there. ☐ Your comment—though interesting—is neither here nor there.

*neither* hide nor hair Cliché no sign or indication of someone or something. (*Typically: find ~; see ~.) ☐ We could find neither hide nor hair of him. I don’t know where he is. ☐ There has been no one here. We found neither hide nor hair.

*neither rhyme nor reason Cliché without logic, order, or planning. (Describes something disorganized. *Typically: be ~; have ~.) ☐ There seems to be neither rhyme nor reason to Gerald’s filing system. ☐ The novel’s plot had neither rhyme nor reason.

nerve of steel Fig. very steady nerves; great patience and courage. ☐ I was scared to death, but Fred, who has nerves of steel, faced the thugs bravely.

a (nervous) breakdown Fig. a physical and mental collapse brought on by great anxiety over a period of time. ☐ After month after month of stress and strain, Sally had a nervous breakdown.

nest in something to build a nest in something and live in it. ☐ Some mice nested in a corner of the garage. ☐ The birds nested in the eaves.
nest together to fit together or within one another compactly. □ These mixing bowls nest together. □ I want some of those Russian wooden dolls that nest together.

nestle down (in something) to settle down in something; to snuggle into something, such as a bed. □ They nestled down in their warm bed. □ Please nestle down and go to sleep.

nestle (up) against someone or something and nestle up (to someone or something) to lie close to someone or something; to cuddle up to someone or something. □ The kitten nestled up against its mother. □ The shivering puppy nestled up to Kathy.

never a dull moment [it’s] always exciting around here. (Describes an exciting or hectic situation.) □ Every time I visit Jean, she has dozens of things planned for us to do: parties and theaters to attend, restaurants to try, scenic places to see. Never a dull moment. □ Alan: How was work today? Jane: First of all, my boss called me in to yell at me. Then I had to fire one of my subordinates. And then my desk chair broke when I sat down on it. Never a dull moment.

Never ask pardon before you are accused. Prov. Do not apologize for something if nobody knows that you did it, because by apologizing, you are admitting that you did it. □ Alan: Should I apologize to Jane for losing the necktie she gave me? Jane: Wait and see if she asks you what happened to the necktie. Never ask pardon before you are accused.

never fear do not worry; have confidence. □ I’ll be there on time—never fear. □ I’ll help you, never fear.

Never halloo till you are out of the woods. Prov. Do not rejoice until you are certain that your problems are over. □ Jill: Now that I have a full-time job, I’m certain to be able to pay all my debts. Jane: But it’s just a temporary job; it may not last long. Never halloo till you are out of the woods.

Never in a thousand years! Go to Not in a thousand years!

never in my life an emphatic expression showing the depth of the speaker’s feelings. □ Sally: Never in my life have I seen such a mess! John: Well, it’s always this way. Where have you been all this time? Sally: I just never noticed before, I suppose. □ Sue: Never will I go to that hotel again! Never in my life! Bob: That sad, huh? Sue: Yes! That sad and worse!

Never make a threat you cannot carry out. Prov. You should not threaten to do something you cannot do; otherwise, people will not believe you are serious when you threaten. □ Bill: If you don’t stop being rude to me, I’ll have you fired! Jane: You’re not my boss. Never make a threat you cannot carry out.

Never mind! Forget it! It’s not important! □ Sally: What did you say? Jane: Never mind! It wasn’t important. □ John: I tried to get the book you wanted, but they didn’t have it. Shall I try another store? Mary: No, never mind.


Never speak ill of the dead. Prov. You should not say bad things about dead people. □ Your Uncle Phil had a lot of faults, but there’s no reason to talk about them now that he’s gone. Never speak ill of the dead, but Anya was a mean woman, God rest her soul.

Never tell tales out of school. Prov. Do not tell secrets; do not gossip. □ Fred: I just learned something really scandalous about the president of our company. Ellen: Well, I don’t want to hear it. You shouldn’t tell tales out of school.

Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you. Prov. If you think something might cause trouble, leave it alone and wait until it actually causes trouble. □ Ellen: My daughter’s teacher is going to be troublesome, I can tell. Maybe I should go to the school and talk to her. Jane: Why not wait till she actually does something? Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.

never would have guessed 1. never would have thought something to be the case. (Not used in other tenses.) □ He was the one who did it? I never would have guessed. □ I never would have guessed that he wanted the job. He kept it a very good secret. 2. knew it all the time because it was so obvious. (Sarcastic. Not used in other tenses.) □ I never would have guessed that he wanted the job. He only begged and begged for it. □ Now she wants to go back home! I never would have guessed! She has been homesick for days.

New brooms sweep clean. and A new broom sweeps clean. Prov. Someone who is new in a particular job will do a very good job at first, to prove how competent he or she is. □ Jill: That new supervisor is awfully strict. Jane: New brooms sweep clean. □ The new teacher immediately flunked three of the laziest students. “A new broom sweeps clean,” one of the students shrugged.

new kid on the block 1. Lit. a child who has just moved to a certain neighborhood. □ The new kid on the block turned out to be a really good baseball player. 2. Fig. the newest person in a group. □ I’m just the new kid on the block. I’ve only been working here for a month.

a new lease on life Cliché a renewed and revitalized outlook on life. □ Getting the job offer was a new lease on life. □ When I got out of the hospital, I felt as if I had a new lease on life.

new one on someone something that one has not heard before and that one is not ready to believe. □ Bob’s talk of poverty is a new one on me. He always seems to have plenty of money. □ The firm’s difficulties are a new one on me. I thought that it was doing very well.

Next question. Inf. That is settled, let’s move on to something else. (Usually a way of evading further discussion.) □ Mary: When can I expect this construction noise to stop? Bob: In about a month. Next question. □ Bill: When will the board of directors raise the dividend again? Mary: Oh, quite soon. Next question.

next to nothing Fig. hardly anything; almost nothing. □ This car’s worth next to nothing. It’s full of rust. □ I bought this antique chair for next to nothing.

next to someone or something near to someone or something; adjacent to someone or something. □ I live next to a bank. □ Please sit next to me.

the next world Euph. life after death. □ We will meet in the next world. □ He believed he had made contact with spirits from the next world.
nibble at something to take tiny bites of some kind of food. □ The children nibbled at their dinner because they had eaten too much candy. □ Stop nibbling at that candy.
nibble away at something to eat at something in tiny bits; to erode away tiny bits of something. □ The waves nibbled away at the base of the cliff, year after year. □ The mice nibbled away at the huge wheel of cheese.
nice and some quality [being or having] enough of some quality; adequately; sufficiently. □ It is nice and cool this evening. □ I think your steak is nice and done now, just the way you like it.
a nice break Go to a lucky break.
Nice going! and Good job!; Good going!; Nice job! 1. Inf. That was done well. □ John: Well, I'm glad that's over. Sally: Nice going, John! You did a good job. □ Tom: Nice job, Bill! Bill: Thanks, Tom! 2. Fig. That was done poorly. (Sarcastic.) □ Fred: I guess I really messed it up. Bill: Nice job, Fred! You've now messed us all up! Fred: Well, I'm sorry. □ "Nice going," frowned Jane, as Tom upset the bowl of potato chips.
Nice guys finish last. Prov. You will never be able to get what you want by being kind and considerate. □ The unscrupulous salesman advised his trainees, "Don't worry if you have to lie about the product to get the customer to buy it. Nice guys finish last." 
Nice job! Go to Nice going!
Nice meeting you. It is nice to have met you. (Said when leaving someone whose acquaintance you have just made.) □ I must go now, Fred. Nice meeting you. □ Well, nice meeting you. I must get home now.
Nice place you have here. Your home is nice. (A compliment paid by a guest. The word place might be replaced with home, house, room, apartment, etc.) □ Jane came in and looked around. “Nice place you have here,” she said. □ Bob: Come in. Welcome. Mary: Nice place you have here. Bob: Thanks. We like it.
Nice weather we're having. 1. Lit. Isn't the weather nice? (Sometimes used to start a conversation with a stranger.) □ Bill: Nice weather we're having. Bob: Yeah. It's great. □ Mary glanced out the window and said to the lady sitting next to her, “Nice weather we're having.” 2. Fig. Isn't this weather bad? (Sarcastic.) □ Bill: Hi, Tom. Nice weather we're having, huh? Tom: Yeah. Gee, it's hot! □ Mary: Nice weather we're having! Sally: Sorry. Lovely weather for ducks.
nick something up† to make little dents or nicks in something, ruining the finish. □ Someone nicked the kitchen counter up. □ Who nicked up the coffee pot?
nickel-and-dime someone (to death) Fig. to make numerous small monetary charges that add up to a substantial sum. □ Those contractors nickel-and-dimed me to death. □ Just give me the whole bill at one time. Don't nickel-and-dime me for days on end.
niggle about something to make constant petty complaints about something. □ Please don't niggle about little things like this. This is just not important. □ Let's not niggle about it.
niggle (over something) (with someone) to have a petty disagreement over some minor thing. □ Stop niggle over this with me! □ I don't want to niggle with you over this.
night and day Go to day and night.
a night on the town a night of celebrating (at one or more places in a town). □ Did you enjoy your night on the town? □ After we got the contract signed, we celebrated with a night on the town.
night owl Fig. someone who stays up at night; someone who works at night. □ My roommate is a night owl and usually reads until 5:00 a.m. □ A few night owls stayed at the café all night long.
a night person Fig. someone who is more alert and active at night than in the daytime. (Compare this with a day person.) □ I'm really not efficient until after supper. I am the quintessential night person.
a nine days’ wonder Fig. something that is of interest to people only for a short time. □ Don't worry about the story about you in the newspaper. It'll be a nine days’ wonder and then people will forget. □ The elopement of Bob and Anne was a nine days’ wonder. Now people never mention it.
nine times out of ten Fig. usually; almost always. □ Nine times out of ten people will choose coffee rather than tea.
nineteen to the dozen Prov. very rapidly or energetically. □ Whenever I get together with my cousins, we always gossip away nineteen to the dozen. □ While Alan got the other ingredients, Jane was chopping up potatoes nineteen to the dozen.
nine-to-five job a job with normal daytime hours. □ I wouldn't want a nine-to-five job. I like the freedom I have as my own boss. □ I used to work nights, but now I have a nine-to-five job.
nip and tuck Fig. almost even; almost tied. □ The horses ran nip and tuck for the first half of the race. Then my horse pulled ahead. □ In the football game last Saturday, both teams were nip and tuck throughout the game.
nip at someone or something to bite at someone or something. □ The dog nipped at the visitor, but didn't cause any real harm. □ A small dog nipped at my heels.
nip something in the bud Fig. to put an end to something before it develops into something larger. (Alludes to destroying a flower bud before it blooms.) □ I wanted to nip that little romance in the bud. □ The whole idea was nipped in the bud.
nip something off (of) something and nip something off† to clip or cut something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Let me nip a few blossoms off the rosebush. □ I nipped off a few blossoms and made a bouquet.
no big deal and no biggie Inf. [of something] not difficult or troublesome. □ Don't worry. It's no big deal to wash the car. □ No problem. It's no biggie.
nobiggie Go to previous.
no buts about it Go to no ifs, ands, or buts (about it).
No can do. Inf. It can’t be done; I can’t do it. □ Sorry, John. No can do. I can’t sell you this one. I’ve promised it to Mrs. Smith. □ Bill: Please fix this clock today. Bob: No can do. It’ll take a week to get the parts.
No comment. I have nothing to say on this matter. □ Q: When did you stop beating your dog? A: No comment. □
Q: Georgie, did you chop down the cherry tree? A: No comment.

**no contest** Lit. [in games] a situation where one team fails to appear for a competition. □ It was declared no contest because the opposing team was stuck in traffic out on the expressway. 2. Fig. a situation where the winner-to-be of a contest is obvious even before holding the contest. □ It was no contest. The wrestler was so big and strong that no one could have defeated him.

**no dice** Inf. no; not possible. □ When I asked about a loan, he said, “No dice.” □ No. It can't be done, no dice.

**no doubt** a transitional or interpretative phrase strengthening the rest of a previous sentence. □ Sue: Mary is giving this party for herself? Rachel: Yes. She'll expect us to bring gifts, no doubt. □ Mary: All this talk about war has my cousin very worried. Sue: No doubt. At his age, I don't wonder.

**no earthly reason** no conceivable reason. □ There is no earthly reason for your rude behavior. □ I can think of no earthly reason why the repairs should cost so much.

**no end of** an endless supply of something. □ Have some candy. I have no end of chocolate drops. □ I've had no end of trouble ever since I bought this car.

**No fair!** Inf. That isn't fair! □ Bill: No fair! You cheated! Bob: I did not! □ “No fair,” shouted Tom. “You stepped over the line!”

**no flies on** someone Fig. someone is not slow; someone is not wasting time. (On the image of flies not being able to land on someone moving fast.) □ Of course I work fast. I go as fast as I can. There are no flies on me. □ There are no flies on Robert. He does his work very fast and very well.

**no go** Inf. negative; inopportune. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ We're in a no-go situation. □ Is it go or no go?

**no great shakes** Inf. someone or something that is not very good. (There is no affirmative version of this.) □ Your idea is no great shakes, but we'll try it anyway. □ Ted is no great shakes when it comes to brains.

**no hard feelings** and **not any hard feelings** Fig. no anger or resentment. □ I hope you don't have any hard feelings. □ No, I have no hard feelings.

**No harm done.** It is all right. No one or nothing has been harmed. □ It's okay. No harm done. □ A: I am sorry I stepped on your toe. B: No harm done.

**no holds barred** Fig. with no restraints. (Alludes to a wrestling match in which all holds are legal.) □ I intend to argue it out with Mary; no holds barred. □ When Ann negotiates a contract, she goes in with no holds barred and comes out with a good contract.

**no ifs, ands, or buts (about it)** and **no buts about it** Fig. absolutely no discussion, dissension, or doubt about something. □ I want you there exactly at eight, no ifs, ands, or buts about it. □ This is the best television set available for the money, no buts about it.

**no joke** a serious matter. □ It's no joke when you miss the last train. □ It's certainly no joke when you have to walk home.

**No kidding!** 1. Inf. You are not kidding me, are you? (An expression of mild surprise.) □ Jane: I got elected vice pres-

"No one is indispensable."
No pain, no gain. Fig. If you want to improve, you must work so hard that it hurts. (Associated with sports and physical exercise.) □ Player: I can’t do any more push-ups. My muscles hurt. Coach: No pain, no gain. □ Come on, everybody! Run one more lap! No pain, no gain!

No point in something no purpose in doing something. □ There is no point in locking the barn door now that the horse has been stolen. □ There’s no point is crying over spilled milk.

No problem Go to no sweat.

No questions asked no inquiries [to be] made to find out who did something. □ Fines at the library will be suspended, no questions asked, for all late books returned during the first week of July.

No rest for the wicked. Fig. It’s because you are wicked that you have to work hard. (Usually jocular.) □ A: I can’t seem to ever get all my work done. B: No rest for the wicked.

No sale no. □ I wanted to go to Florida for the holidays, but my father said, “No sale.” □ No sale. You can’t do it.

No salesman will call a phrase indicating that no salesman will visit or contact you if you make an inquiry about a product. □ All inquiries are confidential and no salesman will call.

No shortage of something lots of something; plenty of something. □ Oh, don’t worry about that. I have no shortage of money! □ We’ve no shortage of fried chicken, so help yourself.

No siree(, Bob)! Inf. Absolutely no! (Not necessarily said to a male, and rarely to any Bob.) □ Bill: Do you want to sell this old rocking chair? Jane: No, siree, Bob! □ Bill: You don’t want sweet potatoes, do you? Fred: No siree! I don’t want sweet potatoes, do you? Fred: No siree!

No skin off someone’s nose Go to no sweat.

No skin off someone’s teeth and no skin off someone’s nose Fig. no difficulty for someone; no cause for concern to someone. □ It’s no skin off my nose if she wants to act that way. □ She said it was no skin off her teeth if we wanted to sell the house.

No soap Inf. no. □ I can’t do it. No soap. □ No soap, I don’t lend anyone money.

No sooner said than done an expression indicating that something has been done quickly and obediently. □ Jill: Can I help you out? Jane: Yes! Put these files in alphabetical order. Jill: No sooner said than done. □ The service at the hotel was really remarkable. Everything we asked for was no sooner said than done.

No spring chicken Fig. a person well past youth; an old person. □ That actress is no spring chicken, but she does a pretty good job of playing a twenty-year-old girl. □ Jane: How old do you think Robert is? Jill: Well, he’s certainly no spring chicken.

No stress Inf. no problem; no bother. □ Don’t worry, man, no stress. □ Relax. No stress. It doesn’t bother me at all.

No sweat and no problem Inf. no difficulty; do not worry. □ Of course I can have your car repaired by noon. No sweat. □ You’d like a red one? No problem.

No, thank you. and No, thanks. a phrase used to decline something. □ Bob: Would you care for some more coffee? Mary: No, thank you. □ John: Do you want to go downtown tonight? Jane: No, thanks.

No thanks to you I cannot thank you for what happened, because you did not cause it; I cannot thank you for your help, because you did not give it. □ Bob: Well, despite our previous disagreement, he seemed to agree to all our demands. Alice: Yes, no thanks to you. I wish you’d learned to keep your big mouth shut! □ Jane: It looks like the picnic wasn’t ruined despite the fact that I forgot the potato salad. Mary: Yes, it was okay. No thanks to you, of course.

No trespassing do not enter. (Usually seen on a sign. Not usually spoken.) □ The sign on the tree said, “No Trespassing.” So we didn’t go in. □ The angry farmer chased us out of the field shouting, “Get out! Don’t you see the ‘No Trespassing’ sign?”

No two ways about it no choice about it; no other interpretation of it. (Note the form there’s rather than there are.) □ You have to go to the doctor whether you like it or not. There’s no two ways about it. □ This letter means you’re in trouble with the tax people. There’s no two ways about it.

No way! Inf. No! □ Me join the Army? No way! □ She can’t do that. No way!

No way, José! Inf. No! (An elaboration of No. José is pronounced with an initial H.) □ Bob: Can I borrow a hundred bucks? Bill: No way, José! □ Sally: Can I get you to take this nightgown back to the store for me and get me the same thing in a slightly smaller size? Bob: No way, José!

No wonder [something is] not surprising. □ No wonder the baby is crying. She’s wet. □ It’s no wonder that plant died. You watered it too much.

Nobody’s fool Fig. a sensible and wise person who is not easily deceived. □ Mary is nobody’s fool. She watches out for people who might try to cheat her. □ Anne may seem as though she’s not very bright, but she’s nobody’s fool.

The nod Fig. someone’s choice for a position or task. (“Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ The manager is going to pick the new sales manager. I think Ann will get the nod. □ I had the nod for captain of the team, but I decided not to do it.

Nod at someone to make a motion to someone with one’s head indicating a greeting, agreement, or something else. □ I nodded at Fred, but I really didn’t agree. □ Molly nodded at Fred, and Fred, knowing she wanted to leave the party, went for their coats. □ When she offered him some ice cream, he only nodded. She thought he was rude and decided not to give him any.

A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse. Prov. You cannot get people to take a hint if they are determined not to. □ Jill: I keep hinting to the boss that I deserve a raise, but he doesn’t seem to get the point. Jane: I’m not surprised. A nod’s as good as a wink to a blind horse.

Nod off to fall asleep, usually while sitting up. □ Jack nodded off during the minister’s sermon. □ Father always nods off after Sunday lunch.

Noise something about and noise something abroad; noise something around to spread around a secret; to gossip something around. □ Now don’t noise it about, but I am going to Houston next week to see my girl. □ Please don’t noise this abroad. □ Stop noising that gossip around.

Nominate someone as something to suggest someone to be the candidate to serve as something. □ I would like to
nominate Karen as our representative. □ She nominated herself as the one most likely to do the job.

nominate someone for something to suggest someone as a candidate for a particular office. □ I will nominate Carolyn for president. □ You cannot nominate yourself for this office.

nominate someone to something to suggest someone to become a member of a group. □ I am the one who nominated her to the board. □ The president nominated herself to the position of chairman of the board.

None but the brave deserve the fair. Prov. Only a courageous and gallant man deserves a beautiful woman.; Only the best deserves the best. □ Stop making excuses and just call Gina. None but the brave deserve the fair.

none of someone’s beeswax Inf. none of someone’s business. (Jocular.) □ It’s none of your beeswax. I’m not telling. □ You’ll never know. The answer is none of your beeswax.

none of someone’s business not of someone’s concern. (A gentle rebuke.) □ Q: When are you going to leave for home? A: None of your business. □ How I managed to afford all this is none of your business.

None of your lip! Fig. Shut up!; I don’t want to hear anything from you about anything! □ A: You are being a real nuisance about the broken window. B: None of your lip! Just help me clean it up.

none other than Cliché the very [person], (Expresses surprise.) □ The new building was opened by none other than the president. □ Bob’s wife turned out to be none other than my cousin.

none the wiser not knowing any more in spite of events or exposure to facts. □ I was none the wiser about black holes after the lecture. It was a complete waste of time. □ Anne tried to explain the situation tactfully to Bob, but in the end, he was none the wiser.

*none the worse for wear Fig. no worse because of use or effort. (See also the worse for wear. *Typically: be ∼; become ∼; look ∼.) □ I lent my car to John. When I got it back, it was none the worse for wear. □ I had a hard day today, but I’m none the worse for wear.

none too something not very something; not at all something. □ The towels in the bathroom were none too clean. □ It was none too warm in their house.

noodle around to wander around; to fiddle around with something. □ I couldn’t find the instructions so I spent the afternoon noodling around, trying to find out how it worked. □ I noodled around until I found the right address.

noodle over something Inf. to think about something. □ Let’s noodle over this problem for a bit and discuss it at our next meeting.

nose about (for someone or something) and nose around (for someone or something) to search here and there to find someone or something. □ We spent an hour nosing about for a newspaper. □ I will nose around for someone to help you. □ We nosed about for a while, but found no one.

nose around (something) to pry into something; to snoop around something. □ I caught her nosing around my desk. □ Wally is always nosing around.

nose in[to something] [for a boat or other vehicle] to move or be moved into something or some place carefully, nose first. □ The captain nosed into the channel, and our journey had begun. □ He nosed in and we sailed on. nose out (of something) to move cautiously out of something or some place, nose first. □ She nosed out of the little room, hoping she hadn’t been observed. □ She nosed out quickly and stealthily.

nose someone or a group out to defeat someone or something by a narrow margin. (Alludes to a horse winning a race “by a nose.”) □ Karen nosed Bobby out in the election for class president by one vote. □ Our team nosed out the opposing team in last Friday’s game.

nose something out of something and nose something out¹ 1. Lit. [for an animal] to force something out of something gently and cautiously. (As if pushing with the nose.) □ The cat nosed her kitten out of the corner. □ The cat nosed out her kittens where we could see them. □ She nosed them out. 2. Fig. to move something cautiously out of something or some place, nose first. □ Todd nosed the car out of the parking place carefully. □ He nosed out the car with skill. □ Ted nosed it out.

nose something (out!) (onto something) to drive or push something carefully out onto the surface of something, nose first. □ I nosed the car out onto the highway, looking both ways. □ She nosed out the car.

nosh on something to make a snack of something. □ After Thanksgiving, we noshed on turkey for three days. □ Who’s been noshing on the chocolate cake?

not a bit none at all; not at all. □ Am I unhappy? Not a bit. □ I don’t want any mashed potatoes. Not a bit!

Not a chance! Inf. There is no chance at all that something will happen. (A variation of (There is) no chance.) □ Sally: Do you think our team will win today? Mary: Not a chance! □ Jane: Can I have this delivered by Saturday? Clerk: Not a chance!

not a clue Go to next.

not a glimmer (of an idea) and not a clue Fig. no idea. □ A: Where’s the subway? B: Sorry. Not a glimmer of an idea. □ How long till we’re there? Not a clue.

not a hope in hell Go to not have a snowball’s chance in hell.

not a kid anymore Fig. no longer in one’s youth. □ You can’t keep partying all weekend, every weekend. You’re not a kid anymore. □ Kathy: Bill is just as wild as ever, I hear. Jane: Bill needs to realize that he’s not a kid anymore.

not a living soul Fig. nobody. (See some of the possible variations in the examples.) □ I won’t tell anybody—not a living soul. □ I won’t tell a living soul.

not a moment to spare and without a moment to spare just in time; with no extra time. □ Hurry, hurry! There’s not a moment to spare! □ I arrived without a moment to spare.

not able See the expressions listed at can’t as well as those listed below.

not able to call one’s time one’s own too busy; so busy as not to be in charge of one’s own schedule. □ It’s been so busy around here that I haven’t been able to call my time my own. □ She can’t call her time her own these days.
not able to get something for love or money Fig. not able to get something at any price; completely unable to get something. □ Oranges were so scarce last winter that you couldn’t get them for love or money. □ I wanted to go to the concert, but I was not able to get a ticket for love or money.

not able to go on unable to continue (doing something—even living). (Not able to is often expressed as can’t.) □ I just can’t go on this way. □ Before her death, she left a note saying she was not able to go on.

not able to help something unable to prevent or control something. (Not able to is often expressed as can’t.) The anything may refer to something specific, as in the first example.) □ I can’t make sense out of what you just said. □ We were not able to make anything out of the message.

not able to make anything out of someone or something unable to understand someone or something. (Not able to is often expressed as can’t.) The anything may refer to something specific, as in the first example.) □ I can’t make sense out of what you just said. □ We were not able to make anything out of the message.

not able to make head or tail of something Fig. not able to understand something at all. □ I couldn’t make head or tail of the professor’s geology lecture this morning. □ Can you help me fill out my tax forms? I can’t make head or tail of the instructions.

not able to see the forest for the trees Cliché allowing many details of a situation to obscure the situation as a whole. (Not able to is often expressed as can’t.) □ The solution is obvious. You missed it because you can’t see the forest for the trees. □ She suddenly realized that she hadn’t been able to see the forest for the trees.

not able to stomach someone or something and cannot stomach someone or something Fig. not to be able to put up with someone or something; not to be able to tolerate or endure someone or something. □ Jane cannot stomach violent movies. □ The sensitive student could not stomach a lot of ridicule.

not able to wait to have to go to the bathroom urgently. (Also more broadly literal.) □ Mom, I can’t wait. □ Driver, stop the bus! My little boy can’t wait.

Not again! Inf. I cannot believe that it happened again! □ Mary: The sink is leaking again. Sally: Not again! Mary: Yes, again. □ Fred: Here comes Tom with a new girlfriend. Sue: Not again!

not agree with someone [for food] to make someone ill; [for something that one has eaten] to give one stomach distress. □ Fried foods don’t agree with Tom. □ I always have onions in my garden, but I never eat them. They just don’t agree with me.

not all something is cracked up to be and not what something is cracked up to be Fig. not as good as something is said to be. (Not always in the negative.) □ This isn’t a very good pen. It’s not all it’s cracked up to be. □ Is this one all it’s cracked up to be?

not all there Fig. not mentally adequate; crazy or silly. □ Sometimes I think you’re not all there. □ Be nice to Sally. She’s not all there.

Not always. a conditional negative response. (See examples.) □ John: Do you come here every day? Jane: No, not always. □ John: Do you find that this condition usually clears up by itself? Doctor: Not always.

not amount to a hill of beans Go to not worth a hill of beans.

not any hard feelings Go to no hard feelings.

Not anymore. The facts you mentioned are no longer true.; A previous situation no longer exists. □ Mary: This cup of coffee you asked me to bring you looks cold. Do you still want it? Sally: Not anymore. □ Tom: Do the Wilsons live on Maple Street? Bob: Not anymore.

not as young as one used to be Fig. getting old. □ Aunt Lila isn’t as young as she used to be. She can’t take a lot of trips anymore. □ Don’t walk so fast! I’m not as young as I used to be. It takes me awhile to catch up.

not at all and not in the least certainly not; absolutely not. □ No, it doesn’t bother me—not at all. □ I’m not complaining. Not me. Not in the least.


not bat an eye Go to next.

not bat an eyelid and not bat an eye Fig. to show no signs of distress even when something bad happens or something shocking is said. □ Sam didn’t bat an eyelid when the mechanic told him how much the car repairs would cost. □ The pain of the broken arm must have hurt Sally terribly, but she did not bat an eyelid.

not believe one’s ears Fig. not believe the news that one has heard. □ I couldn’t believe my ears when Mary said I won the first prize.

not believe one’s eyes Fig. not to believe what one is seeing; to be shocked or dumbfounded at what one is seeing. □ I didn’t believe my eyes. All the furniture had been stolen! □ When Jimmy opened his birthday present, he could hardly believe his eyes. Just what he wanted!

not born yesterday Fig. experienced; knowledgeable in the ways of the world. □ I know what’s going on. I wasn’t born yesterday. □ Sally knows the score. She wasn’t born yesterday.

not breathe a word (about someone or something) and not breathe a word of it Fig. to keep a secret about someone or something. □ Don’t worry. I won’t breathe a word about this matter. □ Please don’t breathe a word about Bob and his problems. □ Don’t worry. I won’t breathe a word of it.

not breathe a word of it Go to previous.

not buy something Fig. not accept something (to be true). □ You may think so, but I don’t buy it. □ The police wouldn’t buy his story.

not by a long shot Fig. not by a great amount; not at all. □ Did I win the race? Not by a long shot. □ Not by a long shot did she complete the assignment.
not care two hoots about someone or something and not give two hoots about someone or something; not give a hang about someone or something; not give a hoot about someone or something. Inf. not to care at all about someone or something. □ I don’t care two hoots about whether you go to the picnic or not. □ She doesn’t give a hoot about me. Why should I care? □ I don’t give a hang about it.

to be talked about openly; secret. not for publication

Not for my money.
Not as far as I’m concerned. (Has not for love nor money
Go to not for hire

Fig. not to care two hoots about someone or something.
not for hire

not for a moment
not even if you not for hire

not for all the tea in China

not for anything in the world and not for love nor money; not on your life Fig. not for anything (no matter what its value). (Note the variation in the examples. The order of love nor money is fixed.) □ I won’t do it for love nor money. □ He said he wouldn’t do it—not for the world.

not for hire [of a taxi] not available to take new passengers. □ The taxi was going to pick someone up at a nearby hotel and was not for hire. □ The taxi had a lighted sign that said it was not for hire.

not for love nor money Go to not for (anything in) the world.

not for my money. Not as far as I’m concerned. (Has nothing to do with money or finance.) □ Sue: Do you think it’s a good idea to build all these office buildings in this part of the city? Mary: Not for my money. That’s a real gamble. □ John: We think that Fred is the best choice for the job. Do you think he is? Mary: Not for my money, he’s not.

not for publication not to be talked about openly; secret. □ Please tell no one about this. It’s not for publication. □ This report is not for publication, so keep it to yourself.

not get one’s hopes up Fig. [one] should not expect something to happen; [one] should not start hoping that something will happen. □ The rain could stop so we can go to the beach, but you should not get your hopes up.

not give a hang about someone or something Go to not care two hoots about someone or something.

not give a tinker’s damn Fig. not to care at all. (A tinker’s damn or dam may be a worthless curse from a tinker or a small dam or barrier used to contain molten metal.) □ I don’t give a tinker’s damn whether you go or not!

not give anyone the time of day Fig. to ignore someone (usually out of dislike). □ Mary won’t speak to Sally. She won’t give her the time of day. □ I couldn’t get an appointment with Mr. Smith. He wouldn’t even give me the time of day.

not give it another thought not to worry about something anymore. (A polite way of accepting someone’s apology.) □ It’s okay. Please don’t give it another thought. □ You should not give it another thought. No one was bothered at all.

not give two hoots about someone or something Go to not care two hoots about someone or something.

not going to win any beauty contests Fig. homely; ugly. □ Fred isn’t going to win any beauty contests, but he’s smart and considerate and he does well at his job. □ This old truck of mine is not going to win any beauty contests, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything.

not grow on trees Fig. not to be abundant; not to be expendable. (Usually said about money.) □ I can’t afford that. Money doesn’t grow on trees, you know. □ Don’t waste the glue. That stuff doesn’t grow on trees, you know.

not have a care in the world Fig. free and casual; unworried and carefree. □ I really feel good today—as if I didn’t have a care in the world. □ Ann always acts as if she doesn’t have a care in the world.

not have a leg to stand on Fig. [for an argument or a case] to have no support. □ You may think you’re in the right, but you don’t have a leg to stand on. □ My lawyer said I didn’t have a leg to stand on, so I shouldn’t sue the company.

not have a snowball’s chance in hell and not a hope in hell Inf. a very poor chance. (Usually in the negative.) □ She doesn’t have a snowball’s chance in hell of getting it done on time. □ I know I don’t have a hope in hell, but I’ll try anyway.

not have a stitch of clothes (on) Fig. naked. □ He walked through the house and didn’t have a stitch of clothes on.

not have all one’s marbles Fig. not to have all one’s mental capacities. □ John acts as if he doesn’t have all his marbles. □ I’m afraid that I don’t have all my marbles all the time.

not have anything to do with someone or something Go to have nothing to do with someone or something.

not have anything to do with something Go to have something to do with something.

not have the heart to do something Fig. to be too compassionate to do something. □ I just don’t have the heart to tell him the bad news.

not hold a candle to someone or something Go to next.

not hold a stick to someone or something and not hold a candle to someone or something Fig. not to be nearly as good as someone or something. □ Sally is much faster than Bob. Bob doesn’t hold a stick to Sally. □ This TV doesn’t hold a candle to that one. That one is much better.

not hold water 1. Lit. [of a container] not able to contain water without leaking. □ This old wading pool won’t hold water any longer. 2. Fig. not able to be proved; not correct or true. □ Jack’s story won’t hold water. It sounds
not hold with something

not hold with something Rur. to disagree with something; not to tolerate something. □ I don’t hold with what you are saying. □ We don’t hold with that kind of thing around here.

not hurt a flea Fig. not to harm anything or anyone, even a tiny insect. (Also with other forms of negation.) □ Ted would not even hurt a flea. He could not have struck Bill. □ Ted would never hurt a flea, and he would not hit anyone as you claim.

Not if I see you first. Go to next.

Not if I see you sooner. and Not if I see you first. Inf. a response to I’ll see you later. (This means you will not see me if I see you first, because I will avoid you.) □ Tom: See you later. Mary: Not if I see you sooner. □ John: Okay. If you want to argue, I’ll just leave. See you later. Mary: Not if I see you first.

Not in a thousand years! and Never in a thousand years! Fig. No, never! □ John: Will you ever approve of her marriage to Tom? Sue: No, not in a thousand years! □ Mary: Will all this trouble ever subside? John: Never in a thousand years!

Not in my book. Fig. Not according to my views. (Compare this with Not for my money.) □ John: Is Fred okay for the job, do you think? Mary: No, not in my book. □ Sue: My meal is great! Is yours good, too? Bob: Not in my book.

not in the least Go to not at all.

not in the same league with someone or something not nearly as good as someone or something. □ John isn’t in the same league with Bob at tennis. □ This house isn’t in the same league with our old one.

not just whistling Dixie Rur. not talking nonsense. (Alludes to a song titled “Dixie.”) □ Man, you are right! You’re not just whistling Dixie. □ When you say she is wrong, you’re not just whistling Dixie.

not know beans (about someone or something) Inf. to know nothing about someone or something. □ Bill doesn’t know beans about flying an airplane. □ When it comes to flying, I don’t know beans.

not know enough to come in out of the rain Fig. to be very stupid. □ Bob is so stupid he doesn’t know enough to come in out of the rain. □ You can’t expect very much from somebody who doesn’t know enough to come in out of the rain.

not know from nothing Inf. to be stupid, innocent, and naive. (This nothing is not replaced with something. Usually used with don’t, as in the examples.) □ Old John—he don’t know from nothing. □ What do you expect from somebody who don’t know from nothing?

not know if one is coming or going Go to not to know whether one is coming or going.

not know one’s own strength not to realize how destructive or harmful one’s strength can be. □ I didn’t mean to hurt you. I guess I don’t know my own strength. □ He might break the door down by accident. He doesn’t know his own strength and could end up pushing too hard against the door.

not know someone from Adam Fig. not to know someone by sight at all. □ I wouldn’t recognize John if I saw him up close. I don’t know him from Adam. □ What does she look like? I don’t know her from Adam.

not know the first thing about someone or something Fig. not to know anything about someone or something. □ I don’t know the first thing about flying an airplane. □ She doesn’t know the first thing about John.

not know what to make of someone or something not to understand someone or something; not to be able to interpret something or the actions of someone. □ We really don’t know what to make of his request.

not know where to turn and not know which way to turn to have no idea about what to do (about something). □ I was so confused I didn’t know where to turn. □ We needed help, but we didn’t know which way to turn.

not know whether one is coming or going and not know if one is coming or going Fig. to be very confused. □ I’m so busy that I don’t know if I’m coming or going. □ You look as if you don’t know whether you’re coming or going.

not know which end is up Inf. not to be alert and knowledgeable. □ Don’t try to hustle me, sister. You think I don’t know which end is up? □ Poor Ted doesn’t even know which end is up.

not know which way to turn Go to not know where to turn.

not let someone catch someone doing something and not want to catch someone doing something an expression that scolds someone who has done something wrong. (The idea is that the person ought not to do the wrong thing again, not that the person simply avoid getting caught.) □ How many times have I told you not to play ball in the house? Don’t let me catch you doing that again. □ If I’ve told you once, I’ve told you a thousand times: Don’t do that! I don’t want to catch you doing it again!

not let the grass grow under one’s feet Fig. not to stay in one place for a long time; to be always on the move. □ He is always doing something. He never lets the grass grow under his feet. □ I have always thought that I ought not to let the grass grow under my feet. □ Jane: Last night I told Alan that we needed a new bookshelf, and he had built one by the time I got home today. Jill: Boy, he doesn’t let the grass grow under his feet.

not lift a finger (to help someone) and not lift a hand (to help someone) Fig. to do nothing to help someone. (The person is characteristically inactive or possibly not having a lot of money; not having an unlimited supply of money. □ I can’t afford a car like that. I’m not made of money you know.

not likely. Inf. That is probably not so; that probably will not happen. □ Mary: Is it possible that you’ll be able to fix this watch? Sue: Not likely, but we can always try. □ Sally: Will John show up on time, do you think? Bob: Not likely.
not miss a thing Go to next.

not miss much 1. and not miss a thing Inf. not to miss observing any part of what is going on. (Usually with do as in the examples.) □ Ted doesn’t miss much. He is very alert. □ The puppy doesn’t miss a thing. He sees every move you make. 2. Inf. not to miss experiencing something that really was not worth experiencing anyway. (Usually with do as in the examples.) □ I missed the big sales meeting last week, but I understand I didn’t miss much. □ Bill: I didn’t see that new movie that is showing at the theater. Tom: You didn’t miss much; it was pretty bad.

not miss something for love nor money Go to next.

not miss something for the world and not miss something for love nor money Fig. would not miss something for any reason at all. □ Of course I’ll be at your wedding. I wouldn’t miss it for the world.

not move a muscle to remain perfectly motionless. □ Be quiet. Sit there and don’t move a muscle. □ I was so tired I couldn’t move a muscle.

not open any account Go to on no account.

not one iota not even a tiny bit. □ I won’t give you any at all! Not one iota! □ I did not get one iota of encouragement from any of those people.

not one’s cup of tea Fig. not one’s choice or preference. (Used to describe an activity you do not enjoy. Can sound somewhat affected.) □ You three visit the museum without me. Looking at fuzzy old paintings is not my cup of tea. □ Going to church, Mary said, was not her cup of tea.

not one’s place not one’s role to do something. □ It was not my place to criticize my boss. □ It was not Bill’s place to ask the questions; it’s my project.

not open one’s mouth and not utter a word Fig. not to say anything at all; not to tell something (to anyone). □ Don’t worry. I’ll keep your secret. I won’t even open my mouth. □ Have no fear. I won’t utter a word.

not playing with a full deck Go to a few cards shy of a full deck.

not put (a lot) of stock in something Go to take no stock in something.

not put it past someone to think that someone would not dare to do something. □ He might run away from school. I wouldn’t put it past him. □ I wouldn’t put it past Roger to arrive unannounced.

Not right now, thanks. No for the present. (It is hoped that one will be asked again later. Usually used for a [temporary] refusal of a serving of food or drink. There is an implication that more will be wanted later.) □ Waiter: Do you want some more coffee? Mary: Not right now, thanks. □ John: Can I take your coat? Sue: Not right now, thanks. I’m still a little chilly.

not see any objection (to something) Go to see no objection (to something).

not set foot somewhere not to go somewhere. □ I wouldn’t set foot in John’s room. I’m very angry at him. □ He never set foot here.

not shed a tear Fig. not to show any emotion even when something is very sad. □ At his uncle’s funeral, he didn’t shed a tear. They never got along.

not show one’s face not to appear somewhere; not to go to some place. □ After what she said, she had better not show her face around here again. □ If I don’t say I’m sorry, I’ll never be able to show my face again.

not sleep a wink not to sleep at all. □ I couldn’t sleep a wink last night. □ Ann hasn’t been able to sleep a wink for a week.

not so hot Inf. not very good. □ The service here is not so hot. This restaurant is highly overrated.

not take no for an answer Fig. not to accept someone’s refusal. (A polite way of being insistent.) □ Now, you must drop over and see us tomorrow. We won’t take no for an answer. □ I had to go to their party. They just wouldn’t take no for an answer.

not take stock in something Go to take no stock in something.

not tell a (living) soul not to reveal something to anyone. □ You secret is safe with me. I won’t tell a living soul. □ Promise you won’t tell a soul, but I’m engaged.

not to put too fine a point on it Fig. a phrase introducing a fine or important point, apologetically. □ Rachel: Not to put too fine a point on it, Mary, but you’re still acting a little rude to Tom. Mary: I’m sorry, but that’s the way I feel. □ John: I think, not to put too fine a point on it, you ought to do exactly as you are told. Andy: And I think you ought to mind your own business.

not to touch a drop Fig. not to drink any of something, usually alcohol. □ He pledged not to touch a drop all weekend, but he broke his pledge on Friday night.

Not to worry. Inf. Please do not worry. □ Bill: The rain is going to soak all our clothes. Tom: Not to worry, I put them all in plastic bags. □ Sue: I think we’re about to run out of money. Bill: Not to worry. I have some more travelers checks.

Not (too) much. a response to greeting inquiries into what one has been doing. □ John: What have you been doing? Mary: Not much. □ Sue: Been keeping busy? What are you up to? Bob: Not too much. Sue: Yeah. Me too.

not too shabby 1. Inf. nice; well done. (With emphasis on shabby.) □ Is that your car? Not too shabby! □ That play was not too shabby. 2. Inf. very shabby; very poor indeed. (With emphasis on too. Sarcastic.) □ Did you see that shot she missed? Not too shabby! □ What a way to treat someone. Not too shabby!

not touch someone or something with a ten-foot pole Cliché not to have anything to do with someone or something. (Always negative.) □ No, I won’t hire Fred. I wouldn’t touch him with a ten-foot pole. □ I wouldn’t touch that job with a ten-foot pole.

not trouble one’s (pretty) (little) head about something Rar. not to worry about something. (Considered demeaning by many.) □ Don’t you trouble your little head about that. I’ll take care of it. □ You shouldn’t trouble your head about it. Everything will turn out fine.

not under any circumstances Go to under no circumstances.
not up to scratch and not up to snuff Fig. not adequate. □ Sorry, your paper isn’t up to scratch. Please do it over again. □ The performance was not up to snuff.

not up to snuff Go to previous.

not utter a word Go to not open one’s mouth.

not want to catch someone doing something Go to not let someone catch someone doing something.

not what something is cracked up to be Go to not all something is cracked up to be.

not with it not able to think clearly; not able to understand things. □ Lisa’s mother is not really with it anymore. She’s going senile. □ Tom’s not with it yet. He’s only just come around from the anesthetic.

not worth a damn Inf. worthless. □ This pen is not worth a damn. □ When it comes to keeping score, she’s not worth a damn.

not worth a dime and not worth a red cent worthless. □ This land is all swampy. It’s not worth a dime. □ This pen I bought isn’t worth a dime. It has no ink.

not worth a hill of beans and not amount to a hill of beans; not worth a plugged nickel; not worth beans Fig. worthless. □ Your advice isn’t worth a hill of beans. □ This cow isn’t worth a plugged nickel.

not worth a read cent Go to not worth a dime.

not worth mentioning 1. not important enough to require a comment. □ There are others, but they are not worth mentioning. □ A small number of books hint at the phenomenon, but they aren’t worth mentioning. 2. [of an error or wrong] not worth apologizing for. □ This isn’t a problem at all. It’s not worth mentioning. □ No need to apologize to me. No harm done. It’s not worth mentioning.

not worth one’s while not worth bothering with; not worth spending time on. □ It’s not worth my while to discuss it with you. □ Don’t bother trying to collect money from them. It isn’t worth your while.

not worth the paper it’s printed on Go to next.

not worth the paper it’s written on and not worth the paper it’s printed on Fig. [of a document] meaningless or without authority; of no value. □ That contract isn’t worth the paper it’s written on. All the signatures are forged. □ Don’t take a check from that guy. It’s not worth the paper it’s written on.

not worth the trouble not important enough to require a comment or any effort. □ Don’t bother with it. It isn’t worth the trouble. □ There is no point in trying to get the spot out of the carpet. It isn’t worth the trouble.

a notch above (someone or something) and a notch better than (someone or something) Fig. a little higher in quality than someone or something. □ This latest candidate we interviewed seems a notch above the rest, so let’s hire her. □ That telescope is a notch better than the others in terms of magnification.

a notch below (someone or something) Fig. a little lower in quality than someone or something. □ I believe that this wine is a notch below the one we had with the fish.

notch something up1 to count up something; to add up or score something. □ We notched yet another victory up in our efforts to regain the trophy. □ Well, it looks like we notched up another victory.

note something down1 to write down a note about something. □ Please note these words down. □ Note down the following facts.

*noted for something Fig. famed for something; memorable for something. ([Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ We were all noted for our polite manners. □ The restaurant was noted for its traditional fare. □ Tom was noted far and wide for his excellent pies and cakes.

nothing but only; just. □ Jane drinks nothing but milk. □ Dave buys nothing but expensive clothes.

nothing but skin and bones and (all) skin and bones Fig. very thin or emaciated. □ Bill has lost so much weight. He’s nothing but skin and bones. □ Look at Bill. He’s just skin and bones. □ That old horse is all skin and bones. I won’t ride it.

Nothing comes of nothing. Prov. If you contribute nothing, you will get nothing. □ Jill: Why are you so depressed today? Jane: No reason. Jill: There has to be a reason. Nothing comes of nothing. □ I’m not surprised you did so poorly in school; you haven’t been putting in any effort. Nothing comes of nothing.

Nothing doing! Inf. I will not permit it! I will not participate in it! □ John: Can I put this box in your suitcase? Bill: Nothing doing! It’s too heavy now. □ Sue: We decided that you should drive us to the airport. Do you mind? Jane: Nothing doing! I’ve got work to do.

nothing down requiring no down payment. □ You can have this car for nothing down and $140 a month. □ I bought a winter coat for nothing down and no payments due until February.

Nothing for me, thanks. I do not want any of what was offered. (Typically to decline a serving of food or drink.) □ Waiter: Would you care for dessert? Bob: Nothing for me, thanks. □ Bob: We have beer and wine. Which would you like? Mary: Nothing for me, thanks.

Nothing is certain but death and taxes. Prov. Everything in life is unpredictable, except that you can be sure you will die and you will have to pay taxes. (You can also refer to death and taxes as the only certain things in life.) □ Son: I can’t believe how much tax money is being withheld from my paycheck! Father: Welcome to adult life, where nothing is certain but death and taxes.

Nothing is certain but the unforeseen. Prov. You cannot foresee what will happen. □ Jill: Now that we’ve got a new boss, this is certain to be a nicer place to work. Jane: Nothing is certain but the unforeseen.

Nothing is given so freely as advice. Prov. People will give you advice more willingly than they give you anything else. □ Although no one in my family was willing to give me a loan, they all had suggestions about how I could get the money from elsewhere. Nothing is given so freely as advice. □ Don’t hesitate to ask people what they think you ought to do. Nothing is given so freely as advice.

Nothing much. Inf. not much; hardly anything; nothing of importance. (Often a reply to a greeting asking what one has been doing.) □ John: Hey, man! How’s by you? Bob: Hiya! Nothing much. □ Bill: What have you been doing? Tom: Nothing much.

458
nothing of the kind 1. no; absolutely not. □ I didn't tear your jacket—nothing of the kind! □ Did I break your vase? Nothing of the kind! 2. nothing like that. □ That's not true. We did nothing of the kind! □ She did nothing of the kind! She wasn't even there!

nothing short of something more or less the same as something bad; as bad as something. □ His behavior was nothing short of criminal. □ Climbing those mountains alone is nothing short of suicide.

Nothing so bad but (it) might have been worse. Prov. Although bad things do happen, they are not as bad as other things you can imagine that might have happened. □ Joan: This is like a nightmare! My house burned down—I lost everything! Nancy: At least you and your family are safe. Nothing so bad but might have been worse. □ My bicycle tire blew out, but at least it blew out within walking distance of a repair shop. Nothing so bad but it might have been worse.

Nothing succeeds like success. Prov. If you have succeeded in the past, you will continue to be successful in the future. □ After Alan's brilliant courtroom victory, everyone wanted to be his client. Nothing succeeds like success.

nothing to be sneezed at Go to nothing to sneeze at.

nothing to boast about not worth bragging about; mediocre. □ In high school, my grades were acceptable, but they were nothing to boast about. □ Jill: Does this town have a good library? Nancy: It's nothing to boast about.

nothing to choose from no choice; no choice in the selection; not enough of something to make a choice. □ I went to the store looking for new shoes, but there was nothing to choose from. □ By the time I got around to selecting a team of helpers, there was nothing to choose from.

Nothing to it! It is very easy! □ Look, anybody can do it! Nothing to it! □ Changing a lightbulb is easy. Nothing to it!

nothing to sneeze at and nothing to be sneezed at Fig. nothing small or unimportant. □ It's not a lot of money, but it's nothing to sneeze at. □ Our house isn't a mansion, but it's nothing to sneeze at. □ A few thousand dollars is nothing to sneeze at!

nothing to speak of not many; not much. □ John: What's happening around here? Bill: Nothing to speak of. □ Mary: Has there been any rain in the last week? Sally: Nothing to speak of.

nothing to write home about Fig. mediocre; not as good as you expected. □ I went to that new restaurant last night. It's nothing to write home about. □ Jill: I went to see a movie last night. Jane: How was it? Jill: Nothing to write home about.

nothing upstairs Fig. no brains; stupid. □ Tom is sort of stupid. You know—nothing upstairs. □ I know what's wrong with you. Nothing upstairs.

no-win situation  a situation where there is no correct or satisfactory solution. □ The general was too weak to fight and too proud to surrender. It was a no-win situation. □ The huge dog my father gave us as a gift eats too much. If we get rid of the dog, my wife will be insulted. If we keep it, we will go broke buying food for it. This is a classic no-win situation.

nudge someone or something aside² to push or bump someone or something out of the way. □ We nudged the old man aside and went on ahead. □ She nudged aside the cat to make room on the sofa.

null and void  Cliché without legal force; having no legal effect. □ The court declared the law to be null and void. □ The millionaire’s will was null and void because it was unsigned.

number in something  to total up to a certain figure. □ The birds numbered in the thousands. □ Those pesky ants number in the hundreds. Let’s move to another picnic table.

number off (by something)  to say a number in a specified sequence when it is one’s turn. □ Please number off by tens. □ Come on, number off!

number someone or something among something  to include someone or something in a group of something. □ I number her among my best friends. □ I number this product among the most popular developed during the past year.

number someone with something  to include someone in a list of people. □ I number Clara Wilson with the top athletes at the school.

nurse a grudge (against someone)  Fig. to keep resenting and disliking someone over a period of time. (Usually implies that it has been an unreasonably long time.) □ Sally is still nursing a grudge against Mary. □ How long can anyone nurse a grudge?

nurse someone back to health  to care for a sick person until good health returns. □ Sally was glad to help nurse her mother back to health. □ She nursed her children back to health when they all had the flu.

nurse someone or an animal along² to aid or encourage the well-being or return to health of someone or an animal. (See also nurse something along.) □ She nursed the old man along for a few years until he died. □ She nursed along the invalid. □ The vet nursed the horse along for the rest of the night. □ He nursed himself along with chicken noodle soup and hot baths until the virus ran its course.

nurse someone through (something)  to care for a sick person during the worst part of a sickness or recovery. □ There was no one there to nurse him through the worst part of his illness. □ It was a horrible ordeal, but John nursed her through.

nurse something along² Fig. to manage something with care and thrift. (See also nurse someone or an animal along.) □ The board of directors agreed to nurse the firm along for a while and then sell it. □ She nursed along the failing business until it was showing a profit.

nut case  Fig. a crazy person; an irrational person. □ Bob is acting stranger and stranger. He is turning into a real nut case.

nut up  Sl. to go crazy. (See also crack up.) □ I knew I would nut up if I didn’t quit that job. □ I almost nutted up at the last place I worked.

nuts about someone or something  Go to crazy about someone or something.

nuts and bolts  1. Fig. the mundane workings of something; the basics of something. (See also get down to the nuts and bolts.) □ I want you to learn how to write well. You have to know the nuts and bolts of writing. □ She’s got a lot of good, general ideas, but when it comes to the nuts and bolts of getting something done, she’s no good. 2. Sl. the subject of psychology in college. □ I took a class in nuts and bolts and didn’t learn anything at all about what makes me tick. □ Tom is flunking nuts and bolts because he won’t participate in the required “experiments.”

Nuts to you!  Inf. Go away! Drop dead! □ Well, nuts to you! You are just plain rude! □ Nuts to you! I will NOT lend you money!

nuttier than a fruitcake  Go to next.

*nutty as a fruitcake and nuttier than a fruitcake  crazy. (“As also: as — .”) □ Don’t pay any attention to John; he’s nutty as a fruitcake. □ Mary’s schemes for making money are nuttier than a fruitcake.

nuzzle up against someone or something and nuzzle up (to someone or something)  [for an animal] to rub its nose against someone or something; to rub against someone or something, softly, in the manner of rubbing the nose against someone or something; to snuggle up to someone or something. (Nuzzle is related to nose.) □ The dog nuzzled up against my leg, wanting to be friends. □ The dog nuzzled up to me and licked my hand.
object to someone or something to disapprove of someone or something. □ I object to him as your choice. □ I object to your opinion.

oblige someone to someone or something to force someone to do something for someone or something. □ This contract obligates you to the company for five years! □ I don't wish to obligate myself to anyone.

oblige someone by something to accommodate someone by doing something. □ Please oblige me by closing the window. □ Would you oblige me by accompanying me to the dance?

oblige someone to do something to require someone to do something. □ You are obliged to arrive on time and enter by the side door. □ The lateness of the hour obliged Tony to enter by the back door.

oblige someone with something to accommodate someone with something. □ He obliged her with a willing attitude. □ Please oblige me with a big piece of cake.

obliterate someone or something from something to destroy or wipe out someone or something from something. □ Karen obliterated the writing from the wall. □ Max set out to obliterate Lefty “Fingers” Moran from the face of the earth.

*obsessed with someone or something preoccupied with someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ Kathy was obsessed with the kitten. □ Roger was obsessed with Kathy.

obstinate as a mule Go to stubborn as a mule.

obtain something for someone or something to get or receive something for someone or something. □ I promised I would obtain a pet for Becky. □ I obtained a new part for the vacuum cleaner.

occupy oneself by something to keep busy by doing something. □ Don't worry. I can occupy myself by knitting or sewing. □ While waiting, I occupied myself by knitting a scarf.

occupy someone with something to keep someone busy with something. □ Can you occupy the child with this toy? □ Here, occupy yourself with this crossword puzzle.

occur before someone's time Go to before someone's time.

occur to someone [for an idea or thought] to come into someone's mind. □ It occurred to me that you might be hungry after your long journey. □ Would it ever occur to you that I want to be left alone?

oceans of someone or something and an ocean of someone or something a very large amount of something. □ The naughty student was in oceans of trouble. □ After a week of vacation, there was an ocean of work to do.

odd man out an unusual or atypical person or thing. □ I'm odd man out because I'm not wearing a tie. □ You had better learn to use the new system software unless you want to be odd man out.

the odd something an extra or spare something; a chance something. □ The tailor repaired the odd loose button on my shirt. □ When I travel, I might buy the odd trinket or two, but I never spend much money.

odds and ends miscellaneous things. □ There were lots of odds and ends in the attic, but nothing of real value. □

I had the whole house cleaned out except for a few odds and ends that you might want to keep.

the odds are against one [for fate] to be against one generally. □ You can give it a try, but the odds are against you. □ I know the odds are against me, but I wish to run in the race anyway.

the odds-on favorite the most popular choice of a wager.

doctor of sanctity Fig. an atmosphere of excessive holiness or piety. □ I hate their house. There's such an odor of sanctity with Bibles and holy pictures everywhere. □ The huge, medieval Gothic cathedral had a distinct odor of sanctity.

of a single mind (about someone or something) Go to of one mind (about someone or something).

*of age old enough to marry, buy alcohol, or to sign legal agreements. (*Typically: be ~; come ~.) □ Now that Mary is of age, she can buy her own car. □ When I'm of age, I'm going to get married and move to the city.

Of all things! Can you imagine?; Imagine that! (Usually said about something very strange.) □ She wore jeans to the dance. Of all things! □ Billy, stop eating the houseplant! Of all things!

of benefit (to someone) serving someone well; to the good of someone. □ I can't believe that this proposal is of benefit to anyone. □ Oh, I'm sure you'll find the new health plan to be of benefit.


of interest (to someone) interesting to someone. □ These archived files are no longer of any interest. □ This is of little interest to me.

of late lately. □ Have you seen Sally of late? □ We haven't had an opportunity to eat out of late.

of mature years Euph. old. □ My employer is a man of mature years. □ The professor, a woman of mature years, is planning to retire at the end of the school term.

of no avail Go to to no avail.

of one mind (about someone or something) and of a single mind (about someone or something) in agreement
about someone or something. □ You will have to attend one of the state universities. Your father and I are of a single mind about this.

of one's own accord and of one's own free will by one's own choice, without coercion. □ I wish that Sally would choose to do it of her own accord. □ I'll have to order her to do it because she won't do it of her own free will.

of service (to someone) helping someone; serving someone. □ Good morning, madam. May I be of service to you? □ Welcome to the Warwick Hotel. May I be of service?

of the first water Fig. of the finest quality. □ This is a very fine pearl—a pearl of the first water. □ Tom is of the first water—a true gentleman.

of the old school Go to from the old school.

of the persuasion that... holding a belief that something is true or is in existence. □ Anne is of the persuasion that supports that candidate for mayor. □ The paranoid was of the persuasion that aliens lived among us.

of two minds (about someone or something) Fig. holding conflicting opinions about someone or something; being undecided about someone or something. □ I am of two minds about whether I should go to the convention.

off again, on again Go to on again, off again.

off and on Go to on and off.

off and running 1. Lit. [of horses, dogs, or people] having started racing. □ It's a beautiful day at the races, and, yes, they're off and running! 2. Fig. started up and going. □ The car was finally loaded by 9:30, and we were off and running. □ The construction of the building was going to take two years, but we were off and running, and it appeared we would finish on schedule.

off artist Go to (rip-)off artist.

*off base 1. Lit. [of a runner in baseball] not having a foot touching the base. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ The runner was off base but the first baseman didn't tag him out. 2. Fig. unrealistic; inexcact; wrong. *Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I'm afraid you're off base when you state that this problem will take care of itself. □ You're way off base if you think I was to blame!

*off campus not located or present on the grounds of a college or university. (*Typically: be ~; live ~; move ~.) □ Tom has an apartment off campus. □ The dean is off campus and cannot be reached.

off center not exactly in the center or middle. □ The arrow hit the target a little off center. □ The picture hanging over the chair is a little off center.

off chance slight possibility. □ I need your phone number on the off chance I need more help. □ There's an off chance that we might be hiring next month.

*off course 1. Lit. not going in the right direction. (*Typically: be ~; drift ~; get ~.) □ The ship is off course and may strike the reef! 2. Fig. not following the plan correctly. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ The project is off course and won't be finished on time. □ I am off course and doing poorly.

off duty not working at one's job. (The opposite of on duty.) □ I'm sorry, I can't talk to you until I'm off duty. □ The police officer couldn't help me because he was off duty.

off like a shot away [from a place] very quickly. □ He finished his dinner and was off like a shot. □ The thief grabbed the lady's purse and was off like a shot.

*off on a sidetrack Fig. on a digression; discussing a topic that is not the main topic. (Alludes to a train waiting on a siding. *Typically: be ~; get ~; get someone ~.) □ Anne got off on a sidetrack and never returned to her topic. □ The ineffective committee got off on one sidetrack after another.

off on someone or something in a rage about someone or something; on a tirade about someone or something. □ Are you off on Sally again? Why can't you leave her alone?

*off (on something) 1. incorrect in one's planning or prediction. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I was off on my estimates a little bit. □ I guess I was off too much. 2. to have started on something, such as a task or a journey. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ What time should we be off on our trip? □ We should be off by dawn. □ I'm off on my diet again. 3. Sl. to get high on some kind of drug. □ Max likes to get off on marijuana.

*off on the right foot (with someone or something) and *off to a good start (with someone or something) Fig. starting out correctly; beginning something carefully and cautiously. (*Typically: be ~; put one ~; throw one ~.) □ I'm a little tired, and that generally puts me off my game.

*off on the wrong foot and *off to a bad start Fig. starting something (such as a friendship) with negative factors. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Bill and Tom got off on the wrong foot. They had a minor car accident just before they were introduced. □ Let's work hard to be friends. I hate to get off on the wrong foot.

*off one's game Fig. not able to play a sport as well as normal. (*Typically: be ~; put one ~; throw one ~.) □ I'm a little tired, and that generally puts me off my game.

off one's nut Go to next.

*off one's rocker and *off one's nut; *off one's trolley Fig. crazy; silly. (*Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ Sometimes, Bob, I think you're off your rocker. □ Good grief, John. You're off your nut.

off one's trolley Go to previous.

off season not in the busy time of the year. □ We don't have much to do off season. □ Things are very quiet around here off season.

off someone or something goes someone or something is leaving. (Spoken on the departure of someone or something.) □ It's time to leave. Off I go. □ Sally looked at the airplane taking off and said, “Off it goes.”

off the air not broadcasting (a radio or television program). □ The radio audience won't hear what you say when you're off the air. □ When the performers were off the air, the director told them how well they had done.

off the beaten path Go to next.

*off the beaten track and *off the beaten path Fig. away from the frequently traveled routes. (*Typically: be ~; go ~; travel ~.) □ We found a nice little Italian restaurant off the beaten track.

*off the hook Fig. freed from an obligation. (Alludes to a fish freeing itself from a fishhook. *Typically: be ~;
get ~; get someone ~; let someone ~.) □ Thanks for getting me off the hook. I didn't want to attend that meeting. □ I couldn't get myself off the hook no matter what I tried.

off the mark Fig. not quite exactly right. □ Her answer was a little off the mark. □ You were off the mark when you said we would be a little late to the party. It was yesterday in fact!

off the record Fig. unofficial; informal. (Of comments to the press that one does not want reported.) □ This is off the record, but I disagree with the mayor on this matter. □ Although her comments were off the record, the newspaper published them anyway.

off the shelf Fig. ready made for purchase; not custom-made. (Hyphenated when prenominal.) □ I generally buy off-the-shelf clothing. I am a perfect size eight.

off the subject not concerned with the subject being discussed. □ I got off the subject and forgot what I was supposed to be talking about. □ The speaker was off the subject, telling about his vacation in Hawaii.

off the track 1. Go to off the (beaten) track. 2. Fig. [of comments] irrelevant and immaterial. □ I'm afraid you're off the track, John. Try again. □ I'm sorry. I was thinking about dinner, and I got off the track.

*off the wagon 1. Fig. drinking liquor after a period of abstinence. (*Typically: be ~; fall ~; get ~.) □ Poor John fell off the wagon again. Drunk as a skunk. □ He was off the wagon for a year the last time before he sobered up. 2. Fig. back on drugs after a period of abstinence. (*Typically: be ~; fall ~; get ~.) □ Wilbur is off the wagon and shooting up again. □ He can't be off the wagon, because he has never stopped using, even for a day.

off to a bad start Go to off on the wrong foot.

*off (to a flying start) Fig. having a very successful beginning to something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ The new business got off to a flying start with those export orders. □ We shall need a large donation from the local citizens if the charity is to get off to a flying start.

off to a good start (with someone or something) Go to off on the right foot (with someone or something).

off to a running start with a good, fast beginning, possibly a head start. □ I got off to a running start in math this year. □ The horses got off to a running start.

off to one side beside something; (moved) slightly away from something. □ Our garden has roses in the middle and a spruce tree off to one side. □ He took me off to one side to tell me the bad news.

off to the races Fig. an expression characterizing the activity or excitement that is just beginning; [we are] leaving for something interesting or exciting. □ The tour bus is out in front waiting and we've said goodbye to everyone. Looks like we're off to the races.

*off (to the side) with someone moving aside with someone to discuss something. (*Typically: get ~; go ~; move ~; step ~.) □ I got off with Charles and we discussed the contract. □ I moved off to the side with the client and explained the offer a little better.

*off topic not on the topic of discussion; far from the general subject of a discussion; not part of the purpose of a particular communication channel, such as an Internet newsgroup. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; get someone ~.) □ The boys in the back of the room just love to get the teacher off topic.

Off with you! Go away!; Get going! (Formal or pompous.) □ Off with you! We've had enough of your banter!

*off (work) and off from work; off of work. 1. having left one's work at the end of the day. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ What time do you get off from work? □ I get off work about five o'clock. □ She gets off from work later than I do. 2. absent from one's work with permission. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I think I can get off of work so I can go to the doctor. □ Sorry, I can't join you. Things are busy at the office, and I can't get off.

offend against someone or something to anger or affront someone or something. □ We do not wish to offend against anyone. □ He didn't realize that he offended against their cultural values.

offend someone with something to anger or affront someone with something. □ Don't offend us with your bad jokes.

I offended Ralph with my constant nagging.

offer a helping hand Go to a helping hand.

*an offer one cannot refuse Cliché a very attractive offer. (*Typically: give one ~; make ~; make one ~.) □ He made me an offer I could not refuse, so I sold him my car.

offer something for something to suggest a certain amount of money as a purchase price for something. □ I'll offer you ten bucks for that watch. □ They offered me very little for my car.

offer something to someone (as something) to propose giving something to someone as a gift, peace offering, payment, etc. □ They offered us a bunch of flowers as a peace offering. □ As an apology, I offered a gift to the hostess.

offer something up† (to someone or something) to give something to someone or something as a mark of devotion, thanks, etc. □ We offered our gratitude up to the ruler. □ We offered up our gratitude to the queen.

officiate (as something) (at something) to serve as an official or moderator at some event. □ They asked me to officiate as a judge at the contest. □ Laura will officiate as parade marshal.

off-key [of music or singing] off pitch; out of tune. □ She always sings off-key and makes the rest of the choir sound like baying hounds.

off-kilter Go to out of kilter.

off-limits Go to out-of-bounds.

off-line not connected to a computer, by direct connection or via the telephone system, etc. (Compare this with online.) □ When he's off-line he's sort of lost. □ The system was off-line all day, so we could not get nothing done.

off-the-cuff Fig. spontaneous; without preparation or rehearsal. □ Her remarks were off-the-cuff, but very sensible. □ I'm not very good at making speeches off-the-cuff.

off-the-wall Fig. odd; silly; unusual. □ Why are you so off-the-wall today? □ This book is strange. It's really off-the-wall.
ogle (at) someone or something to stare at someone or something, usually with amorous or erotic relish. □ Don't just stand there and ogle at me! □ Stop ogling at those magazines.

Oh, boy. 1. Inf. Wow! (Usually Oh, boy! An exclamation. It has nothing to do with boys.) □ Bill: Oh, boy! An old-fashioned circus! □ “Oh, boy!” shouted John. “Dinner smells great! When do we eat?” 2. Inf. I dread this!; This is going to be awful! □ “Oh, boy!” moaned Fred, as his old car stalled out. “Here we go again.” □ Doctor: It looks like something fairly serious. Jane: Oh, boy. Doctor: But nothing modern medicine can't handle.

Oh, sure (someone or something will)! Inf. A sarcastic expression claiming that someone or something will do something or that something will happen. □ Andy: Don't worry. I'll do it. Rachel: Oh, sure. You will. That's what you always say. □ Bob: I'll fix this fence the first chance I get. Mary: Oh, sure. When will that be? Next year?

Oh, ye of little faith. Fig. You who trust no one. (Jocular; the word ye is an old form of you used in the Bible.) □ You thought I wouldn't show up on time? Oh, ye of little faith.


oil someone's palm Go to grease someone's palm.

oink out Sl. to overeat. □ I oink out every time we have chocolate cake. □ This Thursday starts a four-day weekend, and I plan to oink out every day.

*old as Methuselah* very old. (Of a person; refers to a biblical figure held to have lived to be 969. *Also: as ~.) □ Old Professor Stone is as old as Methuselah but still gets around with a cane.

*old as the hills* very old; ancient. (*Also: as ~.) □ That's not a new joke; it's as old as the hills! □ Our family custom of eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is old as the hills.

old battle-axe a bossy old woman. □ She is such an old battle-axe. I'll bet she's hell to live with.

old college try a valiant effort. □ Will made the old college try, but that wasn't enough to get the job done.

old enough to be someone's father Go to next.

old enough to be someone's mother and old enough to be someone's father as old as someone's parents. (Usually a way of saying that a person is too old.) □ You can't go out with Bill. He's old enough to be your father! □ He married a woman who is old enough to be his mother.

Old habits die hard. Prov. People find it difficult to change their accustomed behavior. □ Joan retired last year, but she still gets up as early as she used to when she had to go to work. Old habits die hard.

an old hand at doing something someone who is experienced at doing something. □ The maid was an old hand at polishing silver. □ Bob is an old hand at training dogs.

old hat Fig. old-fashioned; outmoded. □ That's a silly idea. It's old hat. □ Hardly anybody uses typewriters anymore. That's just old hat.

the (old) heave-ho the act of throwing someone out; the act of firing someone. (From nautical use, where sailors used heave-ho to coordinate hard physical labor. One sailor called "Heave-ho," and all the sailors would pull at the same time on the ho. *Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ I wanted to complain to the management, but they called a security guard and I got the old heave-ho. That's right. They threw me out! □ They fired a number of people today, but I didn't get the heave-ho.

the old one-two a series of two punches delivered quickly, one after another. □ Tom gave Bill the old one-two, and the argument was ended right there. □ Watch out for Tom. He's a master of the old one-two.

An old poacher makes the best gamekeeper. Prov. The best person to guard something is someone who knows all about how to steal it, so he or she can anticipate what thieves might do. □ We should hire the computer hacker to design computer security systems. An old poacher makes the best gamekeeper.

*an old warhorse* a performance piece that is performed often. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; perform ~; play ~.) □ The symphony orchestra played a few old warhorses and then some ghastly contemporary stuff that will never again see the light of day.

an old wives' tale Fig. a myth or superstition. □ You really don't believe that stuff about starving a cold do you? It's just an old wives' tale.

omit someone or something from something to leave someone or something out of something. □ You omitted Carol from the list. □ I think that you omitted our company from the bidding. □ She omitted herself from the list of participants.

*on a diet* trying to lose weight by eating less food or specific foods. (*Typically: be ~; go ~; put someone ~; stay ~.) □ I didn't eat any cake because I'm on a diet. □ I'm getting too heavy. I'll have to go on a diet. □ I have a lot of trouble staying on a diet.

*on a first-name basis (with someone)* knowing someone very well; good friends with someone. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I'm on a first-name basis with John. □ John and I are on a first-name basis.

*on a fool's errand* Fig. involved in a useless journey or task. (*Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ Bill went for an interview, but he was on a fool's errand. The job had already been filled. □ I was sent on a fool's errand to buy some flowers. I knew the shop would be closed by then.

on a lark Go to for a lark.

on a moment's notice Go to at a moment's notice.

*on a pedestal* Fig. elevated to a position of honor or reverence. (Alludes to honoring someone on display on a pedestal like a statue. *Typically: place someone ~; put someone ~.) □ He puts his wife on a pedestal. She can do no wrong in his opinion. □ I was just doing my job. There is no point in placing me on a pedestal!

*on a power trip* exercising power and authority, especially unduly. (*Typically: be ~; be off ~; go ~; have ~.) □ Old Molly is off on a power trip again. She loves ordering everyone around.

...
on a roll in the midst of a series of successes. □ Don't stop me now. I'm on a roll. □ Things are going great for Larry. He's on a roll now.

on a shoestring Fig. with a very small amount of money. □ We lived on a shoestring for years before I got a good-paying job. □ John traveled to Florida on a shoestring.

*on a silver platter Fig. using a presentation [of something] that is appropriate for a very formal setting. (*Typically: give something to someone ~; present something ~; serve something ~; want something ~) □ Aren't paper plates good enough for you? You want dinner maybe on a silver platter?

*on a string Fig. under control, as one would control a marionette. (*Typically: get someone ~; have someone ~; keep someone ~.) □ She keeps him on a string so he won't get involved with other women.

on a tight leash 1. Lit. [of an animal] on a leash, held tightly and close to its owner. □ I keep my dog on a tight leash so it won’t bother people. □ My father keeps my brother on a tight leash. □ We can't do much around here. The boss has us all on a tight leash. 2. SL. addicted to some drug. □ Wilbur is on a tight leash. He has to have the stuff regularly. □ Gert is kept on a tight leash by her habit.

*on a wing and a prayer Fig. to arrive or fly in with one's plane in very bad condition. (Sometimes used fig. of other vehicles. *Typically: come (in) ~; arrive ~.) □ Finally we could see the plane through the smoke, coming in on a wing and a prayer.

on account [money paid or owed] on a debt. □ I paid twelve dollars on account last month. Wasn't that enough? □ I still have $100 due on account.

on active duty in battle or ready to go into battle. (Military.) □ The soldier was on active duty for ten months. □ That was a long time to be on active duty.

on advance notice Go to with advance notice.

on again, off again and off again, on again uncertain; indecisive. □ I don't know about the picnic. It's on again, off again. It depends on the weather. □ Jane doesn't know if she's going to look for a new job. She's off again, on again about it.

on all fours on one's hands and knees. □ I dropped a contact lens and spent an hour on all fours looking for it. □ The baby can walk, but is on all fours most of the time anyway.

on and off and off and on occasionally; erratically; now and again. □ I feel better off and on, but I'm not well yet. □ He only came to class on and off.

on any account for any purpose; for any reason; no matter what. □ On any account, I'll be there on time. □ This doesn't make sense on any account.

on approval for examination, with the privilege of return. □ I ordered the merchandise on approval so I could send it back if I didn't like it. □ Sorry, you can't buy this on approval. All sales are final.

on average Go to on the average.

on behalf of someone Go to in behalf of someone.

on bended knee kneeling, as in supplication. (The verb form is obsolescent and occurs now only in this phrase.) □ Do you expect me to come to you on bended knee and ask you for forgiveness? □ The suitors came on bended knee and begged the attention of the princess.

on board 1. Lit. aboard (on or in) a ship, bus, airplane, etc. □ Is there a doctor on board? We have a sick passenger. □ When everyone is on board, we will leave. 2. Fig. employed by someone; working with someone. □ Our company has a computer specialist on board to advise us about the latest technology. □ Welcome to the company, Tom. We're all glad you're on board now.

on Broadway Fig. located in the Broadway theater district in New York City; performed in the Broadway theater district. (Regarded as having the best of American stage productions.) □ Our musical is the best thing on Broadway! □ I want to be a star on Broadway someday.

on call ready to serve when called. □ I live a very hard life. I'm on call twenty hours a day. □ I'm sorry, but I can't go out tonight. I'm on call at the hospital.

on campus located or being on the grounds of a college or university. □ Do you live on campus or off campus? □ I don't think that Lisa is on campus right now.

on cloud nine Fig. very happy. □ When I got my promotion, I was on cloud nine. □ When the check came, I was on cloud nine for days.

on consignment [of goods] having been placed in a store for sale, with payments made for the goods by the operator of the store only if they are sold. □ The artist placed his work in a gallery on consignment. □ I will attempt to sell your clothing on consignment.

on course 1. Lit. going in the right direction or on the right route. (Typically: be ~; get ~; stay ~.) □ We are on course and should arrive at our port about noon. 2. Fig. following the plan correctly. (Typically: be ~; get ~; stay ~.) □ Is the project on course? □ Nothing I am doing is exactly on course right now.

on credit using credit; buying something using credit. □ I tried to buy a new suit on credit, but I was refused. □ The Smiths buy everything on credit and are very much in debt.

on dangerous ground Go to on shaky ground.

on dead center 1. Lit. at the exact center of something. □ The arrow hit the target on dead center. □ When you put the flowers on the table, put them on dead center. 2. Fig. exactly correct. □ Mary is quite observant. Her analysis is on dead center. □ My estimate wasn't on dead center, but it was very close to the final cost.

on deck 1. Lit. on the deck of a boat or a ship. □ Every- one except the cook was on deck when the storm hit. □ Just pull up the anchor and leave it on deck. 2. Fig. ready (to do something); ready to be next (at something). □ Ann, get on deck. You're next. □ Who's on deck now?

on duty at work; currently doing one's work. (The opposite of off duty.) □ I can't help you now, but I'll be on duty in about an hour. □ Who is on duty here? I need some help.

on earth and in creation; in the world Fig. really; indeed; in fact. (Used as an intensifier after who, what, when, where, how.) □ What on earth do you mean? □ How in creation do you expect me to do that? □ Who in the world do you think you are?
on easy street Fig. in a state of financial independence and comfort. □ I want to live on easy street when I grow up. □ When I get this contract signed, I’ll be on easy street.

on edge 1. Lit. on something’s own edge. □ Can you stand a dime on edge? □ You should store these crates on edge, not lying flat. 2. Fig. nervous. (As if one were balanced as in ①.) See also on the edge.) □ I have really been on edge lately. □ Why are you so on edge?

on fire 1. Lit. burning; being burned with flames. □ Help! My car is on fire! □ That house on the corner is on fire! 2. Sl. very attractive or sexy. □ She is really on fire! □ Look at those jet-set people! Each one of them is just on fire. 3. Fig. Inf. doing very well; very enthusiastic. □ Jill’s new book is really on fire. Everyone is buying it. □ Fred is on fire in his new job. He’ll get promoted in no time.

on foot [running or walking] using the feet. □ My car won’t work so I have to travel on foot. □ We go everywhere around the campus on foot.

on good terms (with someone) friendly with someone; able to interact well and be friends with someone. □ Bill is on good terms with the people he works with. □ We are not on very good terms and don’t speak to each other much.

on hold 1. Lit. waiting; temporarily halted. □ The building project is on hold while we try to find money to complete it. □ We put our wedding plans on hold until we finished school. 2. Fig. left waiting on a telephone line. □ I hate to call up someone and then end up on hold. □ I waited on hold for ten minutes when I called city hall.

on horseback on the back of a horse. □ Anne rode on horseback across the field. □ Because they loved horses, the couple decided to marry on horseback.

on ice 1. Lit. stored or preserved on ice or under refrigeration. □ I have a lot of root beer on ice for the picnic. □ All the soft drinks are on ice. 2. Fig. [action on someone or something] suspended or left hanging. □ I was on ice for over a month while the matter was being debated. □ This matter should be on ice for a while.

on impulse after having had an impulse or sudden thought. □ On impulse, Bob decided to buy a car. □ I didn’t need a cellular telephone. I just bought it on impulse.

on in years Go to up in years.

*on its feet Fig. organized and functioning; started up and functioning. (*Typically: get something ~; have something ~; put something ~.) □ Trying to get this company on its feet is harder than I thought. □ What will it take to put this company on its feet again?

on land on the ground; on the land and not at sea or in the air. □ The flight was rough and I feel better now that I am back on land. □ When I am at sea, I feel more relaxed than when I am on land.

on loan (from someone or something) [of possession] temporarily granted by someone or some group. □ This lovely painting is on loan from the Kimble Museum for the rest of the year.

on location [of a movie] being filmed in a place distant from the studio. □ This movie was shot on location in Ontario. □ The actress went on location in Spain for her latest film.

on medication taking medicine for a current medical problem. □ I can’t drive the car since I am on medication. □ He is on medication and hopes to be well soon.

on moral grounds considering reasons of morality. □ He complained about the television program on moral grounds. There was too much ridicule of his religion.

on no account and not on any account for no reason; absolutely not. □ On no account will I lend you the money. □ Will I say I’m sorry? Not on any account.

on occasion occasionally. □ I like to go to the movies on occasion. □ On occasion, Mary would walk her dog through the park.

on one’s best behavior being as polite as possible. □ When we went out, the children were on their best behavior. □ I try to be on my best behavior all the time.

on one’s deathbed while one is in bed and dying. □ While he lay on his deathbed, he told his lawyer that he wanted to give all his money to charity.

on one’s feet 1. Lit. standing up. □ Get on your feet. They are playing the national anthem. □ I’ve been on my feet all day, and they hurt. 2. Fig. well and healthy, especially after an illness. □ I hope to be back on my feet next week. □ I can help out as soon as I’m back on my feet.

*on (one’s) guard (against someone or something) alert against someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; keep ~; remain ~; stay ~.) □ Try to stay on guard against pickpockets. □ I am always on my guard. □ Be on guard when you go into the city.

*on (one’s) high horse Fig. in a haughty manner or mood. □ Larry is on his high horse again, bossing people around. □ The boss is on her high horse about the cost of office supplies.

on one’s honor Fig. on one’s solemn oath; sincerely. □ On my honor, I’ll be there on time. □ He promised on his honor that he’d pay me back next week.

on one’s mind Fig. occupying one’s thoughts; currently being thought about. □ You’ve been on my mind all day. □ Do you have something on your mind? You look so serious.

on one’s own independently. □ Our baby can now walk on his own. □ I have lived on my own since I was 18.

on one’s own hook all by oneself. □ I don’t need any help. I can do it on my own hook. □ She did it on her own hook without having to call on anyone.

on one’s own time not while one is at work. □ The boss made me write the report on my own time. That’s not fair. □ Please make your personal telephone calls on your own time.

on one’s person [of something] carried with one. □ Always carry identification on your person. □ I’m sorry, I don’t have any money on my person.

*on one’s toes Fig. alert. (*Typically: be ~; keep ~; keep one ~; stay ~.) □ You have to be on your toes if you want to be in this business. □ I have to stay on my toes to keep from getting fired.

*on one’s way ((to) some place) leaving one place for another; en route to a place. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I have to leave. I am on my way to the bank. □ I will be there soon. I’m on my way now.
on one's way (to something or some place) Go to on the way (to something or some place).

on order ordered with delivery expected. □ Your car is on order. It'll be here in a few weeks. □ I don't have the part in stock, but it's on order.

on par (with someone or something) equal to someone or something. □ Your effort is simply not on par with what's expected from you. □ These two departments are right on par in productivity.

on pins and needles Fig. anxious; in suspense. □ I've been on pins and needles all day, waiting for you to call with the news. □ We were on pins and needles until we heard that your plane had landed safely.

on probation 1. Lit. serving a period of probation, typically after conviction for a crime. □ While Anne was on probation, she reported to the police regularly. □ John was on probation for a year. 2. Fig. serving a trial period. □ All new members are on probation for a year. □ I was on probation in my job for a full year before it became permanent.

on purpose intentionally; in a way that is meant or intended; not an accident. □ The bully stepped on my foot on purpose. □ Jealously, Jimmy destroyed Billy's sand castle on purpose.

on record and on the books recorded for future reference. □ We had the coldest winter on record last year. □ This is the fastest race on record.

on sale available for sale at a reduced price. (Always implies lower than usual sale price.) □ These pots are on sale for $20. □ I bought these pants on sale for half price.

on schedule at the expected or desired time. □ The plane came in right on schedule. □ Things have to happen on schedule in a theatrical performance.

on second thought Fig. having given something more thought; having reconsidered something. □ On second thought, maybe you should sell your house and move into an apartment. □ On second thought, let's not go to a movie.

on shaky ground and on dangerous ground Fig. [of an idea or proposal] on an unstable or questionable foundation; [of an idea or proposal] founded on a risky premise. □ When you suggest that we are to blame, you are on shaky ground. There is no evidence that we are at fault. □ The case for relying solely on nuclear energy seems to be on dangerous ground.

on short notice quickly and without a timely notification of other people; with very little lead time. □ She called the meeting on such short notice that we had no time to prepare.

*on someone's case and *on someone's back Inf. harassing someone about a personal problem; annoying someone. (Typically: be ~; get ~; keep ~.) □ I'll get on Tom's case about being late so much. □ I'm sorry, I won't get on your case anymore.

on someone's doorstep Go to at someone's doorstep.

on someone's good side Go to on the good side of someone.

on someone's head Fig. [for something negative] belonging only to one person or group. □ All the blame fell on their heads. □ I don't think that all the criticism should be on my head.

*on someone's heels Fig. following someone very closely; following very closely at someone's heels. (Typically: hard ~; hot ~; right ~. See also on someone's tail.) □ I ran as fast as I could, but the dog was still hard on my heels. □ Here comes Sally, and John is hot on her heels.

*on someone's nerves Fig. annoying someone. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Our noisy neighbors are beginning to get on my nerves. □ That radio is getting on my nerves.

on someone's or something's last legs Fig. for someone or something to be almost worn out or finished. □ This building is on its last legs. It should be torn down. □ I feel as if I'm on my last legs. I'm really tired.

on someone's say-so on someone's authority; with someone's permission. □ I can't do it on your say-so. I'll have to get a written request. □ Bill: I canceled the contract with the A.B.C. Company. Bob: On whose say-so?

*on someone's shoulders Fig. on someone's own self. (Typically: be ~; carry something ~; fall ~; have something ~; leave something ~; put something ~.) □ Why should all the responsibility fall on my shoulders? □ She carries a tremendous amount of responsibility on her shoulders.

on someone's tail Inf. Fig. following someone closely. (See also on someone's heels.) □ There is a huge truck on my tail. What should I do? □ Keep on her tail and don't let her out of your sight.

on someone's watch while someone is on duty; while someone is supposed to be in charge of a situation. □ I am not responsible since it didn't happen on my watch. □ I guess I have to bear the blame since it happened on my watch.

on someone's wrong side Go to on the wrong side of someone.

on something 1. taking a medication. □ I am on an antibiotic for my chest cold. □ I want you to be on this drug for another week. 2. taking an illegal drug or controlled substance and acting strangely. □ What is the matter with that kid? Is he on something? □ She acted as if she were on barbiturates or something.

on speaking terms (with someone) on friendly terms with someone. (Often with the negative.) □ I'm not on speaking terms with Mary. We had a serious disagreement. □ We're not on speaking terms.

on spec 1. using money risked in the hope of profit; on speculation. □ He lives by buying and selling houses on spec. □ I think it might be an idea to build a few yachts on spec just now. 2. as specified; right on specifications. □ This
on standby

waiting for one's turn, especially describing the status of travelers who wait at a soon-to-depart train, plane, or bus, hoping that a seat will become available. □ The passenger waited on standby for an available seat. □ The agent was able to seat all of the passengers on standby.

on tap 1. Lit. having to do with beer served from a barrel or keg. □ Do you have any imported beers on tap here? □ I like beer on tap. The canned stuff tastes funny to me.
2. Fig. immediately available. □ I have just the kind of person you're talking about on tap. □ The cook has any kind of food you might want on tap.

on target on schedule; exactly as predicted. □ Your estimate of the cost was right on target. □ My prediction was not on target.

on the air broadcasting (a radio or television program). □ The radio station came back on the air shortly after the storm. □ We were on the air for two hours.

on the alert (for someone or something) watchful and attentive for someone or something. □ Be on the alert for pickpockets. □ You should be on the alert when you cross the street in heavy traffic.

on the average and on average generally; usually. □ On the average, you can expect about a 10 percent failure rate. □ This report looks OK, on average.

*on the back burner Fig. [of something] on hold or suspended temporarily. (Alludes to putting a pot that needs less active attention on a back burner of a stove, leaving space for pots that need to be stirred. Compare this with on the front burner. *Typically: be ~; put something ~.) □ The building project is on the back burner for now. □ This matter was on the back burner for a long time.

on the ball Inf. knowledgeable; competent; attentive. (See also have something on the ball.) □ This guy is really on the ball. □ If you were on the ball, this wouldn't have happened.

*on the bandwagon Fig. on the popular side (of an issue); taking a popular position. (*Typically: be ~; climb ~; get ~; hop ~; jump ~.) □ You really should get on the bandwagon. Everyone else is. □ Jane has always had her own ideas about things. She's not the kind of person to jump on the bandwagon.

on the beam Fig. exactly right; thinking along the correct lines. □ That's the right idea. Now you're on the beam! □ She's not on the beam yet. Explain it to her again.

on the bench 1. [of a judge] directing a session of court. □ I have to go to court tomorrow. Who's on the bench? □ It doesn't matter who's on the bench. You'll get a fair hearing. 2. sitting, waiting for a chance to play in a game. (In sports, such as basketball, football, soccer, etc.) □ Bill is on the bench now. I hope he gets to play. □ John played during the first quarter, but now he's on the bench.

on the bias on a diagonal line; on a diagonal pathway or direction. □ The panels of the dress were cut on the bias. □ The seamstress sewed the fabric on the bias.

on the bird available on satellite television. □ There is a whole lot of good stuff on the bird, but you need a receiving dish to get it. □ I get a huge book every month listing what programs are on the bird.

on the bleeding edge and on the leading edge having the most advanced technology; knowing about the most advanced technology. (Alludes to the cutting edge of a sword.) □ This gadget is brand new. It's really on the bleeding edge. □ Tom is on the leading edge when it comes to optical storage technology.

on the brink Go to on the fritz.

on the block 1. Lit. on a city or suburban block. □ John is the biggest kid on the block. □ We had a party on the block last weekend. 2. on sale at auction; on the auction block. □ We couldn't afford to keep up the house, so it was put on the block to pay the taxes. □ That's the finest painting I've ever seen on the block.

on the books Go to on record.

on the borderline in an uncertain position between two statuses; undecided. □ Bill was on the borderline between an A and a B in biology. □ Jane was on the borderline of joining the navy.

on the bottom rung (of the ladder) Go to at the bottom of the ladder.

on the bright side Fig. [ignoring the bad for a moment] considering the positive aspects of a situation. (See also look on the bright side.) □ On the bright side, the car you wrecked was covered by insurance.

on the brink (of doing something) Fig. on the verge of doing something; almost to the point of doing something. □ I was on the brink of selling my car to make ends meet when the tax refund came in the mail.

on the button exactly right; in exactly the right place; at exactly the right time. (*Typically: be ~; arrive (~); get (~); jump (~); show up ~.) □ He got here at one o'clock on the button.

on the contrary Go to to the contrary.

on the cusp (of something) Fig. at the point in time that marks the beginning of something. □ The transistor was on the cusp of a new age in electronics.

on the cutting edge Fig. [for someone] to be trendy and very up-to-date; [for something] to be of the latest design. (Akin to on the bleeding edge.) □ This technology is right on the cutting edge. It's so new, it's not available to the public yet.

on the defensive weary and ready to defend oneself. □ John goes on the defensive when his athletic ability is questioned. □ The child was on the defensive when questioned about cheating.

on the dole receiving welfare money. □ I spent six months on the dole, and believe me, it's no picnic.

on the dot Fig. at exactly the right time. (*Typically: be somewhere ~; arrive (somewhere) ~; get somewhere ~; see someone ~; show up ~.) □ I'll be there at noon on the dot. □ I expect to see you here at eight o'clock on the dot.

on the double very fast; twice as fast as normal. (Originally military. Alludes to “double time” in marching.) □ Get over here right now—on the double! □ She wants to see you in her office on the double.
on the edge
Fig. very anxious and about to become distraught; on the verge of becoming irrational. (*Typically: be ~; live ~. See also on edge.) □ After the horrible events of the last week, we are all on the edge.

on the edge of one’s seat
Fig. [of a member of an audience] closely following the action and excitement of a performance. □ We sat on the edge of our seats during the entire play.

on the eve of something
Fig. just before something, possibly the evening before something. □ John decided to leave school on the eve of his graduation. □ The team held a party on the eve of the tournament.

on the face of it
Fig. superficially; from the way it looks. □ This looks like a serious problem on the face of it. It probably is minor, however. □ On the face of it, it seems worthless.

on the fast track
Fig. following an expedited procedure; being acted upon sooner or more quickly than is typical. □ Let’s put this project on the fast track and maybe we’ll see results sooner.

*on the fence (about something)
Fig. undecided about something. (*Typically: be ~; sit ~.) □ Ann is on the fence about going to Mexico. □ I wouldn’t be on the fence. I’d love to go.

on the fly
[done] while something or someone is operating or moving. □ I’ll try to capture the data on the fly. □ Please try to buy some aspirin somewhere on the fly today.

on the fringe
1. Lit. at the outer boundary or edge of something. □ He doesn’t live in the city, just on the fringe. 2. Fig. at the extremes of something, typically political thought. □ He is way out. His political ideas are really on the fringe.

on the fritz and on the blink
not operating; not operating correctly. □ This vacuum cleaner is on the fritz. Let’s get it fixed. □ How long has it been on the blink?

*on the front burner
Fig. receiving particular attention or consideration. (Compare this with the on the back burner. *Typically: be ~; put something ~.) □ So, what’s on the front burner for us this week? □ Move this project to the front burner so it will get some attention.

on the go
busy; moving about busily. □ I’m usually on the go all day long. □ I hate being on the go all the time.

*on the good side of someone and *on someone’s good side
Fig. in someone’s favor. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I tried to get on the good side of the teacher, but that teacher has no good side. □ First of all, don’t try to get on the boss’s good side.

on the heels of
Fig. soon after something. □ There was a rainstorm on the heels of the windstorm. □ The team held a victory celebration on the heels of their winning season.

on the horizon
1. Lit. appearing at the boundary between the earth and the sky. □ There is a storm on the horizon. 2. Fig. soon to happen. □ Do you know what’s on the horizon? □ There is some excitement on the horizon, but I can’t tell you about it.

on the horns of a dilemma
Fig. having to decide between two things, people, etc. □ Mary found herself on the horns of a dilemma. She didn’t know which to choose.

□ I make up my mind easily. I’m not on the horns of a dilemma very often.

on the hot seat and in the hot seat
Fig. in a difficult position; subject to much attention or criticism. □ I was really in the hot seat for a while. □ Now that John is on the hot seat, no one is paying any attention to what I do.

on the hour
at each hour on the hour mark. □ I have to take this medicine every hour on the hour. □ I expect to see you there on the hour, not one minute before and not one minute after.

on the house
[of something] given away free by a merchant. □ “Here,” said the waiter, “have a cup of coffee on the house.” □ I went to a restaurant last night. I was the ten thousandth customer, so my dinner was on the house.

on the job
working; doing what one is expected to do. □ I’m always on the job when I should be. □ I can depend on my furnace to be on the job day and night.

on the lam
running from the police. (Underworld.) □ Richard has been on the lam for a week now. □ The gang leader broke out of prison and is still on the lam.

on the loose
running around free. □ Look out! There is a bear on the loose from the zoo. □ Most kids enjoy being on the loose when they go to college.

on the make
1. building or developing; being made. □ There is a company that is on the make. □ This is a very good sales strategy, John. You’re a real-estate agent on the make. 2. making sexual advances; seeking sexual activities. □ It seems like Bill is always on the make. □ He should meet Sally, who is also on the make.

on the market
Fig. right on the measurement point; showing just the right amount. □ It’s exactly one quart, right on the mark.

*on the market open
ly available for sale. (*Typically: be ~; get something ~; put something ~.) □ We put our house on the market last year and it still hasn’t sold.

on the mend
getting better; becoming healthy again. □ I cared for my father while he was on the mend. □ I took a leave of absence from work while I was on the mend.

on the money
and on the nose
exactly right; in exactly the right place; in exactly the right amount (of money). □ That’s a good answer, Bob. You’re right on the money. □ This project is going to be finished right on the nose.

on the move
1. moving from place to place. □ Are the cattle on the move now, or are they still grazing? 2. progressing; advancing. □ The market has turned around now and is really on the move. □ At last, we are on the move!

on the nose
Go to on the money.

on the off chance
because of a slight possibility that something may happen or might be the case; just in case. □ I went to the theater on the off chance that there were
on (the) one hand

tickets for the show left. □ We didn’t think we would get into the football game, but we went on the off chance.

on (the) one hand Fig. from one point of view; as one side (of an issue). □ On one hand, I really ought to support my team. On the other hand, I don’t have the time to attend all the games. □ On the one hand, I really could use Ann’s help. On the other hand, she and I don’t get along very well.

on the other hand Fig. a phrase introducing an alternate view. □ John: I’m ready to go; on the other hand, I’m perfectly comfortable here. Sally: I’ll let you know when I’m ready, then. □ Mary: I like this one. On the other hand, this is nice too. Sue: Why not get both?

on the outs (with someone) Inf. in a mild dispute with someone; sharing ill will with someone. □ Tom and Bill are on the outs again. □ Tom has been on the outs with Bill before. They’ll work it out.

on the phone Go to on the telephone.

on the pill taking birth control pills. □ Is it true that Mary is on the pill? □ She was on the pill, but she isn’t now.

on the point of doing something and at the point of doing something Fig. ready to start doing something. □ I was just on the point of going out the door. □ We were almost at the point of buying a new car.

on the prowl looking for someone for sexual purposes. (Alludes to a prowling cat.) □ Tom looks like he is on the prowl again tonight. □ That whole gang of boys is on the prowl. Watch out.

on the QT quietly; secretly. (An abbreviation of on the QT.

on the rag Fig. a phrase introducing an alternate view. □ John: I’m ready to go; on the other hand, I’m perfectly comfortable here. Sally: I’ll let you know when I’m ready, then. □ Mary: I like this one. On the other hand, this is nice too. Sue: Why not get both?

on the road Fig. traveling from place to place, not necessarily on the highways; working away from one’s home or office. □ I was on the road with the circus for six months. □ I don’t work in the main office anymore. Now I’m on the road.

on the road to recovery Cliché recovering; getting better; improving. □ It’s been two weeks since her surgery, and she is on the road to recovery.

on the rocks 1. Lit. [of a ship] broken and marooned on rocks in the sea. □ The ship crashed and was on the rocks until the next high tide. 2. Fig. [of an alcoholic drink] served with ice cubes. □ I’d like mine on the rocks, please. □ Give me a scotch on the rocks, please. 3. Fig. in a state of ruin or bankruptcy. □ That bank is on the rocks. Don’t put your money in it. □ My finances are on the rocks just now.

on the run 1. Fig. while one is moving from place to place. □ I will try to pick up some aspirin today on the run. □ I will think about it on the run. 2. Fig. running from the police. □ Richard is on the run from the cops. □ The gang of crooks is on the run.

on the safe side Fig. taking the risk-free path. □ Let’s be on the safe side and call first. □ I think you should stay on the safe side and call the doctor about this fever.

on the same wavelength Fig. thinking in the same pattern. □ We’re not on the same wavelength. Let’s try again. □ We kept talking until we got on the same wavelength.

on the scene drinking regularly; intoxicated. □ Poor old Ron is on the sauce again. □ He is on the sauce most of the time.

on the shelf Fig. not active socially; left to oneself in social matters. (Alludes to being left or stored on a shelf.) □ I’ve been on the shelf long enough. I’m going to make some friends. □ She likes being on the shelf. 2. Fig. in addition to one’s spouse. □ He is married, but also has a woman on the side. □ She has boyfriends on the side, but her husband knows about them.

on the skids Sl. on the decline. □ My newly started business is on the skids. □ Her health is really on the skids, but she stays cheery anyway.

on the sly Fig. secretly and deceptively. □ She was stealing little bits of money on the sly. □ Martin was having an affair with the maid on the sly.

on the spot Fig. at exactly the right place; at exactly the right time. □ It’s noon, and I’m glad you’re all here on the spot. Now we can begin. □ I expect you to be on the spot when and where trouble arises. 2. Fig. in trouble; in a difficult situation. □ There is a problem in the department I manage, and I’m really on the spot. □ I hate to be on the spot when it’s not my fault.

on the spur of the moment Fig. suddenly; spontaneously. □ We decided to go on the spur of the moment. □ I had to leave town on the spur of the moment.

on the stick Inf. organized and busy. (‘Typically: be ~; get ~;) □ Get on the stick and get this job done! □ Come on, you guys. Let’s get on the stick!

on the street 1. Fig. widely known. □ Sue put it on the street, and now everyone knows. □ It’s on the street. There isn’t anyone who hasn’t heard it. 2. Fig. on Wall Street or elsewhere in the New York City financial districts. (Similar to ④, except that it refers to a specific street. Usually with a capital s.) □ I heard on the Street today that bank stocks are headed up. □ It’s on the Street that the market is
on the wane becoming less; fading away.

on the wagon (Underworld.) Fig. of someone, such as a profession or promise; due to something. □ On the strength of your comment, I decided to give John another chance. □ On the strength of my testimony, my case was dismissed.

on the table (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ On the table for discussion by the group; submitted as a point of discussion. □ The chairman said we could not discuss salaries since the topic was no longer on the table.

on the take taking bribes. (Underworld.)

on the throne (Lit.) current reigning. □ King Samuel was on the throne for two decades. 2. Fig. Sl. seated on the toilet. □ I can't come to the phone. I'm on the throne.

on the tip of one's tongue (of a thought or idea) about to be said or almost remembered. (Typically: be ~; have something ~.) □ I have his name right on the tip of my tongue. I'll think of it in a second. □ John had the answer on the tip of his tongue, but Anne said it first.

on the track of someone or something Go to next.

on the trail of someone or something and on the track of someone or something seeking someone or something; about to find someone or something. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I'm on the trail of a new opener that is supposed to be easier to use. □ I spent all morning on the track of a vendor who can meet our requirements.

on the up-and-up legitimate; open and aboveboard. □ Is this deal on the up-and-up? What's the catch? □ Everything I do is on the up-and-up. I am totally honest.

on the verge of doing something and on the verge of something at the very beginning of doing something; just about to do something. □ Bill was on the verge of leaving town when he found a job. □ Susan was on the verge of laughter, so she left the lecture hall.

on the wagon Fig. not drinking alcohol. □ No, I don't care for a cocktail. I'm on the wagon. □ Bob's old drinking buddies complained that he was no fun when he went on the wagon.

on the waiting list and on the wait list [for someone's name to be] on a list of people waiting for an opportunity to do something. □ I couldn't get a seat on the plane, but I got on the waiting list. □ There is no room for you, but we can put your name on the waiting list.

on the wane becoming less; fading away. □ On the wane, but she is still the boss.

on the warpath very angry. □ The boss is on the warpath again. Watch out! □ I am on the warpath about setting goals and standards again.

on the watch for someone or something alert and watching for someone or something. □ Please stay on the watch for trouble. □ I'm always on the watch for Ann. I want to know when she's around.

*on the way (to something or some place) and *on one's way (to something or some place) moving toward a place; advancing toward a new status or condition. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Is he here yet or is he on the way? □ Mary is better now and on the way to recovery. □ She's now on the way to San Francisco. □ Yes, she's on her way.

on the whole generally; considering everything. □ On the whole, this was a very good day. □ Your work—on the whole—is quite good.

on the wing Fig. while flying; while in flight. (Usually refers to birds, fowl, etc., not people or planes.) □ There is nothing as pretty as a bird on the wing. □ The hawk caught the sparrow on the wing.

on the (witness) stand [of a witness] giving testimony in court, seated in place in view of the court. □ I was on the witness stand, answering questions, when the judge declared a recess.

on the wrong side of someone and *on someone's wrong side Fig. out of favor with someone. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Don't get on the wrong side of her. □ I do what I can not to get on the wrong side of people.

on the wrong track 1. Lit. [of a train] following the wrong set of tracks. □ We had to back up, because somehow we got on the wrong track. 2. Fig. going the wrong way; following the wrong set of assumptions. □ You'll never get the right answer. You're on the wrong track. □ They won't get it figured out because they are on the wrong track.

on thin ice 1. Lit. on ice that is too thin to support one. (See also skate on thin ice; walk on thin ice.) □ Billy is on thin ice and is in great danger. 2. Fig. in a risky situation. □ If you try that you'll really be on thin ice. That's too risky. □ If you don't want to find yourself on thin ice, you must be sure of your facts.

on time before the deadline; by the stated time. □ Please make sure that your essays are completed on time. □ My taxes were not done on time, so I had to pay a penalty.

on tiptoe standing or walking on the front part of the feet (the balls of the feet) with no weight put on the heels. (This is done to gain height or to walk quietly.) □ I had to stand on tiptoe in order to see over the fence. □ I came in late and walked on tiptoe so I wouldn't wake anybody up.

on top of something 1. Fig. up-to-date on something; knowing about the current state of something. □ Ask Mary. She's on top of this issue. □ This issue is constantly changing. She has to pay attention to it to stay on top of things. 2. Fig. in addition to something. □ Jane told Bill he was dull. On top of that, she said he was unfriendly. □ On top of being dull, he's unfriendly. 3. Fig. victorious over something; famous or notorious for something. □ It was a close game, but the home team came out on top. □ Bill is on top in his field.
on top of the world Cliché fig. feeling wonderful; glorious; ecstatic. □ Wow, I feel on top of the world. □ Since he got a new job, he’s on top of the world.

*on track on schedule; progressing as planned. (*Typically: be ~; get someone or something ~; have someone or something ~; keep someone or something ~; put someone or something ~; set someone or something ~.) □ Try to keep these procedures on track this time. □ Please get this discussion on track. Time is limited.

on trial 1. [of someone] in a legal case before a judge. □ The criminal was on trial for over three months. □ I am not on trial. Don’t treat me like that! 2. being tested; being examined or experimented with. □ The new strain of wheat is on trial in Kansas at the present time. □ The teaching method is on trial in the school system.

on vacation away, taking time off work; on holiday. □ Where are you going on vacation this year? □ I’ll be away on vacation for three weeks.

on view visible; on public display. □ The painting will be on view at the museum. □ I’ll pull the shades so that we won’t be on view.

on with someone [of a date or appointment] agreed to and confirmed with someone. □ Is the Friday date still on with you? □ It’s on with me.

On your bike! and Go to your room! sl. imperative. Get out of here! Get on your bike and get out! □ What a bad joke! No puns allowed here! On your bike! □ That was a ridiculous remark. Go to your room!

on your mark, get set, go [in preparing to start a race involving speed] move to the starting point, get set to move, go. □ Runners on your mark, get set, go.

Once a priest, always a priest. and Once a whore, always a whore. Prov. a person who has done a certain kind of job will always have the characteristics of people who do that job, even after he or she no longer does that kind of work. (This can be applied to many different occupations.) □ Alan: My cousin left the clergy, but boy! He still preaches at me all the time. Jane: Once a priest, always a priest, huh?

Once a whore, always a whore. Go to previous.

once and for all finally; permanently. □ Sue: I’m going to get this place organized once and for all! Alice: That’ll be the day! □ “We need to get this straightened out once and for all,” said Bob, for the fourth time today.

Once bitten, twice shy. Prov. When something or someone has hurt you once, you tend to avoid that thing or person. □ Jill: Let’s go ride the roller coaster. Jane: No, thanks. I got really sick on one of those once—once bitten, twice shy. □ I once sent in money for something I saw advertised in the back of a magazine, but the merchandise was of such poor quality I was sorry I’d bought it. I’ll never buy anything that way again; once bitten, twice shy.

once in a blue moon Cliché very seldom. □ Jill: Does your husband ever bring you flowers? Ellen: Once in a blue moon. □ Once in a blue moon, I buy a fashion magazine, just to see what people are wearing.

once more and one more time Please do it one more time. □ Mary: You sang that line beautifully, Fred. Now, once more. Fred: I’m really tired of all this rehearsing. □ John (finishing practicing his speech): How was that? Sue: Good! One more time, though. John: I’m getting bored with it.

once upon a time Cliché once in the past. (A formula used to begin a fairy tale.) □ Once upon a time, there were three bears. □ Once upon a time, I had a puppy of my own.

once-in-a-lifetime chance and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity a chance that will never occur again in one’s lifetime. □ This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance. Don’t miss it. □ She offered me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but I turned it down.

once-in-a-lifetime opportunity Go to previous.

*the once-over-a quick, visual examination. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ Every time John walks by I get the once-over. Does he like me? □ I went to the doctor yesterday, but I only had a once-over.

once-over-lightly 1. fig. a quick and careless treatment. (A noun. Said of an act of cleaning, studying, examination, or appraisal.) □ Bill gave his geometry the once-over-lightly and then quit studying. □ Ann, you didn’t wash the dishes properly. They only got a once-over-lightly. 2. fig. cursory; in a quick and careless manner. (An adverb.) □ Tom studied geometry once-over-lightly. □ Ann washed the dishes once-over-lightly.

one and all everyone. □ “Good morning to one and all,” said Jane as she walked through the outer office. □ Let’s hope that this turns out to be a wonderful party for one and all.

the one and only the famous and talented (person). (Used in theatrical introductions. See also my one and only.) □ And now—the one and only—Jane Smith! □ Let’s have a big hand for the one and only Bob Jones!

one and the same Cliché the very same person or thing. □ John Jones and J. Jones are one and the same. □ Men’s socks and men’s stockings are almost one and the same.

one brick shy of a load Inf. stupid, dense. □ Joyce has done some stupid things. Sometimes I think she is one brick shy of a load. □ Ted is one brick shy of a load. He can’t seem to do what he is told without messing up.

one by one and one at a time the first one, then the next one, then the next one, etc.; each in turn. □ I have to deal with problems one by one. I can’t handle them all at once. □ Okay, just take things one at a time. □ The children came into the room one by one.

One cannot be in two places at once. Prov. You cannot be in more than one place or do more than one thing at the same time. □ Child: Mom! Mom! Come help me wash my hair! Mother: Just a minute! I’m putting clean sheets on your bed right now, and I can’t be in two places at once.

One cannot love and be wise. Prov. People often fall in love with someone with whom they are not compatible or behave foolishly when they are in love. □ My son and his girlfriend have decided to get married in the spring. I don’t think that’s wise, since they won’t have enough money saved by then to set up house. But then, one cannot love and be wise.

*one eye on someone or something Fig. [get/ have] a small amount of attention devoted to someone or something. (*Typically: keep ~; have ~.) □ I have to have one eye on you at all times or you will get into trouble. □ I
one law for the rich and another for the poor. Rich people are sometimes able to escape without punishment when they commit crimes, while poor people are usually punished. □ It doesn’t seem fair—that rich people can avoid paying their taxes and not get in trouble, but poor people are always punished if they don’t pay. We shouldn’t have one law for the rich and another for the poor.

*one for the road* a drink; a drink before a journey or before leaving a bar. (*Typically: down ~; drink ~; have ~; take ~.*) □ Let’s have one for the road. □ Don’t down one for the road if you are going to be the driver.

One man’s meat is another man’s poison. Prov. Something that one person likes may be distasteful to someone else. □ Fred: What do you mean you don’t like French fries? They’re the best food in the world! Alan: One man’s meat is another man’s poison. □ Jill: I don’t understand why Don doesn’t like to read science fiction. It’s the most interesting thing to read. Jane: One man’s meat is another man’s poison.

One man’s trash is another man’s treasure. Prov. Something that one person considers worthless may be considered valuable by someone else. □ Q: Why would anyone want to hang a picture like that on the wall? A: One man’s trash is another man’s treasure. □ A: Bob’s uncle is always going through people’s garbage, looking for old stuff. B: One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.


one more thing Go to once more.

one move ahead (of someone or something) Go to one jump ahead (of someone or something).

one time only something that you do only once.

one move ahead (of someone or something) and one jump ahead (of someone or something) Fig. one step in advance of someone or something. □ Try to stay one jump ahead of the competition. □ If you’re one move ahead, you’re well prepared to deal with problems. Then, nothing is a surprise.

One's bark is worse than one's bite. Prov. Someone makes a lot of harsh-sounding threats but never carries them out. □ Don’t get upset at anything my father says. His bark is worse than his bite. □ Jill: Lisa says she’s going to sue me for letting my dog dig up her rosebushes. John: Don’t pay any attention. Her bark is worse than her bite.

*one’s bearings* the knowledge of where one is; the knowl-
edge of how one is oriented to one’s immediate environment. (*Typically: get ~; find ~; have ~; lose ~; tell one ~.*) □ After he fell, it took Ted a few minutes to get his bearings. □ Jean found her compass and got her bearings almost immediately.
**one’s best bib and tucker** Rur. one’s best clothing. □ I always put on my best bib and tucker on Sundays. □ Put on your best bib and tucker, and let’s go to the city.

**one’s best shot** Fig. one’s best attempt (at something). □ That was his best shot, but it wasn’t good enough. □ I always try to give something my best shot.

**one’s better half** Fig. one’s spouse. (Usually refers to a wife.) □ I think we’d like to come for dinner, but I’ll have to ask my better half. □ I have to go home now to my better half. We are going out tonight.

**one’s (butter and) egg money** Fig. money that a farm woman earns. (Farm women would often sell butter and eggs for extra money that would be stashed away for an emergency.) □ Jane was saving her butter and egg money for a new TV. □ I’ve got my egg money. Let’s go shopping.

**one’s claws are showing** one is acting catty; one is saying spiteful and cruel things. □ Gloria: Did you see what she was wearing? I wouldn’t be caught dead in it! Sally: Gloria, my dear, your claws are showing.

**one’s days are numbered** Fig. one is facing death or dismissal. □ If I don’t get this contract, my days are numbered at this company. □ Uncle Bill has a terminal disease. His days are numbered.

**one’s deepest sympathy** one’s very sincere sympathy. □ I am so sorry about the death of your father. You have my deepest sympathy. □ She sent her deepest sympathy to the family.

**one’s ears are red** Fig. [for someone’s ears] to be red from embarrassment. □ I’m so embarrassed. Wow, are my ears red! □ My ears are red! I can’t believe I said that.

**one’s ears are ringing** Fig. [for someone’s ears] to have a ringing sound because of an illness or other condition; very loud music, or some other very loud sound. □ After the explosion, my ears were ringing for hours. □ My ears are ringing because I have a sinus infection.

**one’s eyes are bigger than one’s stomach** Fig. one has taken more food than one can eat. □ I can’t eat all this. I’m afraid that my eyes were bigger than my stomach. □ Try to take less food. Your eyes are bigger than your stomach at every meal.

**one’s fair share** the amount of something that one is due relative to what other people are receiving. □ Let him take more. He didn’t get his fair share. □ I want my fair share. You cheated me! Give me some more!

*one’s fill of someone or something** Fig. [get/have] as much of someone or something as one needs or can tolerate. (*Typically: get ~; have ~. □ You’ll soon get your fill of Tom. He can be quite a pest. □ I can never get my fill of shrimp. I love it.

**one’s for the asking** Fig. [can become] one’s property if one asks for it. □ I have a cherry pie here. A slice is yours for the asking if you want it. □ Uncle Mac said we could have his old car if we wanted it. It was ours for the asking.

**one’s frame of mind** Fig. one’s mood or mental state. □ My frame of mind is sort of low at the moment. I’ve had a very bad day.

**One’s future looks bright.** Fig. One has a promising future. □ Tom’s future looks bright and he will do well if he keeps working hard.

**one’s goose is cooked** one is finished; one has been found out and is in trouble. □ It’s over. His goose is cooked! □ If I get caught, my goose is cooked.

**one’s heart goes out to someone** Fig. one feels great sympathy for someone. □ My heart goes out to the grieving family. □ Let your heart go out to those who are suffering, and pray for their improvement.

**one’s heart is (dead) set against something** Fig. one is totally against something. □ Jane’s heart is set against going to that restaurant ever again.

**one’s heart is in one’s mouth** Fig. one feels strongly emotional (about someone or something). (See also have one’s heart in one’s mouth.) □ “Gosh, Mary,” said John, “My heart is in my mouth whenever I see you.” □ It was a touching scene. My heart was in my mouth the whole time.

**one’s heart is in the right place** Fig. one has good intentions, even if the results are bad. □ She gave it a good try. Her heart was in the right place. □ He is awkward, but his heart is in the right place.

**one’s heart is set on something** Fig. one desires and expects something. □ Jane’s heart is set on going to London. □ My heart is set on returning home.

**one’s heart misses a beat** and **one’s heart skips a beat** Fig. one’s heart flutters or palpitates; one has a strong emotional reaction. □ Whenever I’m near you, my heart skips a beat. □ When the racehorse fell, my heart missed a beat.

**one’s heart skips a beat** Go to previous.

**one’s heart stands still** Fig. one’s heart (figuratively) stops beating because of strong emotions. □ When I first saw you, my heart stood still. □ My heart will stand still until you answer.

**one’s home away from home** a place, other than one’s home, where one can feel at home. □ Please make our house your home away from home when you are in town.

**one’s John Hancock** Go to next.

**one’s John Henry and one’s John Hancock** one’s signature. □ Just put your John Henry on this line, and we’ll bring your new car around.

**one’s last resting place** Euph. one’s grave. □ Daddy has gone to his last resting place. □ I want to be beside her in her last resting place.

**one’s luck runs out** Fig. one’s good luck stops. □ My luck ran out, so I had to come home. □ She will quit gambling when her luck runs out.

**one’s mind went blank** Fig. someone’s mind has experienced total forgetfulness. □ He knew all his lines in rehearsal, but his mind went blank when he went before an audience.

*one’s money’s worth** Fig. everything that one has paid for; the best quality for the money paid. (*Typically: get ~; have ~.) □ Weigh that package of meat before you buy it. Be sure you’re getting your money’s worth. □ I didn’t get my money’s worth with my new camera, so I took it back.

**one’s name is mud** Fig. one is in trouble or humiliated. □ If I can’t get this contract signed, my name will be mud. □ His name is mud ever since he broke the crystal vase.
one’s **next of kin** one’s closest living relative or relatives. ☐ The police notified the dead man’s next of kin. ☐ My next of kin lives 800 miles away.

one’s **next-door neighbor** the person living in the house or apartment closest to one’s own. ☐ My next-door neighbor came over to borrow a shovel. ☐ I will be visiting our next-door neighbor if you need me.

one’s **nose is in the air** Fig. one is acting conceited or aloof. ☐ Mary’s nose is always in the air since she got into that exclusive boarding school. ☐ Her mother’s nose was always in the air, too.

one’s **number is up** Fig. one’s time to die—or to suffer some other unpleasantness—has come. ☐ John is worried. He thinks his number is up. ☐ When my number is up, I hope it all goes fast.

one’s **old stamping ground** Fig. the place where one was raised or where one has spent a lot of time. (There are variants with stomping and grounds.) ☐ Ann should know about that place. It’s near her old stamping ground. ☐ I can’t wait to get back to my old stomping grounds.

*one’s (own) way* one’s way of doing something; one’s will or desire. (Typically: *get ~; have ~.*) ☐ She always has to have her own way. She thinks no one else can do it right.

*one’s (own) way (with someone or something)* [get/have] one’s control over someone or something. (Typically: *get ~; have ~.*) ☐ The mayor got his way with the city council. ☐ He seldom gets his own way. ☐ How often do you have your way with your own money? ☐ Parents usually have their way with their children.

*one’s own worst enemy* Fig. consistently causing oneself to fail; more harmful to oneself than other people are. (Typically: *be ~; become ~.*) ☐ Ellen: My boss is my enemy. She never says anything good about me. Jane: Ellen, you’re your own worst enemy. If you did your job responsibly, your boss would be nicer.

*one’s say* one’s stance or position; what one thinks. (Typically: *get ~; have ~.*) ☐ I want to have my say on this matter. ☐ He got his say, and then he was happy.

*one’s sea legs* Fig. one’s ability to tolerate the movement of a ship at sea. (Typically: *get ~; have ~.*) ☐ Jean was a little awkward on the cruise at first, but in a few days she got her sea legs and was fine. ☐ You may feel a little sick until you get your sea legs.

*one’s second wind* 1. Lit. one’s stabilized breathing after exerting oneself for a short time. (Typically: *get ~; have ~.*) ☐ John was having a hard time running until he got his second wind. ☐ Bill had to quit the race because he never got his second wind. 2. Fig. one’s greater or renewed energy and productivity, gained at some time after starting. (Typically: *get ~; have ~.*) ☐ I usually get my second wind early in the afternoon. ☐ Mary is a better worker after she has her second wind.

*one’s start* one’s first career opportunity. (Typically: *get ~; have ~; give one ~.*) ☐ I had my start in painting when I was thirty. ☐ She helped me get my start by recommending me to the manager.

one’s **sunset years** Euph. one’s old age. ☐ Many people in their sunset years love to travel. ☐ Now is the time to think about financial planning for your sunset years.

*one’s walking papers* Fig. a notice that one is fired from one’s job. (Typically: *get ~; have ~; give one ~.*) ☐ Well, I’m through. I got my walking papers today. ☐ They are closing down my department. I guess I’ll get my walking papers soon.

one’s **way of life** one’s lifestyle; one’s pattern of living. ☐ That kind of thing just doesn’t fit into my way of life. ☐ Our way of life includes contributing to worthy causes.

one’s **word is one’s bond** Fig. one’s statement of agreement is as sound as a posting of a performance bond. ☐ Of course, you can trust anything I agree to verbally. My word is my bond. There’s no need to get it in writing.

one’s **work is cut out for one** Fig. one’s task is prepared for one; one has a lot of work to do. ☐ This is a big job. My work is cut out for me. ☐ The new president’s work is cut out for him.

one sandwich short of a picnic Inf. not very smart; lacking intelligence. (Jocular.) ☐ Poor Bob just isn’t too bright. He’s one sandwich short of a picnic. ☐ She’s not stupid; just one sandwich short of a picnic.

One swallow does not make a summer. and One swallow does not make a summer make. Prov. You should not assume that something is true just because you have seen one piece of evidence for it. ☐ Amanda: I got a good grade on this quiz! My troubles in school are over. Nancy: One swallow does not make a summer.

the one that got away Fig. the big fish that got away, especially as the subject of a fisherman’s story. ☐ The one that got away is always bigger than the one that got caught.

One thing leads to another. One event sets things up for another event, and so on. (As an explanation of how little things lead to big problems.) ☐ I kept spending more and more money until I was broke. You know how one thing leads to another. ☐ He bought a car, then a house, then a boat. One thing leads to another.

one thing or person after another a series of things or people that seems without limit. ☐ It’s just one problem after another. ☐ One customer after another has been buying shoes today!

one to a customer Fig. each person can have or receive only one. (As in sales restrictions where each customer is permitted to buy only one.) ☐ “Only one to a customer!” said the chef as he handed out the hamburgers. ☐ Is it one to a customer, or can I take two now?

one too many Euph. one drink of liquor too many, implying drunkenness. ☐ I think I’ve had one too many. It’s time to stop drinking. ☐ Don’t drive if you’ve had one too many.

*one up (on someone)* ahead of someone; having an advantage over someone. (Typically: *be ~; get ~.*) ☐ Tom is one up on Sally because he got a job and she didn’t. ☐ Yes, it sounds like Tom is one up.

one way or another somehow. ☐ Tom: Can we fix this radio, or do I have to buy a new one? Mary: Don’t fret! We’ll get it repaired one way or another. ☐ John: I think we’re lost. Alice: Don’t worry. We’ll get there one way or another.

one-horse town Fig. a very small town; a small and backward town. ☐ I refuse to spend a whole week in that one-horse town! ☐ I grew up in a one-horse town, and I liked it very much.
one-man show

1. Lit. a performance put on by one person. □ It was a one-man show, but it was very entertaining. □ For a one-man show, it was very long.
   2. Fig. an exhibition of the artistic works of one person. □ She is having a one-man show at the Northside Gallery. □ I’m having a one-man show next weekend. Come and see what I have done.

one-night stand

1. Lit. a performance lasting only one night. □ The band did a series of one-night stands down the East Coast. □ You can’t make a living doing one-night stands.
   2. Fig. a romance or sexual relationship that lasts only one night. □ It was not a romance, just a one-night stand. □ It looked like something that would last longer than a one-night stand.

*oneself again showing signs of being healthy again or restored. (*Typically: act like ~; be ~; feel like ~; seem like ~.) □ After such a long illness, it’s good to be myself again. □ I’m sorry that I lost my temper. I think I feel like myself again now.

one-track mind

Fig. a mind that thinks entirely or almost entirely about one subject. □ Adolescent boys often have one-track minds. All they're interested in is the opposite sex. □ Bob has a one-track mind. He can only talk about football.

online

1. Go to in line. 2. Fig. connected to a computer or network. □ As soon as I get online, I can check the balance of your account. □ I was online for an hour before I found out what I wanted to know.

only have eyes for someone Fig. [to be] loyal to only one person, in the context of romance. □ Oh, Jane! I only have eyes for you! □ Don’t waste any time on Tom. He only has eyes for Ann.

(Only) time will tell

Prov. You will only know the outcome after time has passed. □ Jill: Do you think Bill and Nancy will have a happy marriage? John: Only time will tell. □ I’m not sure yet if our advertising campaign was a success. Time will tell.

the only way to go the best way to do something; the best choice to make. □ Get a four-wheel drive car. It’s the only way to go. □ That’s it! A new house. It’s the only way to go.

*onto a good thing having found something useful, promising, or profitable. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ This is a great scheme. I know I’m onto a good thing. □ I’m onto a good thing. I’m sure I am.

*onto someone seeing through someone’s deception. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; catch ~.) □ By the time we got on to the con artists, they were out of town. □ The sheriff got on to Ted, and Ted wanted to get out of town fast.

*onto something 1. Fig. alerted to or aware of a deceitful plan. (*Typically: be ~; catch ~.) □ The cops are onto your little game here. Fig. having found something useful or promising; on the verge of discovering something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I think we are really onto something this time. □ I am onto a new discovery.

ooze (out) (from someone or something) and ooze out (of someone or something) to seep out of someone or something. □ The heavy oil oozed out from the hole in the barrel. □ Some blood was oozing out of his nose.

ooze with something 1. Lit. to flow or seep with something; to be covered with some oozing substance. □ The wound oozed with blood. □ The roast beef oozed with juices.

open a can of worms Go to a can of worms.

open a conversation to start a conversation. (See also strike up a conversation.) □ I tried to open a conversation with him, but he had nothing to say. □ She opened a conversation with an inquiry into my health, which got me talking about my favorite subject.

open a few doors (for someone) Go to open some doors (for someone).

open and aboveboard Go to honest and aboveboard.

(Open) confession is good for the soul. Prov. If you have done something wrong, you will feel better if you confess that you did it. □ You ought to tell Dad that you broke his radio. Open confession is good for the soul. □ Sue: I’ve been so upset about cheating on the exam that I haven’t been sleeping nights. Sam: You can do something about it; confession is good for the soul.

open fire (on someone) Fig. to start (doing something, such as asking questions or criticizing). (Based on open fire on someone or something.) □ The reporters opened fire on the mayor. □ When the reporters opened fire, the mayor was smiling, but not for long.

open fire (on someone or something) to begin shooting at someone or something. □ The troops opened fire on the enemy. □ The trainees opened fire on the target.

open for business [of a shop, store, restaurant, etc.] operating and ready to do business. □ The store is now open for business and invites you to come in. □ The construction will be finished in March, and we will be open for business in April.

open into something to open inward to something. □ The passageway opened into a dining room. □ Our kitchen opens into a bright breakfast nook.

*an open mind a mind or attitude that is open to new ideas and opinions. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; keep ~.) □ Please try to be nice and keep an open mind. It’s all not as bad as you think.

open one’s heart to someone or something 1. Fig. to tell all of one’s private thoughts to someone. □ I didn’t mean to open my heart to you. □ She opened her heart to the wrong magazine, and it published a scandalous story. 2. Fig. to become loving and solicitous toward someone; to donate money generously to someone or some cause. □ We opened our hearts to Fred, who was soliciting for a good cause. □ We hope you will all open your hearts to our plea.

open oneself to criticism to do something that makes one vulnerable to criticism. □ By saying something so stupid in public, you really opened yourself to criticism.

open (out) on(to) something [for a building’s doors] to exit toward something. □ The French doors opened out onto the terrace. □ The doors opened on a lovely patio.

open Pandora’s box Fig. to uncover a lot of unsuspected problems. □ When I asked Jane about her problems, I didn’t know I had opened Pandora’s box. □ You should be cautious with people who are upset. You don’t want to open Pandora’s box.
open season (on some creature) a time of unrestricted hunting of a particular game animal. □ It's always open season on rabbits around here.

open season (on someone) Fig. a period of time when everyone is criticizing someone. (Based on open season (on some creature).) □ It seems as if it's always open season on politicians. □ At the news conference, it was open season on the mayor.

an open secret something that is supposed to be known only by a few people but is known in fact to a great many people. □ Their engagement is an open secret. Only their friends are supposed to know, but in fact, the whole town knows. □ It's an open secret that Max is looking for a new job.

open some doors (for someone) and open a few doors (for someone) Fig. to gain access to opportunity or influence (for someone). □ Morris was able to open a few doors for Mary and get her an interview with the president.

open someone's eyes to someone or something Fig. to cause someone, including oneself, to become aware of someone or something. □ We finally opened our eyes to what was going on around us. □ The events of last night opened my eyes to Tom.

open someone up Fig. to perform a surgical operation requiring a major incision on someone. □ The doctor had to open George up to find out what was wrong. □ They opened up George, seeking the cause of his illness.

open something out to unfold or expand something; to open and spread something out. □ When she opened the fan out, she saw it was made of plastic. □ The peacock opened out its tail feathers and delighted the children.

open something up 1. Lit. to unwrap something; to open something. □ Yes, I want to open my presents up. □ I can't wait to open up my presents. □ Open up this door! 2. Fig. to begin examining or discussing something. □ Do you really want to open it up now? □ Now is the time to open up the question of taxes. 3. Fig. to reveal the possibilities of something; to reveal an opportunity. □ Your letter opened new possibilities up. □ Your comments opened up a whole new train of thought. 4. Fig. to start the use of something, such as land, a building, a business, etc. □ They opened the coastal lands up to resort development. □ We opened up a new store last March. 5. Fig. to make a vehicle go as fast as possible. (As in opening up the throttle.) □ We took the new car out on the highway and opened it up. □ I've never really opened up this truck. I don't know how fast it'll go. 6. to make something less congested. □ They opened the yard up by cutting out a lot of old scrubbery. □ We opened up the room by taking the piano out.

open something up (to someone) to make something available to someone; to permit someone to join something or participate in something. □ We intend to open the club up to everyone. □ We will open up our books to the auditors.

open the door to someone 1. Lit. to permit someone to enter a room, building, etc. □ The butler opened the door to the guests and they all entered. □ I opened the door to Mr. Wilson. 2. to make a move or passage easier for a person. □ Ann opened the door to Fred, who wanted to start a new career in writing. □ Mark opened the door to her, and she was always grateful to him.

open the door to something Fig. to invite something to happen. □ The armistice opened the door to peace talks. □ The door was opened to further discussion.

open to criticism vulnerable to criticism. □ Anything the president does is open to criticism.

open to question [an action or opinion] inviting question, examination, or refutation. □ Everything he told you is open to question and you should look into it.

open to something Fig. agreeable to hear or learn about new ideas and suggestions. □ The store owner was open to suggestions from her employees. □ We are always open to new ideas.

open up 1. Lit. open your door; open your mouth. (Usually Open up!) □ I want in. Open up! □ Open up! This is the police. 2. Fig. to become available. □ A new job is opening up at my office. □ Let me know if any other opportunities open up. 3. Fig. to go as fast as possible. (As in opening up the throttle.) □ I can't get this car to open up. Must be something wrong with the engine. □ Faster, Tom! Open up! Let's go! 4. to become clear, uncluttered, or open. □ As we drove along, the forest opened up, and we entered into a grassy plain. □ The sky opened up, and the sun shone.

open up (about someone or something) (with someone) and open up (on someone or something) (with someone) to speak freely about someone or something; to speak a great deal about someone or something. □ After a while, he began to open up about his disagreements. □ He opened up with us about the accident. □ She opened up on Fred with Alice.

open up (on someone, something, or an animal) to fire a gun or other weapon at someone, something, or an animal. □ The sergeant told the soldiers to open up on the enemy position. □ “Okay, you guys,” shouted the sergeant. “Open up!”

open (up) one's kimono Sl. to reveal what one is planning. (From the computer industry, referring especially to the involvement of the Japanese in this field.) □ Sam isn't one to open his kimono much when it comes to new products. □ Even if Tom appears to open up his kimono on this deal, don't put much stock in what he says.

open up (to someone) and open up (with someone) to tell [everything] to someone; to confess to someone. □ If she would only open up to me, perhaps I could help her. □ She just won't open up. Everything is “private.”

open up to something to become more accepting of someone or something. □ Finally, he opened up to the suggestion that he should leave. □ Finally the boss opened up to the notion of Tom as a manager.

open up (with someone) Go to open up (to someone).

open with someone or something to begin a season, session, series, or performance with someone or something. □ The conference will open with a series of invited speakers. □ The performance opened with Donna, who played the flute.

an open-and-shut case a simple and straightforward situation without complications. (Often said of criminal cases where the evidence is convincing.) □ The murder trial was an open-and-shut case. The defendant was caught with the murder weapon. □ Bob's death was an open-and-shut case of suicide. He left a suicide note.
opening gambit Fig. an opening movement, tactic, or statement which is made to secure a position that is to one's advantage.  □ The rebel army's opening gambit was to bomb the city's business district.  □ The prosecution's opening gambit was to call a witness who linked the defendant to the scene of the crime.

operate against someone or something to work against someone or something; to have a negative effect on someone or something.  □ All of this operates against our idea of fixing the garage up as a family room.  □ The new vacation policy operates against my plan to take all of July off.

operate from something to work out of something or some place.  □ I'm in business for myself. I operate from my home.  □ We operate from a garage in the back of City Hall.

operate on someone to perform a surgical operation on someone.  □ They decided not to operate on her.  □ She wasn't operated on after all.

operate on something 1. to work on something; to work with the insides of something. (As a surgeon might operate.)  □ He tried to operate on his watch and ruined it.  □ Todd operated on the door lock and fixed it. 2. to function or conduct business on a certain principle or assumption.  □ The company has always operated on the theory that the customer is always right.  □ Sam operates on the assumption that everyone is out to get him.

Opportunity knocks but once. Prov. You will only have one chance to do something important or profitable. (You can say opportunity knocks to signal that someone's chance to do something important is here right now.)  □ When Nancy got a scholarship offer from a college far away, her parents encouraged her to go, even though they didn't like the thought of her moving so far from home. "Opportunity knocks but once," they said, "and this may be your only chance to get a good education."

Opportunity makes a thief. Prov. Anyone would steal, given a chance to do so without being punished.  □ Mr. Cooper thought of himself as a moral man. But opportunity opposed to war.

the opposite sex the other sex; (from the point of view of a female) males; (from the point of view of a male) females. (Also with member of, as in the example.)  □ Ann is crazy about the opposite sex.  □ Bill is very shy when he's introduced to the opposite sex.  □ Do members of the opposite sex make you nervous?

opt for something to choose a particular option.  □ I opted for the orange one.  □ I opt for not going out at all.

opt in favor of someone or something to choose a particular person; to choose a particular thing.  □ Do you think she will opt in favor of this one or that?  □ We will opt in favor of David.

opt in(to something) to choose to join in.  □ She opted into our plans.  □ She opted in immediately.

opt out (of something) to choose not to be in something.  □ If you do that, I'm going to have to opt out of the club.  □ Then go ahead and opt out.

or else or suffer the consequences. (An inspecific threat of bad consequences.)  □ Do what I tell you, or else.  □ Don't be late for work, or else!

or what a way of adding emphasis to a yes-or-no question the speaker has asked. (In effect, if it wasn't what I said, what is it?)  □ Bob: Now, is this a fine day or what?  □ John: Looks okay to me.  □ Tom: Look at Bill and Mary. Do they make a fine couple or what?  □ Bob: Sure, they look great.

or words to that effect Fig. or similar words meaning the same thing.  □ John: It says right here in the contract, “You are expected to attend without fail,” or words to that effect.  □ Mary: That means I have to be there, huh?  □ John: You got it!  □ Sally: She said that I wasn't doing my job well, or words to that effect.  □ Jane: Well, you ought to find out exactly what she means. Sally: I'm afraid I know.

orbit (around) someone or something to circle around something in an orbit.  □ The flies orbited around Fred and his ice-cream cone.  □ Many satellites orbit around our planet.

ordain someone (as) something 1. Lit. to establish someone as a priest or minister.  □ In a lovely ceremony, they ordained David as a priest.  □ He was ordained as a priest by a bishop. 2. Fig. to establish someone as something.  □ They ordained the poor old man as a deputy sheriff.  □ Was he duly ordained as a Mercedes mechanic?

the order of the day something necessary or usual at a certain time.  □ Warm clothes are the order of the day when camping in the winter.  □ Going to bed early was the order of the day when we were young.

order some food to go Go to to go.

order someone about and order someone around to give commands to someone.  □ I don't like for someone to order me about.  □ Don't order me around!

order someone in(to something) to command someone to get into something.  □ The officer ordered Ann into the wagon.  □ She didn't want to go, but the cop ordered her in.

order someone off ((of) something) to command someone to get off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.)  □ The teacher ordered Tom off the steps.  □ He ordered him off.

order someone off the field [for a game official] to command a player to leave the playing area.  □ The referee will order you off the field.  □ He ordered us off the field.

order someone out of some place and order someone out1 to command that someone leave a place.  □ The cook ordered Judy out of the kitchen.  □ The teacher ordered out all the kids.

order something from someone or something to agree to purchase something from someone or a group.  □ We ordered some plants from the mail-order company.  □ I will order some of those clever little things from you as soon as I can.

order something in1 to have something, usually food, brought into one's house or place of business.  □ Do you want to order pizza in?  □ Shall I order in pizza?

orient someone to something 1. Lit. to help someone locate a compass direction or other similar location.  □ Try to orient Karen to the light so I can photograph her.  □ It took time, but I oriented myself to north at last. 2. Fig. to help someone adjust to something, a position, or a relationship.
Will you please orient Bill to our routine? She found it difficult to orient herself to the new procedures.

**originat**e from something to come from something or some place. Did you originate from around here? I originated from a different area of the country. Some of our customs originate from old beliefs.

**originat**e in something to have had a beginning in something or some place. The river originates in the Andes Mountains. All your troubles originate in your lungs.

**originat**e with someone or something to have been started by someone, something, or during a time period or event. Did this policy originate with you? This idea originated with the committee.

**originat**e something with something to decorate something with something. The driver ornamented his truck with lots of chrome. The room was ornamented with velvet drapes, wood paneling, family portraits—a den of Victorian virtue.

**oscillat**e between someone or something and someone or something else to swing between (choosing) someone and someone else; to swing between (choosing) something and something else. Fred oscillated between going to college and getting a job. The boss oscillated between John and Roger.

the other place Euph. hell. If you’re good, you’ll go to heaven, and if you’re bad, you’ll go to the other place. If she keeps up her drinking and gambling, she’s headed to the other place for sure.

the other side of the tracks and the wrong side of the tracks the poor part of a town or city. He was a rich boy, and she was a girl from the other side of the tracks. You don’t want to buy a house in that neighborhood. It’s on the wrong side of the tracks.

other things being equal and all things being equal Cliché if things stay the way they are now; if there are no complications from other factors. Other things being equal, we should have no trouble getting your order to you on time. I anticipate no problems, all things being equal.

other times, other manners. Prov. Different generations or eras have different customs. Amy thought her grandchildren addressed their friends in startlingly rude terms. “But then,” she reflected, “other times, other manners.” Jane: The young folks today are so shocking. Why, when I was their age, you wouldn’t kiss your husband in public, let alone some of the things these children do! Alan: Other times, other manners.

the other way (a)round the reverse; the opposite. No, it won’t fit that way. Try it the other way round. It doesn’t make any sense like that. It belongs the other way around.

An ounce of common sense is worth a pound of theory. Prov. Common sense will help you solve problems more than theory will. The psychologist had many elaborate theories about how to raise her child, but often forgot that an ounce of common sense is worth a pound of theory.

An ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit. Prov. Knowing when to refrain from making jokes is better than being able to make jokes all the time. Mabel makes fun of everybody, regardless of whether or not she hurts their feelings. Someone should tell her that an ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Prov. If you put in a little effort to prevent a problem, you will not have to put in a lot of effort to solve the problem. Brush your teeth every day; that way you won’t have to go to the dentist to have cavities filled. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you get in the habit of being careful with your new stereo, chances are you won’t break it and have to have it fixed later. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Our house is your house. Go to My house is your house.

oust someone from something to force someone to leave something or some place; to throw someone out of something or some place. They ousted the boys from the bar. The underage kids were ousted from the tavern quickly.

*an out an excuse; means of avoiding something. (Typically: have ~; give someone ~.) He’s very clever. No matter what happens, he always has an out.

out an amount of money lacking something; having lost or wasted something. I’m out ten bucks because of my miscalculation. I’m out the price of a meal.

*out and about outside the house; outdoors. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) Beth has been ill, but now she’s out and about. As soon as I feel better, I’ll be able to get out and about.

out at some place located at a distant place. Tom’s out at the farm and there’s no phone there, so you can’t talk to him. Jed is out at the cabin on a hunting trip.

out cold and out like a light 1. Fig. unconscious. I fell and hit my head. I was out cold for about a minute. Tom fainted! He’s out like a light! 2. Fig. intoxicated. Four beers and he was out cold. He sat in his chair at the table, out cold. Fig. sound asleep. After a few minutes of tossing and turning, she was out like a light.

out for blood Fig. aggressively seeking to harm or get revenge; angry and looking for the cause of one’s distress. The opposite team is out for blood, but we have a good defense.

out for the count Go to down for the count.

*out from something some distance away from something. (Typically: be ~; get ~; crawl ~; creep ~; move ~.) I would like to be farther out from the city. I need to get out from the town.

*out (from under someone or something) 1. Lit. out from beneath someone or something. (Typically: be ~; get ~; crawl ~; creep ~; move ~.) Will you please get out from under my bed? The dog got out from under her just before she sat down. 2. Fig. free of someone’s control or the burden of a problem. (Typically: be ~; get ~; crawl ~; move ~.) Mary wanted to get out from under her mother. There is so much work to do! I don’t know when I’ll ever get out from under it.

out front 1. in the front of one’s house. Our mailbox is out front. We have a spruce tree out front and a maple tree in the back. 2. leading, as in a race. My horse was out front by two lengths until the final turn. The other candidate is out front in the polls.

out (in bloom) Go to next.
out (in blossom) and out (in bloom) [of a plant or tree] blooming; [of flowers] open in blooms. (Typically: be ~; come ~.) □ All the trees were out in blossom. □ The daffodils won't be out until next week.

out in droves Go to out in large numbers.

out in force Fig. appearing in great strength. (Typically: be ~; come ~; go ~.) See also out in large numbers.) □ What a night! The mosquitoes are out in force. □ The police went out in force over the holiday weekend.

out in large numbers and out in droves Fig. in evidence in some large amount. (Typically: be ~; come ~; go ~.) □ The sidewalk salesmen are out in droves today. □ The ants were out in large numbers at the picnic.

out in left field Fig. offbeat; unusual and eccentric. (See also out of left field.) □ Sally is a lot of fun, but she's sort of out in left field. □ What a strange idea. It's really out in left field.

out in the cold 1. Lit. outdoors where it is cold. (Typically: be ~; keep someone or some creature ~; leave someone or some creature ~; put someone or some creature ~.) □ Open the door! Let me in! Don't keep me out in the cold! □ Who left the dog out in the cold all night? 2. Fig. not informed about what is happening or has happened. (Typically: be ~; keep someone ~; leave someone ~.) □ Don't keep your supervisor out in the cold. Tell her what's going on. □ Please don't leave me out in the cold. Share the news with me! 3. Fig. excluded. (Typically: be ~; keep someone ~; leave someone ~.) □ There was a party last night, but my friends left me out in the cold. □ When it came to the final prizes in the dog show, they left our animals out in the cold.

out in the open 1. Lit. visible in an open space; exposed in an open area. (Typically: be ~; come ~; get ~; get something ~;) □ The trucks are out in the open where we can see them. □ They came out in the open. 2. Fig. [for something] to be public knowledge. (Typically: be ~; bring something ~; get ~; get something ~;) □ Is this matter out in the open, or is it still secret? □ Let's get this out in the open and discuss it.

out like a light Go to out cold.

out of action not operating temporarily; not functioning normally. □ The pitcher was out of action for a month because of an injury. □ I will be out of action for a while.

out of (all) proportion of exaggerated importance; of an unrealistic importance or size compared to something else. (Typically: be ~; blow something ~; grow ~.) □ This problem has grown out of all proportion. □ Yes, this figure is way out of proportion to the others in the painting.

out of breath and out of wind breathing fast and hard; gasping for breath. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I ran so much that I got out of breath. □ Mary gets out of wind when she climbs stairs.

out of character 1. unlike one's usual behavior. □ Ann's remark was quite out of character. □ It was out of character for Ann to act so stubborn. 2. inappropriate for the character that an actor is playing. □ Bill went out of character when the audience started giggling. □ Bill played the part so well that it was hard for him to get out of character after the performance.

out of circulation 1. Lit. no longer available for use or lending. (Usually said of library materials, certain kinds of currency, etc.) □ I'm sorry, but the book you want is temporarily out of circulation. □ How long will it be out of circulation? 2. Fig. not interacting socially with other people. □ I don't know what's happening because I've been out of circulation for a while. □ My cold has kept me out of circulation for a few weeks.

out of commission 1. Lit. [for a ship] to be not currently in use or under command. □ This vessel will remain out of commission for another month. □ The ship has been out of commission since repairs began. 2. Fig. broken, unserviceable, or inoperable; not currently in use. □ My watch is out of commission and needs a new battery. □ I can't run in the marathon because my knees are out of commission.

out of condition Go to out of shape.

out of consideration (for someone or something) with consideration for someone or something; with kind regard for someone or something. □ Out of consideration for your past efforts, I will do what you ask. □ They let me do it out of consideration. It was very thoughtful of them.

out of context [of an utterance or the report of an action] removed from the surrounding context of the event, thereby misrepresenting the intent of the utterance or report. (Typically: be ~; lift something ~; quote someone or something ~; take something ~;) □ You took her remarks out of context! You're the dishonest person, not her!

out of control 1. Lit. [of something, such as a machine] not responding to direction or instructions. (Typically: be ~; go ~;) □ The computer is out of control and making funny-looking characters all over the screen. □ My CD player is out of control and only makes screeching noises. 2. and out of hand Fig. acting wildly or violently. (Typically: be ~; get ~;) □ Watch out, that dog is out of control. □ The kids got out of hand again.

out of courtesy (to someone) in order to be polite to someone; out of consideration for someone. □ We invited Mary's brother out of courtesy to her. □ They invited me out of courtesy.

out of debt no longer owing a debt. (Typically: be ~; get ~; get oneself ~;) □ I've taken a second job so I can get myself out of debt.

out of earshot Fig. too far from the source of a sound to hear the sound. □ I was out of earshot and could not hear the conversation. □ Mary waited until her children were out of earshot before mentioning the presents she got them.

out of fashion Go to out of style.

out of favor (with someone) no longer desirable or preferred by someone. (Typically: be ~; go ~;) □ I can't ask John to help. I'm out of favor with him. □ That kind of thing has been out of favor for years.

out of focus blurred or fuzzy; seen indistinctly. (Typically: be ~; get ~; go ~;) □ What I saw through the binoculars was sort of out of focus. □ The scene was out of focus.

out of gas 1. Lit. without gasoline (in a car, truck, etc.). (Typically: be ~; run ~;) □ We can't go any farther. We're out of gas. □ This car will be completely out of gas in a few more miles. 2. Fig. tired; exhausted; worn out. (Typ-
out of season

You know, you are really out of your depth in this project. □ I am sure I am out of my depth in organic chemistry.

*out of one's element Fig. not in a natural or comfortable situation. (*Typically: be ~; get ~;) □ When it comes to computers, I'm out of my element. □ Sally's out of her element in math.

out of one's head Go to next.

*out of one's mind and *out of one's head; *out of one's senses Fig. to be silly and senseless; to be crazy and irrational. (*Typically: be ~; go ~;) □ Why did you do that? You must be out of your mind! □ Don't drive so fast, Tom! You have to be out of your head!

*out of one's skull Sl. intoxicated. (*Typically: be ~; go ~;) □ Oh, man, I drank till I was out of my skull. □ Two beers and he went out of his skull.

out of one's way Go to out of the way.

out of order 1. Lit. [of something or things] out of the proper sequence. □ She noticed that the books on the shelf were out of order. □ All these cards were alphabetized, and now they're out of order. 2. Fig. [of something] incapable of operating; [of something] broken. □ The elevator is out of order again. □ My stereo is out of order. 3. Fig. not following correct parliamentary procedure. □ I was declared out of order by the chair. □ Anne inquired, “Isn’t a motion to table the question out of order at this time?”

*out of patience annoyed and impatient after being patient for a while. (*Typically: be ~; run ~;) □ I finally ran out of patience and lost my temper. □ The boss is finally out of patience with me.

*out of place 1. Lit. not in the proper place. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; knock something ~;) □ The book I wanted was out of place, and I almost did not find it. □ How did the furniture in this room get out of place? 2. Fig. inappropriate. (*Typically: be ~; seem ~;) □ That kind of behavior is out of place at a party. □ Your crude language is out of place. 3. Fig. [of someone] awkward and unwelcome. (*Typically: be ~; feel ~; seem ~;) □ I feel out of place at formal dances. □ Bob and Ann felt out of place at the picnic, so they went home.

*out of practice performing poorly due to a lack of practice. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; go ~;) □ I used to be able to play the piano extremely well, but now I’m out of practice. □ The baseball players lost the game because they were out of practice.

out of print [for a book] to be no longer available from the publisher. □ The book you want just went out of print, but perhaps I can find a used copy for you. □ It was published nearly ten years ago, so it’s probably out of print.

out of proportion Go to out of (all) proportion.

out of reach 1. Lit. not near enough to be reached or touched. □ Place the cookies out of reach, or the children will eat them all. □ The mouse ran behind the piano, out of reach. The cat just sat and waited for it. 2. Fig. unattainable. □ I wanted to be president, but I’m afraid that such a goal is out of reach. □ I shall choose a goal that is not out of reach.

out of season 1. not now available for sale. □ Sorry, oysters are out of season. We don’t have any. □ Watermelon is out of season in the winter. 2. Fig. not now legally able to

out of hand Go to out of control.

*out of harm's way Fig. not liable to be harmed; away from any causes of harm. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; get someone ~;) □ We should try to get all the civilians out of harm’s way.

out of hock 1. Lit. [of something] bought back from a pawn shop. □ When I get my watch out of hock, I will always be on time. 2. Fig. out of debt; having one's debts paid. □ When I pay off my credit cards, I'll be out of hock for the first time in years.

out of it 1. Go to out to lunch. 2. intoxicated. □ Two drinks and she was totally out of it. □ When they are out of it, they are quite dangerous.

out of keeping with something [of something said or behavior] improper. (*Typically: be ~; do ~; feel ~; have ~; seem ~; set or assumed limits.) □ That is quite out of keeping with your statement of yesterday.

out of kilter and *off-kilter 1. Lit. out of balance; crooked or tilted. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; knock something ~;) □ John, your tie is sort of off-kilter. Let me fix it. □ Please straighten the picture on the wall. It's out of kilter. 2. Fig. malfunctioning; on the fritz. (*Typically: be ~; go ~;) □ My furnace is out of kilter. I have to call someone to fix it. □ This computer is out of kilter. It doesn't let me log on.

out of left field suddenly; from an unexpected source or direction. (See also out in left field.) □ Most of your ideas are out of left field. □ All of his paintings are right out of left field.

out of line with something suddenly; not properly lined up [of something said or behavior] improper. □ I told you not to get out of line. Now, get back in line. □ One of those books on the shelf is out of line with the others. Please fix it. □ Fig. beyond certain set or assumed limits. □ Your bid on this project is completely out of line with our expectations. □ The cost of this meal is out of line with what other restaurants charge. □ Your asking price is quite out of line! 3. Fig. [of something said or behavior] improper. □ I'm afraid that your behavior was quite out of line. I do not wish to speak further about this matter. □ Bill, that remark was out of line. Please be more respectful. □ Your request is out of line.

out of luck without good luck; having bad fortune. □ If you wanted some ice cream, you're out of luck. □ I was out of luck. I got there too late to get a seat.

out of necessity because of necessity; due to need. □ I bought this hat out of necessity. I needed one, and this was all there was. □ We sold our car out of necessity.

*out of nowhere appearing suddenly, without warning. (*Typically: appear ~; come ~; materialize ~;) □ A huge bear appeared out of nowhere and roared and threatened us. □ Suddenly, a truck came out of nowhere. □ Without warning, the storm came out of nowhere.

*out of one's depth Fig. involved in something that is beyond one's capabilities. (*Typically: be ~; get ~;) □ You know, you are really out of your depth in this project. □ I am sure I am out of my depth in organic chemistry.
be hunted or caught.  Are salmon out of season?  I caught a trout out of season and had to pay a fine.

out of service inoperable; not currently operating.  Both elevators had been put out of service, so I had to use the stairs.  The washroom is temporarily out of service.

out of shape and out of condition not in good physical condition.  I get out of breath when I run because I'm out of shape.  Keep exercising regularly, or you'll get out of condition.

**out of sight** 1. not visible; too far away to be seen.  (*Typically: be ~; get ~; go ~; keep ~; stay ~.)  □ The cat kept out of sight until the mouse came out.  □ "Get out of sight, or they'll see you!" called John. 2. figuratively stunning, unbelievable, or awesome.  (*Typically: be ~; get ~.)  □ Wow, this music is out of sight!  □ What a wild party.  It's out of sight! 3. Fig. very expensive; high in price.  (*Typically: be ~; get ~; go ~.)  □ Prices at that restaurant are out of sight.  □ The cost of medical care has gone out of sight. 4. Sl. heavily intoxicated.  (*Typically: be ~.)  □ They've been drinking since noon, and they're out of sight.  □ Man, is she ever out of sight!

Out of sight, out of mind. Prov. If you do not see someone or something frequently, you will forget about it. (Sometimes used to imply that you will forget about people who have moved away.)  □ Ever since I moved, none of my old friends have gotten in touch with me. It's out of sight, out of mind with them, evidently.

**out of sync** uncoordinated; unsynchronized. (An abbreviation for synchronization.)  (*Typically: be ~; get ~.)  □ Our efforts are out of sync.  □ My watch and your watch are out of sync.

out of the ballpark Fig. beyond the amount of money suggested or available.  □ Your estimate is completely out of the ballpark. Just forget it.

**out of the closet** 1. Fig. revealing one's secret interests.  (*Typically: be ~; come ~; get ~.)  □ Tom Brown came out of the closet and admitted that he likes to knit.  □ It's time that all of you lovers of chamber music came out of the closet and attended our concerts. 2. Fig. revealing that one is homosexual.  (*Typically: be ~; come ~; bring someone ~.)  □ Tom surprised his parents when he came out of the closet.  □ It was difficult for him to be out of the closet.

out of the corner of one's eye Fig. [seeing something] at a glance; glimpsing something, as with peripheral vision.  □ I saw someone do it out of the corner of my eye. It might have been Jane who did it.  □ I only saw the accident out of the corner of my eye. I don't know who is at fault.

**out of the frying pan (and) into the fire** Fig. from a bad situation to a worse situation.  (*Typically: get ~; go ~; jump ~.)  □ When I tried to argue about my fine for a traffic violation, the judge charged me with contempt of court. I really went out of the frying pan into the fire.  □ I got deeply in debt. Then I really got out of the frying pan into the fire when I lost my job.

out of the goodness of one's heart Fig. simply because one is kind.  (*Typically: be something ~; do something ~.)  □ What are you going to pay me? You don't expect me to do this out of the goodness of my heart, do you?

out of the hole Fig. out of debt.  □ I get paid next week, and then I can get out of the hole.  □ I can't seem to get out of the hole. I keep spending more money than I earn.

Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems). Prov. Children occasionally say remarkable or insightful things.  □ Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were quietly bickering in the kitchen when their seven-year-old daughter came in and said, "You guys should get counseling." After a surprised pause, Mrs. Doyle remarked, "Out of the mouths of babes."  □ Child: Don't eat so much candy, Mommy. Candy is bad for your teeth. Mother: Out of the mouths of babes oft times come gems.

out of the ordinary unusual.  □ It was a good meal, but not out of the ordinary.  □ Your report was nicely done, but nothing out of the ordinary.
out of the picture Fig. no longer relevant to a situation; departed; dead. □ Now that Tom is out of the picture, we needn’t concern ourselves about his objections. □ With her husband out of the picture, she can begin living as she pleases.

out of the question Fig. not allowed; not permitted. □ I’m sorry, but your taking my car is out of the question. □ You can’t go to Florida this spring. We can’t afford it. It’s out of the question.

out of the red Fig. out of debt; into profitability. □ This year our company is likely to get out of the red before fall. □ If we can cut down on expenses, we can get out of the red fairly soon.

out of the running Fig. no longer being considered; eliminated from a contest. □ After the first part of the diving meet, three members of our team were out of the running. □ After the scandal was made public, I was out of the running.

out of the swim of things Fig. not in the middle of activity; not involved in things. (The opposite of in the swim of things.) □ While I had my cold, I got out of the swim of things. □ I’ve been out of the swim of things for a few weeks. Please bring me up-to-date.

out of the way 1. (Typically: be ~; get ~) □ The oboe is out of tune with the flute. □ The flute is out of tune with John. □ They are all out of tune. 2. Fig. not in agreement with someone or something. (Typically: be ~) □ Your proposal is out of tune with my ideas of what we should be doing. □ Your ideas are out of tune with company policy.

out of turn not at the proper time; not in the proper or expected order. □ We were permitted to be served out of turn because we had to leave early. □ Bill tried to register out of turn and was sent away.

out of w(h)ack 1. Lit. not in musical harmony with someone or something. (Typically: be ~) □ Why do you always act as if you’re out of whack? □ I’m not out of wack. I’m eccentric. 2. Fig. out of adjustment; to be out of order. (Typically: be ~; get ~) □ I’m afraid that my watch is out of whack. □ The elevator is out of wack. We’ll have to walk up.

out of wack. We’ll have to walk up.

out of breath Go to out of breath.

out of work unemployed; having lost one’s job. □ Todd was out of work for almost a year. □ Too many people were out of work, and the economy got into trouble.

out on a limb 1. Lit. out on a limb of a tree where it is dangerous. (Typically: be ~; go ~) □ It’s okay to climb the tree, but don’t go out on a limb and fall off. 2. Fig. in a dangerous position to do something; at risk. (Typically: be ~; go ~; put someone ~) □ I don’t want to go out on a limb, but I think we can afford to do it. □ If I had to go out on a limb, I would say that it will be a month before your merchandise will be delivered.

out on bail out of jail after a court appearance and pending trial because bail bond money has been paid. (The money will be forfeited if the person who is out on bail does not appear for trial at the proper time.) □ Bob got out on bail waiting for his trial. □ The robber committed another crime while out on bail.

out on parole out of prison, conditionally, before one’s total sentence is served. □ Bob was caught using drugs while out on parole and was sent back to prison. □ He has to be careful and obey the law because he is out on parole.

out on parole (out) on parole out of prison, conditionally, before one’s total sentence is served. □ Bob was caught using drugs while out on parole and was sent back to prison. □ He has to be careful and obey the law because he is out on parole.

out on parole (out) on parole out of prison, conditionally, before one’s total sentence is served. □ Bob was caught using drugs while out on parole and was sent back to prison. □ He has to be careful and obey the law because he is out on parole.

out on parole (out) on parole out of prison, conditionally, before one’s total sentence is served. □ Bob was caught using drugs while out on parole and was sent back to prison. □ He has to be careful and obey the law because he is out on parole.

out on parole (out) on parole out of prison, conditionally, before one’s total sentence is served. □ Bob was caught using drugs while out on parole and was sent back to prison. □ He has to be careful and obey the law because he is out on parole.

out on parole (out) on parole out of prison, conditionally, before one’s total sentence is served. □ Bob was caught using drugs while out on parole and was sent back to prison. □ He has to be careful and obey the law because he is out on parole.

out on parole (out) on parole out of prison, conditionally, before one’s total sentence is served. □ Bob was caught using drugs while out on parole and was sent back to prison. □ He has to be careful and obey the law because he is out on parole.
Out, please. Please let me get out. (Said by someone trying to get out of an elevator. Compare this with Coming through, please.)

out to (a meal) to be away, eating a meal. Mary is out to lunch right now. Fred went out to dinner for the evening.

out to lunch 1. Lit. eating lunch away from one's place of work or activity. I'm sorry, but Sally Jones is out to lunch.

out to lunch 2. Fig. intending to harm someone in particular. I know they are out to get me! They hate me!

out to win determined to win. Bobby is out to win at all costs! He can't face losing.

out West in the western part of the United States. We lived out West for nearly ten years. Do they really ride horses out West?

*out-of-bounds 1. Lit. outside the boundaries of the playing area. The ball went out-of-bounds just at the end of the game.

*off-limits Fig. forbidden. This area is off-limits. You can't go in there.

out-of-pocket expenses Fig. the actual amount of money spent. My employer usually reimburses all out-of-pocket expenses for a business trip.

outside of something except for something; besides something. Outside of the cost of my laundry, I have practically no expenses. Outside of some new shoes, I don't need any new clothing.

*over a barrel Fig. out of one's control; in a dilemma. He got me over a barrel, and I had to do what he said. Ann will do exactly what I say. I've got her over a barrel.

over and above something Fig. more than something; in addition to something. You'll need another twenty dollars over and above the amount you have already given me.

over and over again repeatedly. She stamped her foot over and over again. Bill whistled the same song over and over.

over easy Fig. [of eggs] turned carefully during cooking.

over my dead body! Inf. Fig. a defiant phrase indicating the strength of one's opposition to something. (A joking response is "That can be arranged.")

over the counter Fig. [of medication bought or sold] without a prescription. You can buy it over the counter.

over the edge excessive; out of control. His performance was over the edge. Too long, too dirty, and too loud.

over the hill 1. Fig. Inf. escaped from prison or the military. Two privates went over the hill last night.

over the long haul and in the long haul; in the long run Fig. long term; over a long period of time. Over the long haul, this model will prove best.

over the top 1. Fig. having gained more than one's goal. Our fund-raising campaign went over the top by $3,000.

over the wall reaching freedom from a prison. Max tried to go over the wall, but they caught him.
own up (to something)

*over (with) finished; concluded. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I hope this thing gets over with pretty soon. □ When will the lecture get over?

overdose (someone) on something and overdose someone with something to give someone too much of some substance, usually a drug. □ The police say he overdosed on heroine. □ Sam overdosed his sister on the cough medicine. □ She overdosed herself with aspirin.

overflow into something to spill over into something. □ The river overflowed into the surrounding farmland. □ The water in the bowl overflowed into the sink.

overflow with someone or something to have so much or so many people or things that they spill over. □ The kitchen overflowed with the guests. □ My cup overflowed with coffee and spilled on the counter.

owe someone a debt of gratitude a large amount of thanks owed to someone who deserves gratitude. (Actually payment of the debt is owed.) □ We owe you a debt of gratitude for all you have done for us.

owe someone a pound of flesh Go to a pound of flesh.

owe something (to someone) (for something) to be under obligation to pay or repay someone for something. □ I owe forty dollars to Ann for the dinner. □ I owe money for the gift to Ann. □ I still owe money for the gift. □ Do you still owe money to Ann?

owing to because of something; due to the fact of something. □ Owing to the lateness of the evening, I must go home. □ We were late owing to the heavy traffic.

own flesh and blood Go to flesh and blood.

own up to someone to confess or admit something to someone. □ Finally, he owned up to his mother about breaking the vase. □ We had hoped he would own up to us sooner.

own up (to something) to admit something; to confess to something. □ I know you broke the window. Come on and own up to it.
pace around and pace about to walk around nervously or anxiously. □ Stop pacing around and sit down. □ There is no need to pace about.
pace back and forth and pace up and down to walk over and over the same short route nervously or anxiously. □ The leopard paced back and forth in its cage. □ I paced up and down, worrying about a variety of things.
pace something off! to mark off a distance by counting the number of even strides taken while walking. □ The farmer paced a few yards off and pounded a stake into the soil. □ He paced off a few yards.
pace something out! 1. Lit. to measure a distance by counting the number of even strides taken while walking. □ He paced the distance out and wrote it down. □ He paced out the distance from the door to the mailbox. 2. Fig. to deal with a problem by pacing around. □ When she was upset, she walked and walked while she thought through her problem. When Ed came into the room, she was pacing a new crisis out. □ She usually paced out her anxiety.
pace up and down Go to pace back and forth.
pack a punch Go to next.
pack a wallop and pack a punch Fig. to provide a burst of energy, power, or excitement. □ Wow, this spicy food really packs a wallop. □ I put a special kind of gasoline in my car because I thought it would pack a punch. It didn’t.
pack down [for something] to settle down in a container. □ The cereal has packed down in the box so that it seems that the box is only half full. □ Everything was packed down carefully inside.
pack it in 1. Fig. to quit trying to do something; to give up trying something and quit. □ I was so distressed that I almost packed it in. □ I’ve had enough! I’m going to pack it in. 2. Fig. to go to bed. □ Good night. It’s time for me to pack it in. □ We drove to a hotel and packed it in.
a pack of lies a series of lies. □ The thief told a pack of lies to cover up the crime. □ John listened to Bill’s pack of lies about the fight and became very angry.
pack someone off! to someone or something to send someone away to someone or some place. □ Laura just packed all the kids off to summer camp. □ She packed off the kids to their camp. □ After a lot of planning and a few tears, she packed them all off.
pack someone or something in! Go to pack someone or something into something.

pack someone or something (in!) like sardines Fig. to squeeze in as many people or things as possible. (From the way that many sardines are packed into a can.) □ They packed us in like sardines. There was no room to breathe. □ They packed in the people like sardines. □ Dave got a box and packed old negatives in like sardines.
pack someone or something into something and pack someone or something in! to press or push someone or something into something; to manage to get a lot of things or people into a place. □ The boys packed a lot of kids into a telephone booth as a gag. □ They packed in a lot of kids.
pack someone or something together! to press or squeeze people or things together. □ The ushers packed the people together as much as they dared. □ They packed together all the people standing in the room. □ They packed the cups together too tightly and some broke.
pack something away! to pack something up and put it away. □ Pack this mirror away where it will be safe. □ Please pack away this mirror carefully.
pack something down! to make something more compact; to press something in a container down so it takes less space. □ The traffic packed down the snow. □ Pack the grass down in the basket so the basket will hold more.
pack something in something to surround or enclose something in something. □ They packed his wounded hand in ice, then took him to the hospital. □ Pack the vase in shredded paper before you close the box.
pack something off! to someone or something to send something to someone or something. □ I will pack the books off to you immediately. □ She packed off the books to my home address. □ Harry found the books I wanted and packed them off.
pack something up! (in something) to prepare something to be transported by placing it into a container. □ Gerry will pack the dishes up in a strong box, using lots of crumpled paper. □ Please pack up the dishes carefully.
pack them in Fig. to draw a lot of people. □ It was a good night at the theater. The play really packed them in. □ The circus manager knew he could pack them in if he advertised the lion tamer.
pack up to prepare one’s belongings to be transported by placing them into a container; to gather one’s things together for one’s departure. □ If we are going to leave in the morning, we should pack up now. □ I think you should pack up and be ready to leave at a moment’s notice. □ He didn’t say good-bye. He just packed up and left.
a package deal Fig. a collection or group of related goods or services sold as a unit. □ I got all these tools in a package deal for only $39.95. □ What about giving me all three shirts as a package deal? packed (in) like sardines Fig. packed very tightly. □ It was terribly crowded there. We were packed in like sardines. □ The bus was full. The passengers were packed like sardines.
pad down (some place) Sl. to make one’s bed somewhere, usually a casual or temporary bed. □ Do you mind if I pad down at your place for the night? □ Can I pad down tonight? pad out Sl. to go to bed or to sleep. □ Man, if I don’t pad out by midnight, I’m a zombie. □ Why don’t you people go home so I can pad out?
pad something out Fig. to make something appear to be larger or longer by adding unnecessary material. □ If we pad the costume out here, it will make the person who wears it look much plumper. □ Let’s pad out this paragraph a little.

pad the bill Fig. to put unnecessary or additional items on a bill to make the total cost higher. □ The plumber had padded the bill with things we didn’t need. □ I was falsely accused of padding the bill.

paddle one’s own canoe Fig. to do something by oneself; to be alone. □ I’ve been left to paddle my own canoe too many times. □ Sally isn’t with us. She’s off paddling her own canoe.

a pain in the ass and a pain in the butt; a pain in the neck Fig. a very annoying thing or person. (Crude. Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion. An elaboration of pain. Use caution with ass. Butt is less offensive. Rear is euphemistic.) □ That guy is a real pain in the ass. □ Things like that give me a pain in the butt.

a pain in the ass and a pain in the neck Fig. a bother; an annoyance. □ This assignment is a pain in the neck. □ Your little brother is a pain in the neck.

pan over someone or something Fig. to turn or rotate a film or television camera so that the picture moves across a view. □ The camera operator panned across to the window on the opposite side of the room.

pan out 1. to move back to a wider angle picture using a zoom lens. □ We panned up and had a fine time together. □ They panned up with each other.

pan out 2. and zoom out to move back to a wider angle picture using a zoom lens. □ The camera zoomed out.

pale around the gills and blue around the gills; green around the gills Fig. looking sick. (The around can be replaced with about.) □ John is looking a little pale around the gills. What’s wrong? □ Oh, I feel a little green about the gills.

*pale as a ghost and *pale as death very pale. (Also: as pale as a ghost. “What happened?” her friends gasped. □ What’s the matter? You’re pale as death!

pale as death Go to previous.

pale at something to become weak, frightened, or pale from fear of something or the thought of something. □ Bob paled at the thought of having to drive all the way back to get the forgotten suitcase. □ We paled at the notion that we would always be poor.

pale beside someone or something Fig. to appear to be weak or unimportant when compared to someone or something. □ He is competent, but he pales beside Fran. □ My meager effort pales beside your masterpiece.

pale by comparison and pale in comparison Fig. to appear to be deficient in comparison to something else. □ My work pales by comparison with yours. You are a real pro.

pally (with someone) friendly or overly friendly with someone, as a pal would be. □ I don’t know why Sue acts so pally. I hardly know her. □ She doesn’t seem pally with me.

palm someone or something off (on someone) (as someone or something) and pass someone or something off (on someone) (as someone or something); pawn someone or something off (on someone) (as someone or something) Fig. to give someone or something to someone as a gift that appears to be someone or something desirable. (As if the gift had been concealed in one’s palm until it was gotten rid of.) □ Are you trying to palm that annoying client off on me as a hot prospect? □ Don’t palm off that pest on me. □ Please don’t pass that problem off on me as a challenge. □ Don’t pass it off on me! □ Don’t pawn it off on me as something of value.

pan across to someone or something to turn or rotate a film or television camera so that the picture follows movement or moves to and settles on someone or something. □ The camera panned across to Mary, who was sitting, looking out the window. □ The camera operator panned across to the window on the opposite side of the room.

pan for something to search for a precious metal, usually gold, by using a pan to locate the bits of metal in sand and gravel in a stream bed. □ When I was in Alaska, I panned for gold in a little stream set aside for tourists. □ The old prospector spent many hours panning for gold.

pan in (on someone or something) Go to zoom in (on someone or something).

pan out 1. and zoom out to move back to a wider angle picture using a zoom lens. □ The camera zoomed out. □ Pan out at this point in the script and give a wider view of the scene. 2. Go to turn out (all right).

pan over someone or something to turn or rotate a film or television camera so that the picture moves across a view...
pander to someone or something  to cater toward undesirable tastes or people with undesirable tastes. All your writing seems to pander to persons with poor taste. You are pandering to the moral drags of society.

panic at something to lose control in a frightening or shocking situation. Try not to panic at what you see. It will be a shock. Don’t panic at the price of food. It will be worse next week.

panic someone by something to make someone lose control by doing something. She panicked Denise by describing the event too vividly. She panicked her horse by jerking the reins too tightly.

pant for air to breathe fast and hard in need of air. I am just panting for some interesting news.

pant for someone or something to desire or long for something. Laura had been running but she was able to pant the name of the injured person out. She panted out the name.

paper over something 1. Lit. to put a layer of wallpaper on a wall. We papered over the wall, giving the room a bright, new look. We papered over the old plaster on the wall. 2. to cover up some sort of blemish on a wall with wallpaper. We papered over a lot of little cracks. Sam papered over all the flaws in the plaster wall. 3. Fig. to conceal something; to cover something up. Don’t try to paper over the mess you have made. George tried to paper over all his mistakes.

paper over the cracks (in something) Fig. to try to hide faults or difficulties, often in a hasty or not very successful way. (Based on paper over something 2.) The politician tried to paper over the cracks in his party’s economic policy. Tom tried to paper over the cracks in his relationship with the boss, but it was not possible. She didn’t explain it. She just papered over the cracks.

* a paper trail Fig. a series of records that is possible to examine to find out the sequence of things that happen. (Typically: have ~; leave ~; make ~.) The legal department requires all these forms so that there is a paper trail of all activity.

par for the course typical; about what one could expect. It panned over Roger as if he weren’t there—which is exactly the effect the director wanted.

parade someone or something in front of someone or something to exhibit someone or something in front of someone or something, as if in a parade. One by one, the teacher paraded the honor students in front of the parents. The sheriff paraded the suspects in front of the camera. The sheriff paraded the suspects in front of the victim.

a paradise (on earth) Fig. a place on earth that is as lovely as paradise. The retirement home was simply a paradise on earth. The beach where we went for our vacation was a paradise.

parcel someone or something out Fig. to divide up and send or give away people or things. Carla parcelled all the uniforms out so everyone would have one to wear for the parade. We will parcel out the children for the summer.

parcel something up to wrap something up in a package. Would you parcel the papers up and set them in the corner? Parcel up the files and place them on top of the file cabinet.

Pardon (me). Go to Excuse me.

Pardon me for living! Inf. a very indignant response to a criticism or rebuke. Fred: Oh, I thought you had already taken yourself out of here! Sue: Well, pardon me for living! Tom: Butt out, Mary! Bill and I are talking. Mary: Pardon me for living!

Pardon my French. and Excuse my French. Inf. Excuse my use of swear words or taboo words. (Does not refer to real French.) Pardon my French, but this is a hell of a day. What she needs is a kick in the ass, if you’ll excuse my French.

pardon someone for something 1. to excuse someone for doing something. Will you please pardon me for what I did? I can’t pardon her for that. 2. to excuse and release a convicted criminal. The governor pardoned Max for his crime. The governor did not pardon any drug dealers for their crimes.

pare something down to something to cut someone down to something or a smaller size. I will have to pare the budget down to the minimum. I hope we can pare down the budget. After much arguing, we pared it down.

pare something off of something and pare something off to cut something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) See if you can pare a bit of this extra wood off the edge of the base of this pillar. Pare off some of the wood.

park it (somewhere) Inf. sit down somewhere; sit down and get out of the way. Hey, park it! You’re in the way. Richard, park it over there in the corner. Stop pacing around. You make me nervous.

parlay something into something Fig. to exploit an asset in such a way as to increase its value to some higher amount. She is trying to parlay her temporary job into a full-time position. Alice parlayed her inheritance into a small fortune by investing in the stock market.

parley with someone Fig. to talk with someone. I need to parley with my brother before making a financial commitment. We need to parley with each other sometime soon.

part and parcel Go to bag and baggage.
part company (with someone) Fig. to leave someone; to depart from someone. □ Tom finally parted company with his brother. □ They parted company, and Tom got in his car and drove away.

part from someone to leave someone. □ I just hate parting from you. □ I must part from her now.

a part in something Go to a hand in something.

part over something [for people] to separate because of something. □ We had to part over our disagreement. □ They parted over a very small matter.

part someone or an animal from someone or an animal to take someone or an animal away from someone or some other animal. □ It was difficult to part the mother dog from her puppies. □ I hated to part the mother from her child.

part someone's hair 1. Lit. to divide someone's hair into separate sections while combing it. □ The barber asked me where I parted my hair. 2. Fig. to come very close to someone. (Usually an exaggeration.) □ That plane flew so low that it nearly parted my hair. □ He punched at me and missed. He only parted my hair.

part with someone or something to give up or let go of something or someone. □ She did not want to part with her friend. □ I could never part with my books.

partake in something to participate in something. □ Valerie does not care to partake in those childish games. □ I would like to partake in the fun.

partake of something 1. to have a portion of something, such as food or drink. □ Would you care to partake of this apple pie with me? □ I would like to partake of that fine dinner I see set out on the table. 2. to take part in or experience something. □ Sarah had always wanted to partake of the good life. □ Roger had no intention of partaking of the events offered at the fair.

*partial to someone or something favoring or preferring someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ The boys think their teacher is partial to female students. □ I am partial to vanilla ice cream.

partially sighted Euph. not able to see well. □ Carrie is partially sighted, but she is not able to see well enough to read. □ I am not blind. I am partially sighted.

participate (in something) (with someone or something) to take part in something with someone or a group. □ I will not participate in this activity with you. □ They don't participate with our team in this contest.

the particulars of something specific details about something. □ My boss stressed the important particulars of the project. □ What are the particulars of your request?

a parting of the ways a point at which people separate and go their own ways. (Often with come to a, arrive at a, reach a, etc.) □ Jane and Bob finally came to a parting of the ways. □ Bill and his parents reached a parting of the ways.

partition something into something to divide or separate something into something [smaller]. □ I will partition this room into two separate spaces. □ Do you think you can partition this box into four compartments so we can store files by quarter?

partition something off* to divide off a section of something. □ They planned to partition the basement off. □ We will partition off a larger area.

partners in crime 1. Fig. persons who cooperate in committing a crime or a deception. (Usually an exaggeration.) □ The sales manager and the used-car salesmen are nothing but partners in crime. 2. persons who cooperate in some legal task. □ The legal department and payroll are partners in crime as far as the average worker is concerned.

the party line Fig. the official ideas and attitudes that are adopted by the leaders of a particular group and that the other members are expected to accept. □ Tom has left the club. He refused to follow the party line. □ Many politicians agree with the party line without thinking.

The party’s over. Fig. A happy or fortunate time has come to an end. □ We go back to school tomorrow. The party’s over. □ The staff hardly worked at all under the old management, but they’ll find the party’s over now.

a party to something a participant in something; someone who is involved in something. □ I refuse to be a party to your dishonest plan!

pass as someone or something to succeed in being accepted as someone or something. □ The spy was able to pass as a regular citizen. □ The thief was arrested when he tried to pass as a priest.

pass away and pass on Euph. to die. □ My aunt passed away last month. □ When I pass on, I won’t care about the funeral.

pass by (someone or something) to move or travel past someone, something, or some place. □ Please don’t pass by me so fast. □ If you pass by a large white house with a red roof, you have gone too far.

pass for someone or something to be accepted as someone, some type of person, or something. □ You could pass for your twin brother. □ This painting could almost pass for the original.

pass for something to pay for something; to treat someone by paying for something. □ Come on. Let’s go out. I’ll pass for dinner. □ I’ll pass for drinks if you want.

pass from something to fade away from something; to go away gradually. □ The larger trees had passed from the scene years ago. □ The exact details passed from Harry’s memory some time ago.

pass gas Euph. to release intestinal gas through the anus. □ Someone on the bus had passed gas. It smelled awful. □ Something I ate at lunch made me pass gas all afternoon.

pass in review [for marchers] to move past an important person for a visual examination. □ All the soldiers passed in review on the Fourth of July. □ As they passed in review, each of them saluted the officers on the reviewing stand.

pass into something to move into something; to fade away into something. □ Thoughts about the accident, little by little, passed into oblivion. □ All her old school chums passed into oblivion.

pass judgment (on someone or something) to make a judgment about someone or something. □ I should not pass judgment on you, but I certainly could give you some good advice about how to be more pleasant. □ The judge
pass something down† (to someone) and pass something on (to someone) 1. to send something down a line of people to someone. (Each person hands it to the next.) Fig. Please pass this down to Mary at the end of the row. □ Pass down this box to Mary. 2. to will something to someone. □ My grandfather passed this watch down to me. □ He passed on the watch to me.

pass something forward to send something toward the front of a group of people. (Each person hands it to the next.) Fig. Please pass this forward to the front of the room. □ Would you pass this book forward, please?

pass something in† (to someone) and hand something in† (to someone) to turn in or hand in something, such as a school assignment, paper, etc., to someone. □ They were told to pass their papers in to the teacher. □ Hand in your papers to me.

pass something off† Go to pass something off (on someone) (as something).

pass something off (as something) Go to shrug something off (as something).

pass something off (on someone) (as something) and pass something off† to get rid of something deceptively by giving or selling it to someone as something else. □ I passed the rhinestone off on John as a diamond. □ Don't try to pass that fake off on me! □ He couldn't pass off the stone on the clever jeweler.

pass something on† 1. Lit. to hand or give something (to another person). □ Have a piece of toffee and pass the box on. □ Please pass on this book to the next person on the list. 2. Fig. to tell someone something; to spread news or gossip. □ Don't pass this on, but Bill isn't living at home any more. □ I refuse to pass on rumors.

pass something on (to someone) Go to pass something down† (to someone).

pass something out† (to someone) to distribute something to someone. □ Please pass these out to everyone. □ Pass out these papers to everyone.

pass something over (to someone) to send something to someone farther down in a line of people. (Each person hands it to the next.) Fig. Please pass this paper over to Jane. □ The huge blimp passed over the little community.

pass something over someone's head Go to over someone's head.

pass sentence on someone 1. Lit. [for a judge] to read out the sentence of punishment for a convicted criminal. □ It is my job as judge to pass sentence on you. □ The judge was about to pass sentence on Max—ten years in prison. 2. Fig. [for someone] to render a judgment on another person in the manner of a judge. □ You have no right to pass judgment on me! □ I wish you wouldn't pass judgment on everyone around you.

pass someone on† (to someone) to send, hand, or conduct a person to someone else. □ I passed the baby on to the next admiring relative. □ She passed on the baby to her aunt.

pass someone or something by† to miss someone or something; to overlook someone or something. □ The storm passed by the town leaving it unharmed. □ The teacher passed me by and chose the next person in line.

pass someone or something off† (on someone) (as someone or something) Go to palm someone or something off† (on someone) (as someone or something).

pass someone or something up† 1. to fail to select someone or something. □ The committee passed Jill up and chose Kelly. □ They passed up Jill. 2. to travel past someone or something. □ We had to pass the museum up, thinking we could visit the next time we were in town. □ We passed up a hitchhiker.

pass something along† (to someone) 1. to give or hand something to someone. □ Would you kindly pass this along to Hillary? □ Please pass along my advice to Wally over there. 2. to relay some information to someone. □ I hope you don't pass this along to anyone, but I am taking a new job next month. □ Could you pass along my message to Fred?

pass something around† (to someone) to offer something to everyone. □ Please pass the snacks around to everyone. □ Would you pass around the snacks?

pass something back (to someone) to return something by hand to someone. □ Kelly passed the pictures back to Betty. □ They weren't Betty's and she passed them back to Beth.

pass the buck Fig. to pass the blame (to someone else); to give the responsibility (to someone else). (See also The buck stops here.) □ Don't try to pass the buck! It's your fault, and everybody knows it. □ Some people try to pass the buck whenever they can.

pass the hat (around)† (to someone) Fig. to collect donations of money from people. (Could also be literal.) □ Jerry passed the hat around to all the other workers. □ He passed around the hat to everyone. □ I'll pass the hat around.

pass the time (of day) to spend time doing something; to consume or use spare time by doing something. □ I read to pass the time while waiting in the doctor's office. □ I passed the time of day by talking to Dave.
pass the time of day (with someone) to chat or talk informally with someone. I saw Mr. Brown in town yesterday. I stopped and passed the time of day with him. No, we didn’t have a serious talk; we just passed the time of day.

pass through someone to be digested through the bowels of someone. This fruit should pass through you in no time at all. He will be better when the offending food passes through him.

pass through someone’s mind and cross someone’s mind Fig. [for a thought] to come to mind briefly; [for an idea] to occur to someone. Let me tell you what just crossed my mind. As you were speaking, something passed through my mind that I’d like to discuss.

pass through something to travel through something or some place. I passed through the countryside and breathed the good clean air. Perhaps I will stop and visit Joe the next time I pass through Adamsville.

pass under something to move or travel beneath something. The ship slowly passed under the bridge. Harry counted the cars as they passed under the bridge.

passport to something Fig. something that allows someone to pass through something or travel through something or a place. Fig. something that allows someone or something to pass through something or under something. Fig. someone’s passport to transitional safety.

past caring Fig. [of someone] beyond caring about someone or something that is hopeless. I don’t care what you do! I’m past caring!

*a past master at something Fig. someone proven extremely good or skillful at an activity. Typically: be ~; become ~. Mary is a past master at cooking omelets. Pam is a past master at the art of complaining.

past someone’s or something’s prime Fig. beyond the most useful or productive period. Joan was a wonderful singer, but she’s past her prime now. This old car’s past its prime. I’ll need to get a new one.

paste someone one Sl. to land a blow on someone. I pasted him one right on the nose. Next time you do that, I’ll paste you one!

paste something down1 to secure something down [onto something] with paste or glue. The poster will look better if you paste the loose edges down. Please paste down the edges.

paste something on someone 1. Lit. to affix something to someone with paste or glue. We had to paste a mustache on her for the last scene of the play. They pasted beards on themselves too. 2. Sl. to charge someone with a crime. You can’t paste that charge on me! Max did it. The cops pasted a robbery charge on Lefty “Fingers” Moran. 3. Sl. to land a blow on someone. (See also paste someone one.) If you do that again, I’ll paste one on you. Max pasted a nasty blow on Lefty’s chin.

paste something up1 to repair something with paste. See if you can paste this book up so it will hold together. Paste up the book and hope it holds together for a while.

a pat answer a quick, easy answer; a simplified or evasive answer. Don’t just give them a pat answer. Give some more explanation and justification. Otherwise you will just end up answering a lot more questions.

pat someone on the back and give someone a pat on the back 1. Lit. to pat someone’s back to show praise. The coach patted each player on the back after the game.

2. Fig. to praise someone for something. The teacher patted all the students on the back for their good work. They were patting themselves on the back for winning when the final whistle blew.

pat someone or something on something to tap someone or something on a particular place with the open hand. She patted the child on the bottom. I patted the car on its hood to show how proud I was of it.

pat something down1 to tap something down with the open hand. I heaped some soil over the seeds and patted it down. I patted down the soil.

patch a quarrel up1 Fig. to put an end to a quarrel; to reconcile quarreling parties. Tom and Fred were able to patch their quarrel up. I hope we can patch this quarrel.

patch someone up1 to give medical care to someone. That cut looks bad, but the doc over there can patch you up. The doc patched up my friend.

patch something together (with something) to use something to repair something hastily or temporarily. I think I can patch the exhaust pipe together with some wire. See if you can patch this engine together well enough to run for a few more hours.

patch something up1 1. Lit. to repair something in a hurry; to make something temporarily serviceable again. Can you patch this up so I can use it again? I’ll patch up the hose for you. 2. Fig. to “repair” the damage done by an argument or disagreement. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are trying to patch things up. We patched up our argument, then kissed and made up.

the path of least resistance Fig. the easiest course to follow; the easiest route. (Often with follow the or take the.) John will follow the path of least resistance. I like challenges. I won’t usually take the path of least resistance.

Patience is a virtue. Prov. It is good to be patient. I wish Mary would hurry up and call me back! Jane: Patience is a virtue. Fred: The doctor has kept us waiting for half an hour! If he doesn’t call us into his office pretty soon, I may do something violent. Ellen: Calm down, dear. Patience is a virtue.

*patient as Job very patient. (Alludes to the biblical figure Job. Also: as ~.) If you want to teach young children, you must be as patient as Job. The director who is working with that temperamentally difficult child must have the patience of Job.

the patter of tiny feet the sound of young children; having children in the household. I really liked having the patter of tiny feet in the house. Darling, I think we’re going to be hearing the patter of tiny feet soon.

pattern something after something to use something as an example or model when making something. I patterned my house after one I saw in England. She wanted to pattern her coat after her mother’s.
pattern something on something to use something as a model for something else. □ Try to pattern your sales speech on Jane's. She's got it just right. □ We patterned our approach on Bob's.

pave the way (for someone or something) (with something) Fig. to prepare the way with something for someone to come or something to happen. (Alludes to paving a road.) □ I will pave the way for her with an introduction. □ I am sure I can pave the way for your success. □ I will pave the way with an introduction.

pawn someone or something off† (on someone) (as someone or something) Fig. to sell something for something else. □ Grandmother always paid us a call on Sundays. □ Let's pay a call on Mary at the hospital.

pay a call Euph. to go to the toilet; to leave to go to the toilet. (See also pay a call on someone.) □ Excuse me. I have to pay a call. □ Tom left to pay a call. He should be back soon.

pay a call on someone to visit someone. □ Grandmother always paid us a call on Sundays. □ Let's pay a call on Mary at the hospital.

pay a king's ransom Go to a king's ransom.

pay an arm and a leg (for something) and pay through the nose (for something) Fig. to pay too much [money] for something. □ I hate to have to pay an arm and a leg for a tank of gas. □ If you shop around, you won't have to pay an arm and a leg. □ Why should you pay through the nose?

pay as you go to pay costs as they occur; to pay for goods. (See also pay as you go, you'll never spend too much money.) □ If you shop around, you won't have to pay as much as you would in a store.

pay attention (to someone or something) to pay attention (to someone or something). □ Please pay attention to the teacher. □ Max always pays careful attention to what is being told to him.

pay by something 1. Lit. to use something as a medium of payment. □ Will you pay by cash or check? □ The bill was paid by check. 2. Fig. to pay by a certain time. □ You will have to pay by the end of the month or we will cancel your lease. □ I promise I will pay by the end of the month.

pay court to someone Fig. to solicit someone's attention; to woo someone. □ The lawyer was thought to be paying court to too many politicians. □ The lobbyist paid court to all the influential members of Congress.

pay for something 1. Lit. to pay out money for something. □ Did you pay for the magazine, or shall I? □ No, I'll pay for it. 2. Fig. to suffer punishment for something. □ The criminal will pay for his crimes. □ I don't like what you did to me, and I'm going to see that you pay for it. □ Max paid for his wicked ways.

pay heed to someone to listen to and accommodate someone. □ You had better pay heed to your father! □ They are not paying heed to what I told them.

pay homage to someone or something to openly honor or worship someone or something. □ Do you expect me to pay homage to your hero? □ I refuse to pay homage to your principles.

pay in advance to pay (for something) before it is received or delivered. □ I want to pay in advance? □ Yes, please pay in advance.

pay into something to pay money into an account. □ I intend to pay into my vacation account until I have enough for a nice vacation. □ We paid a lot into our savings account this month.

pay lip service (to something) Fig. to express loyalty, respect, or support for something insincerely. □ You don't really care about politics. You're just paying lip service to the candidate. □ Don't sit here and pay lip service. Get busy!

pay off to yield profits; to result in benefits. □ My investment in those stocks has really paid off. □ The time I spent in school paid off in later years.

pay on something to make a payment against a bill. □ You have to pay on this every month or we will repossess it. □ How much do you plan to pay on the car per month?

pay one's debt (to society) Cliché to serve a sentence for a crime, usually in prison. □ The judge said that Mr. Simpson had to pay his debt to society. □ Mr. Brown paid his debt in state prison.

pay one's dues 1. Lit. to pay the fees required to belong to an organization. □ If you haven't paid your dues, you can't come to the club picnic. □ How many people have paid their dues? 2. Fig. to have earned one's right to something through hard work or suffering. □ He worked hard to get to where he is today. He paid his dues and did what he was told. □ I have every right to be here. I paid my dues!

pay one's last respects (to someone) to go to someone's funeral. □ I paid my last respects to Mr. Kantor yesterday. □ Scores of people came to pay their last respects.

pay one's own way to pay for one's own transportation, entrance fees, tickets, room, board, etc. □ I wanted to go to Florida this spring, but my parents say I have to pay my own way.

pay someone a backhanded compliment and pay someone a left-handed compliment Fig. to give someone a false compliment that is really an insult or criticism. □ John said that he had never seen me looking better. I think he was paying me a left-handed compliment. □ I'd prefer that someone insulted me directly. I hate it when someone pays me a backhanded compliment—unless it's a joke.

pay someone a compliment Fig. to give someone a compliment. □ Tom paid Bill a compliment when he told him he was intelligent. □ Mary was very gracious when Anne paid her a compliment.

pay someone a left-handed compliment Go to pay someone a backhanded compliment.

pay someone a pound of flesh Go to a pound of flesh.

pay someone back† 1. Lit. to return money that was borrowed from a person. □ You owe me money. When are you going to pay me back? □ You must pay John back. You have owed him money for a long time. □ You have to pay back everyone you owe money to. 2. Fig. to get even with someone [for doing something]. □ I will pay her back for what she said about me. □ Fred eventually will pay Mike back. He bears grudges for a long time. □ He intends to pay back everyone who has wronged him!
**pay** someone (for something) (with something) to make payment with something to someone for something or for doing something. 1. I will pay you for the loan you made me with the money I get from selling my car. 2. I will pay you with a check.

**pay** someone off 1. Lit. to pay what is owed to a person. 1. I can't pay you off until Wednesday when I get my paycheck. 2. I have to use this money to pay off Sarah. 2. Fig. to bribe someone. Max asked Lefty if he had paid the cops off yet. 2. Lefty paid off the cops on time.

**pay** (someone or something) a visit and pay a visit to someone or something to visit someone or something. 1. Bill paid a visit to his aunt in Seattle. 2. Please pay a visit to our house whenever you are in town.

**pay** some respect to honor someone; to have and show respect for someone. 1. You really should pay your boss more respect. 2. We have to pay our parents a lot of respect.

**pay** someone's way to pay the costs (of something) for a person. 1. My aunt is going to pay my way to Florida—only if I take her with me!

**pay** something back (to someone) to repay someone. 1. I paid the money back to Jerry. 2. Can I pay back the money to George now? 2. Please pay the money back now.

**pay** something down 1. Lit. to make a deposit of money on a purchase. 1. You will have to pay a lot of money down on a car that expensive. 2. I only paid down a few thousand dollars. 2. Fig. to reduce a bill by paying part of it, usually periodically. 1. I think I can pay the balance down by half in a few months. 2. I will pay down the balance a little next month.

**pay** something into something and pay something in to pay an amount of money into an account. 1. Mary paid forty dollars into my account by mistake. 2. She paid in a lot of money. 1. I have an account here and I want to pay something in.

**pay** something off to pay all of a debt; to pay the final payment for something bought on credit. 1. This month I’ll pay the car off. 2. Did you pay off the gas bill yet?

**pay** something out to unravel or unwind wire or rope as it is needed. (See also play something out.) 1. One worker paid the cable out, and another worker guided it into the conduit. 2. The worker paid out the cable.

**pay** something out (for someone or something) to disburse or spend money for someone or something. 1. We have already paid too much money out for your education. 2. We paid out too much money.

**pay** something out (to someone) to pay money to someone. 1. The utility paid one hundred dollars out to everyone who had been overcharged. 2. They paid money out to every customer.

**pay** something up to pay all of whatever is due; to complete all the payments on something. 1. Would you pay up your bills, please? 2. Your dues are all paid up.

**pay** the penalty 1. Lit. to pay a fine for doing something wrong. 1. You ran the red light and now you will have to pay the penalty. 2. Fig. to suffer the consequences for doing something wrong. My head really hurts. I am paying the penalty for getting drunk last night.

**pay** the piper Fig. to face the results of one’s actions; to receive punishment for something. 1. You can put off paying your debts only so long. Eventually you’ll have to pay the piper. 2. You can’t get away with that forever. You’ll have to pay the piper someday.

**pay** the price 1. Lit. to pay the price that is asked for goods or services. (Usually implying that the price is high.) 1. If this is the quality of goods that you require, you will have to pay the price. 2. Fig. to suffer the consequences for doing something or risking something. Oh, my head! I am paying the price for drinking too much last night.

**pay** through something to make payment through an intermediary, such as a bank. 1. I will pay the bill through my bank in New York. 2. Sam had to pay through his brokerage account.

**pay** through the nose (for something) to be beneficial to do something; to be profitable. 1. It doesn’t pay to drive downtown when you can take the train. 2. It pays to take an umbrella with you if it’s supposed to rain.

**pay** tribute to someone or something Fig. to salute someone or something; to give public recognition to someone or something. 1. Many of Judy’s friends gathered to pay tribute to her. 2. We will have a reception to pay tribute to the work of the committee.

**pay** up to pay what is owed. (Often a command: Pay up!) 1. I want my money now. Pay up! 2. If you don’t pay up, I’ll take you to court.

**peace of mind** Fig. a tranquility that results from not having worries, guilt, or problems. 1. If peace of mind is more important to you than earning a lot of money, maybe you should consider teaching.

**peal out** [for bells or voices] to sound forth musically. 1. The bells pealed out to announce that the wedding had taken place. 2. All six of the bells seemed to peal out at once.

**peck at** something with its beak. 1. The bird pecked at the ground, snapping up the ants. 2. I tried to hold on to the bird but it pecked at me hard. 1. The bird pecked at the ground, snapping up the ants. 2. I tried to hold on to the bird but it pecked at me hard. 2. Are you well, Betty? You are just pecking at your food. Please don’t peck at your food. You should eat everything.

**peck something up** [for a bird] to eat something up by pecking at it. 1. The chickens pecked all the grain up. 2. The birds pecked up the grain.

**peck** at someone or something to sneak a glimpse at someone or something. 1. Now, don’t peek at me while I am changing my shirt. 2. I peeked at the dessert you made. It looks delicious.

**peek in** on someone or something to glance quickly into a place to see someone or something. 1. Would you please peek in on the baby? 2. Would you please peek in on the baby?

**peek in** to something to steal a quick glimpse into something. 1. Sam peeked into the oven to see what was cooking. 2. Laura opened the oven door and peeked in.

**peek out** from behind someone or something 1. to look outward from behind someone or something. 1. A shy kitten peeked out from behind the sofa. 2. I looked toward the
peek out (from underneath someone or something) 1. to look out from or to look over something to see something or someone behind it or somewhere behind it. 2. to look out from someone or something 1. You peeked behind the door. 2. He peeked through his glasses at me, I knew I was in trouble.

peek out of something (at someone or something) 1. to look inside something to see something or someone behind it or somewhere behind it. 2. to look inside something to see something or someone behind it or somewhere behind it. I peeked out of the room, hoping to get a glimpse of the lovely furnishings.

peek over something 1. to examine something with a quick glance. 2. to raise up and look over something. I only have time to peek over your manuscript, and it looks good.

peek through (something) 1. to peer or glimpse through something. 2. to raise up and look over something. I'll just peek through your picture album. I'll study it more carefully later.

peek under something 1. to look inside something to see something or someone behind it or somewhere behind it. 2. to look inside something to see something or someone behind it or somewhere behind it. She came into the room and peered about.

peel off (from something) 1. to separate from something. 2. to take something off something. Dave got in his car and peeled out, waking the neighbors.

peel away (from something) to remove the outside layer from something. He peeled back the label carefully.

peel something away (from something) 1. to separate from something. 2. to remove the outside layer from something. He peeled back the sheets from the back of the bed and got in.

The child peered at me for a while in a strange way.

peer (at something) to look at something carefully. Peep over the garage.

peer at something to stare through a partial barrier, such as a window, door, curtain, etc. to see something. The door was a tad too short and a little bit of her skirt peeked out.

peer away (from something) 1. to look away from something. 2. to look away from something. She carefully peeled the skin off the apple.

peep a quick look at someone or something. * (Typically: have ~; take ~.) Have a peep into the refrigerator and see if we need any milk.

peep at something to get a glimpse of someone or something. Have a peep at Tom through the venetian blinds.

peep in(to something) to get a quick look into something. She opened the oven door and peeped in.

peep out of something (at someone or something) to sneak a glimpse of someone or something out of something, as through a hole. I only had time to peep through the telescope and see if I need any milk.

peep through something to take a quick glance through something, such as a hole, telescope, etc. She took a peep at the one's glasses.

peep under something to take a quick glance below something. We saw a flash of Frank's yellow shirt peek out.

peer about to stare around; to look at everything about. She came into the room and peered about.

peer at someone or something to stare at someone or something. The child peered over the wall to get a look at the yard next door.

peep over something to raise up and sneak a glance over some barrier; to look over the top of something. The child peered over the wall to get a look at the yard next door.

peer over something 1. to look at something. You peeked behind the door. 2. He peeked through his glasses at me, I knew I was in trouble.

peer through something 1. to look through something, such as glasses, telescopes, binoculars, etc. The old man peered over his glasses and looked off into the distance. She peered over the wall to see what she could see. 2. To stare through a partial barrier, such as a window, drapes, the haze, the fog, etc. George peered through the drapes and spied on the party next door.
peered through the haze as best she could, trying to see if the way was clear.

peer under something to look underneath something. □ She peered under the bed, hoping to find her slippers. □ When she peered under the bed, she found nothing but lint.

peg away (at something) Go to plug away (at something).

peg out Sl. to die. □ I was so scared, I thought I would peg out for sure. □ Uncle Herman almost pegged out last week.

peg someone as something and have someone pegged as something to think of someone in a certain way. □ Susan pegged the new employee as a lazy worker. □ I had you pegged as an angry rebel before I got to know you.

peg something down¹ to fasten something to the ground with pegs. □ After he had finished pegging the tent down, he built a fire. □ He pegged down the tent before building a fire.

pelt down (on someone or something) [for something] to fall down on someone or something hard or in quantity. (Typically rain, hail, sleet, stones, etc.) □ The rain pelted down on the children as they ran to their school bus. □ The ashes from the volcanic eruption pelted down on the town, covering the houses in a gray shroud.

pelt someone or something with something to hit or strike someone or something with something. □ The citizens pelted Max with rocks. □ The boys pelted the mad dog with a hail of stones.

The pen is mightier than the sword. Prov. Eloquent writing persuades people better than military force. □ Believing that the pen is mightier than the sword, the rebels began publishing an underground newspaper. □ Alan: Why do you want to become a journalist? Bill: The pen is mightier than the sword.

pen someone or an animal in¹ (some place) to confine someone or an animal in a pen. □ We penned all the kids in out in the backyard while we got the party things ready in the house. □ We had to pen in the kids to keep them away from the traffic. □ Alice penned her dog in.

pen someone or an animal up¹ to confine someone to a confined space or an animal to a pen. □ He said he didn’t want them to pen him up in an office all day. □ They penned up the dog during the day.

penalize someone for something to punish someone for something. □ It’s not fair to penalize her for being late. □ You needn’t penalize yourself for the failure. It wasn’t all your fault.

pencil someone or something in¹ to write in something with a pencil. (Implies that the writing is not final.) □ This isn’t a firm appointment yet, so I will just pencil it in. □ I penciled in a tentative answer.

penetrate into someone or something to pierce into someone or something; to stick deep into someone or something. □ The lance penetrated into the knight, right through his armor. □ The bullet penetrated into the wall.

penetrate something with something to pierce something with something. □ I could not even penetrate the steel door with a cold chisel. □ It was easy to penetrate the lid with a can opener.

penetrate through something to pierce all the way through something. (Some people will view the through as redundant.) □ The bullet could not penetrate through the metal plating. □ It did not have enough force to penetrate through the steel.

A penny for your thoughts! Prov. What are you thinking about? I would give you a penny if you tell me your thoughts. □ Noticing that Janet looked pensive, Bill said, “A penny for your thoughts!” □ You seem very pleased with yourself today. A penny for your thoughts!

A penny saved is a penny earned. Prov. Money that you save is more valuable than money that you spend right away; it is good to save money. □ Now that you have your first job, you ought to open a savings account. A penny saved is a penny earned. □ Mary worked hard to save money; she knew that a penny saved is a penny earned.

penny-wise and pound-foolish Prov. thrifty with small sums and foolish with large sums. (Describes someone who will go to a lot of trouble to save a little money, but overlooks large expenses to save a little money. Even in the United States, the reference is to British pounds sterling.) □ Sam: If we drive to six different grocery stores, we’ll get the best bargains on everything we buy. Alan: But with gasoline so expensive, that’s penny-wise and pound-foolish.

pension someone off¹ to retire someone with a pension. □ The company tried to pension me off before I was ready to retire. □ They pensioned off the long-time workers.

people something with someone to provide population for something or some place, using someone or some kind of people. □ The government decided to people the frontier with a variety of races. □ The island had been peopled with marooned sailors.

People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones. Prov. You should not criticize other people for having the same faults that you yourself have. □ Jill: Richard sure was drinking a lot at the office party. Jane: I noticed you had quite a few cocktails yourself. People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.

pep someone or something up¹ to make someone or something more vigorous. □ Nancy needs to take some vitamins to pep her up. □ The coffee break pep up the tired workers. □ Better food might pep your cat up.

pepper someone or something with something to shower someone or something with something, such as stones, bullets, etc. □ The angry crowd peppered the police with bullets. □ The sheriff’s posse peppered the bandit’s hideout with bullets.

perceive someone or something as something to think of someone or something as something or as displaying certain characteristics. □ I perceive Randy as sort of hot-headed. □ We all perceive this problem as solvable.

perch on something 1. [for a bird] to stand at rest on something. □ A robin perched on the branch by my window. □ We saw a parrot perched on some kind of flowering tree. 2. to sit or balance on something. □ I can’t perch on this fence forever. Let’s go. □ Sam was perched on the bicycle and he looked very uncomfortable.

perch someone or something on something to place, seat, or stand someone or something in a place. □ She perched the little girl on the edge of the tub. □ Walter perched his hat on the top shelf.
percolate through something [for a liquid] to seep down through something. □ The water percolated through the coffee grounds too slowly for Fred, who was just dying for a hot cup of the stuff. □ The water percolated through the subsoil and appeared again at the bottom of the hill.

a perfect stranger and a total stranger Fig. a person who is completely unknown [to oneself]. □ I was stopped on the street by a perfect stranger who wanted to know my name. □ If a total stranger asked me such a personal question, I am sure I would not answer!

perform an old warhorse Go to an old warhorse.

perform something on someone or something to do something to someone or something; to carry out a procedure on someone or something. □ The surgeon performed a simple office procedure on the patient. □ Do you expect me to perform magic on this problem?


perish from something to die from a particular cause, such as a disease. □ Nearly all the fish perished from the cold. □ I was afraid that I would perish from hunger.

perish in something to die because of involvement in something. □ Four people perished in the flames. □ Our cat perished in an accident.

Perish the thought. Fig. Do not even consider thinking of such a (negative) thing. □ If you should become ill— perish the thought—I’d take care of you. □ I’m afraid that we need a new car. Perish the thought.

perish with something to feel bad enough to die because of something, such as heat, hunger, etc. (Often an exaggeration.) □ I was just perishing with hunger when we arrived at the restaurant. □ Mary felt as if she would perish with the intense heat of the stuffy little room.

perk someone up† to make someone more cheery or refreshed. □ A nice cup of coffee would really perk me up. □ A cup of coffee will perk up the sleepiest person.

perk something up† to refresh or brighten something; to make something more lively. □ A bit of bright yellow here and there will perk this room up a lot. □ We need something to perk up the second act of the play.

perk up to become invigorated; to become more active. □ After a bit of water, the plants perked up nicely. □ About noon, Andy perked up and looked wide-awake.

permeate something with something to saturate something with something. □ The comedian permeated his act with smutty jokes. □ The evening air was permeated with the smell of jasmine.

permeate through something to seep in and saturate something. □ The coffee spilled on the desk and permeated through all the papers and stuff. □ The strong odor permeated through the walls and nearly suffocated us.

Permit me. Go to Allow me.

permit someone into something and permit someone in† to allow someone to enter something or some place. □ They would not permit me in the dining room since I had no tie. □ They would not permit in that bunch of rowdy brats or any other of her friends.

permit someone out of something to allow someone to go out of something or some place. □ His mother won’t permit him out of his room all weekend. □ I didn’t do anything, but she won’t permit me out!

permit someone through something to allow someone to pass through something. □ Would you permit me through the door? I have to get into this building. □ Janet said she was in a hurry, but they wouldn’t permit her through.

permit someone up something to allow someone to come up something. □ She would not permit me up the ladder. □ I wanted to climb the ladder to be with Walter, but he wouldn’t permit me up.

permit someone up to something to allow someone to come up to something or some place. □ The teacher would not permit the smallest children up to the edge. □ They would not permit us up to the gate before our turn came.

persecute someone for something to harass or repress someone for something. □ They were persecuting the native people for being underdeveloped. □ They were persecuted for being simple and unsuspecting.

persevere at something to keep trying to do something. □ I will persevere at my studies and I’m sure I will succeed. □ Todd persevered at his job and got promoted in no time.

persevere in something to persist in [doing] something. □ I will persevere in my efforts to win election. □ Kelly persevered in her studies and graduated with honors.

persevere with something to continue to try to accomplish something. □ Do you really think it is wise to persevere with your plan? □ Sally persevered with her scheme to earn a million dollars.

persist in doing something to continue doing something. □ John persists in thinking that he’s always right. □ Tom persists in demanding that I agree to his terms.

persist with something to continue the state of something; to extend an action or state. □ Please do not persist with your demands that I agree to your terms. □ If you persist with this intrusion, I’m going to call the police.

person of color a person of an African, Asian, or Native American race. (The plural is people of color.) □ The apartment manager clearly discriminated against people of color. He would only rent to whites. □ As a person of color, I felt threatened by the racist jokes that my coworker told.

* a perspective on something a way of looking at a situation and determining what is important. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; gain ~; give someone ~.) □ The jury did not have a good perspective on the crime since some of the evidence had to be ignored. □ Studying history gives one a perspective on the past.

persuade someone of something to convince someone of something. □ Laura was unable to persuade me of the truth of her statement. □ We were all persuaded of the need for higher taxes.

persuade someone to do something to convince someone to do something. □ Are you sure I can’t persuade you to have another piece of cake? □ Richard was easily persuaded to have another piece of his favorite cake.
pertain to someone or something to relate to someone or something; to have something to do with someone or something. □ I don't think that anything discussed in this meeting pertained to me. □ It really doesn't pertain to the matter at hand.

pester someone about something to bother someone about something or something. □ Please don't pester me about Frank. □ Stop pester me about money.

pester someone into something to annoy someone into doing something. □ We are trying to pester her into accepting the position. □ I don't want to be pestered into losing my temper!

pester someone out of something 1. to annoy someone out of doing something. □ Dave pestered Mary out of going away for the weekend. □ He pestered her out of leaving without him. 2. to annoy one out of one's mind, senses, good manners, etc. □ I was pestered out of my mind by a series of silly questions.

pester someone with something to annoy someone with something. □ Don't pester me with your constant questions! □ I was pestered with phone call after phone call.

pester the life out of someone Fig. to annoy someone excessively. □ Leave me alone. You are pester the life out of me. □ Stop pester the life out of me!

pet hate Fig. something that is disliked intensely and is a constant or repeated annoyance. □ My pet hate is being put on hold on the telephone. □ Another pet hate of mine is having to stand in line.

pet peeve Fig. a frequent annoyance; one's "favorite" or most often encountered annoyance. □ My pet peeve is someone who always comes into the theater after the show has started. □ Drivers who don't signal are John's pet peeve.

peter out [for something] to die or dwindle away; [for something] to become exhausted gradually. □ When the fire petered out, I went to bed. □ My money finally petered out, and I had to come home.

petition someone or something for something to make a formal request of someone or a group for something. □ They petitioned us for an end to the stringent dress code. □ We had to petition the upper administration for a revision in the policy.

phase someone or something into something and phase someone or something in† to work someone or something into use or service gradually. □ They decided to phase Ruth into the job little by little. □ They phased in Ruth over a long period of time.

phase someone or something out of something and phase someone or something out† to work someone or something out of use or service or out of a group gradually. □ We are going to have to phase you out of the job of treasurer. □ They phased out the unneeded workers.

phone in (to someone or something) to call in by telephone to a central person or central point. □ I will phone in to my secretary and report the change in schedule. □ I have to phone in and report the changes.

phone someone up† to call someone on the telephone. □ I don't know what he will do. I will phone him up and ask him. □ Phone up your brother and ask his advice.

phone something in† (to someone or something) to transmit information to a central person or central point by telephone. □ I will phone this order in to the plant right away. □ I will phone in the order to my secretary right now. □ Don't worry. I'll phone it in.

phony as a three-dollar bill and queer as a three-dollar bill phony; bogus. (Also: as ~.) □ This guy's as phony as a three-dollar bill. □ The whole deal stinks. It's as queer as a three-dollar bill.

a photo opportunity a time or event designed for taking pictures of a celebrity. □ All the photographers raced toward a photo op with the president.

*physical (with someone) 1. Lit. physical in the use of force against someone. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ The coach got in trouble for getting physical with some members of the team. □ When the suspect wouldn't cooperate, the police were forced to get physical. 2. Fig. physical in touching someone in lovetaking. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I've heard that Bill tends to get physical with his dates. □ I don't care if he gets physical—within reason.


pick a fight (with someone) and pick a quarrel (with someone) to start a fight or argument with someone on purpose. □ Are you trying to pick a fight with me? □ Max intended to pick a quarrel with Lefty.

pick a lock to open a lock without using a key. □ The robber picked the lock with a nail file. □ The thief picked the lock on the safe and stole the money.

pick a quarrel (with someone) Go to pick a fight (with someone).

pick and choose to choose very carefully from a number of possibilities; to be selective. □ You must take what you are given. You cannot pick and choose. □ Meg is so beautiful. She can pick and choose from a whole range of boyfriends.

pick at someone or something to be very critical of someone or something; to pick on someone or something. □ Why are you always picking at me? □ The critics picked at the little things, missing the serious problems.

pick at something 1. Lit. to try to pull away bits of something. □ Don't pick at the bookbinding. It will fall apart. 2. Fig. to eat just a tiny bit of a meal or some kind of food. □ You are just picking at your food!

pick holes in something 1. and pick something to pieces to criticize something severely; to point out the flaws or fallacies in an argument. □ The lawyer picked holes in the witness's story. □ They will pick holes in your argument. □ Stop picking holes in everything I say! 2. to poke or pinch little holes in something. □ Look! You've picked holes in the bread! How can I make sandwiches? □ Who picked holes in the blanket?

the pick of something the best of the group. □ This playful puppy is the pick of the whole lot. □ These potatoes are the pick of the crop.
pick on somebody your own size Go to pick on someone your own size.

pick on someone or something to harass or bother someone or something, usually unfairly. □ Please stop picking on me! I’m tired of it. □ You shouldn’t pick on the cat.

pick on someone your own size and pick on somebody your own size to abuse someone who is big enough to fight back. □ Go pick on somebody your own size! □ Wilbur should leave his little brother alone and pick on someone his own size.

pick one’s way through something and make one’s way through something 1. to move along a route full of obstacles; to travel, usually on foot, through an area of heavy vegetation or through a crowd of people or things. □ When the grandchildren visit, I have to pick my way through the toys on the floor. □ We slowly picked our way through the thorny bushes to get to the ripe raspberries. 2. to work slowly and meticulously through something. □ My teacher said he couldn’t even pick his way through my report. It was just too confusing. □ I spent an hour picking my way through the state tax forms.

pick someone or something apart 1. Lit. to pick at and pull someone or something to pieces. □ The vultures attacked the hunger-weakened man and tried to pick him apart. □ They tried to pick apart the body. □ Harry picked his piece of cake apart, looking to get all the nuts out. 2. Fig. to analyze and criticize someone or something negatively. □ You didn’t review her performance; you just picked her apart. □ The critics picked apart the performers.

pick someone or something from someone or something to choose someone from a group of people; to choose something from a group of things. □ I picked Joe from all the other boys. □ Tony picked this one from the collection.

pick someone or something off 1. Fig. to kill someone or something with a carefully aimed gunshot. □ The hunter picked the deer off with great skill. □ The killer tried to pick off the police officer. 2. Go to next.

pick someone or something off (of) someone or something to pull or gather someone or something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The teacher picked the little boys off the jungle gym and hurried them back into the school building before the storm hit. □ Pick off the ripe tomatoes and leave the rest.

pick someone or something out 1. Go to pick someone or something out of something.

pick someone or something out (for someone or something) to choose someone or something to serve as someone or something. □ I picked one of the new people out for Santa Claus this year. □ I picked out several large potatoes for the stew.

pick someone or something out of something and pick someone or something out 1. to lift or pull someone or something out of something. □ The mother picked her child out of the fray and took him home. □ I picked out the mushrooms before eating the soup. 2. to select someone or something out of an offering of selections. □ I picked Jerry out of all the boys in the class. □ I picked out Jerry.

pick someone or something to pieces 1. Lit. to pull or pinch at someone or something until only pieces are left. □ The savage birds picked the carcass to pieces. □ The mice seem to have picked the stuffed doll to pieces. 2. Fig. to criticize someone or something harshly or unduly. □ You have just picked her to pieces. Leave her alone! □ The critic picked the play to pieces.

pick someone’s brain(s) Fig. to talk with someone to find out information about something. □ I spent the afternoon with Donna, picking her brain for ideas to use in our celebration. □ Do you mind if I pick your brains? I need some fresh ideas.

pick someone up 1. to attempt to become acquainted with someone for romantic or sexual purposes. □ Who are you anyway? Are you trying to pick me up? □ No, I never picked up anybody in my life! 2. [for the police] to find and bring someone to the police station for questioning or arrest. □ The cop tried to pick her up, but she heard him coming and got away. □ Sergeant Jones, go pick up Sally Franklin and bring her in to be questioned about the jewel robbery. 3. to stop one’s car, bus, etc., and offer someone a ride. □ Don’t ever pick a stranger up when you’re out driving! □ I picked up a hitchhiker today, and we had a nice chat. 4. to go to a place in a car, bus, etc., and take on a person as a passer- senger. □ Please come to my office and pick me up at noon. □ I have to pick up Billy at school.

pick something away to pull or pinch something loose from something. □ Mary picked the meat away from the bones. □ He picked away the burrs.

pick something over Fig. to look through something carefully, looking for something special. □ The shoppers who got here first picked everything over, and there is not much left. □ They picked over all the merchandise.

pick something to pieces Go to pick holes in something.

pick something up 1. Lit. to lift up or raise something from a lower place. □ Please help me pick this stuff up off the pavement. □ Pick up every bit of it! 2. Fig. to tidy up or clean up a room or some other place. □ Let’s pick this room up in a hurry. □ I want you to pick up the entire house. 3. Fig. to find, purchase, or acquire something. □ Where did you pick that up? □ I picked up this tool at the hardware store. 4. Fig. to learn something. □ I pick languages up easily. □ I picked up a lot of knowledge about music from my brother. 5. Fig. to cause something to go faster, especially music. □ All right, let’s pick up the tempo and get it moving faster. □ Okay, get moving. Pick it up! 6. Fig. to resume something. □ Pick it up right where you stopped. □ I’ll have to pick up my work where I left off. 7. Fig. to receive radio signals; to bring something into view. □ I can just pick it up with a powerful telescope. □ I can hardly pick up a signal. 8. Fig. to find a trail or route. □ The dogs finally picked the scent up. □ You should pick up highway 80 in a few miles.

pick up 1. to tidy up. (See also pick up (after someone or something).) □ When you finish playing, you have to pick up. □ Please pick up after yourself. 2. to get busy; to go faster. □ Things usually pick up around here about 8:00. □ I hope business picks up a little later. It’s boring here.

pick up after someone or something to tidy up after someone or a group. □ I refuse to pick up after you all the time. □ I refuse to pick up after your rowdy friends.

pick up on something to become alert to something; to take notice of something; to learn or catch on to something. □
She's real sharp. She picks up on everything. □ The cop picked up on the car with the expired license plates.

**pick up someone for a song** Go to for a song.

**pick up speed** to increase speed. □ The train began to pick up speed as it went downhill. □ The car picked up speed as we moved into the left lane.

**pick up the check** Go to pick up the tab.

**pick up the pace** to speed up the tempo; to increase the rate that something is being done. □ We are going to have to pick up the pace of activity around here if we are to get the job done.

**pick up the pieces (of something)** 1. Lit. to gather up each piece or part. □ Norma picked up the pieces of the broken lamp. □ She stooped down to pick up the pieces. 2. Fig. to try to repair emotional, financial, or other damage done to one's life. □ I need some time to pick up the pieces of my life after the accident. □ After a while, Fred was able to pick up the pieces and carry on.

**pick up the tab** and **pick up the check** to pay the bill. □ Whenever we go out, my father picks up the tab. □ Order whatever you want. The company is picking up the check.

**picked over** rejected; worn, dirty, or undesirable. □ This merchandise looks worn and picked over. I don't want any of it. □ Everything in the store is picked over by the end of the month.

**A picture is worth a thousand words.** Prov. Pictures convey information more efficiently and effectively than words do. □ It's much easier to learn how machines work by looking at pictures, rather than by hearing someone describe them. A picture is worth a thousand words. □ The newspaper editor decided to devote more space to photographs of the disaster than to text, since a picture is worth a thousand words.

**the picture of (good) health** in a very healthy condition. □ The doctor says I am the picture of good health. □ Each of the children is the picture of health.

**picture perfect** Fig. looking exactly correct or right. (Hyphenated as a modifier.) □ At last, everything was picture perfect. □ Nothing less than a picture-perfect party table will do.

**picture someone as someone or something** to imagine someone as someone or a type of person; to form a mental picture of someone as someone or a type of person. □ Just picture me as Santa Claus! □ I can't picture you as a doctor.

**picture someone in something** 1. to form a mental picture of someone wearing something. □ I can just picture Tony in that baseball uniform. □ Can you picture yourself in a dress like this? 2. to form a mental picture of someone inside something or some place. □ I can just picture you in that car! □ Can you picture yourself in jail?

**piddle around** Fig. to waste time doing little or nothing. □ Stop piddling around and get busy. □ I'm not piddling around. I am experimenting.

**piddle something away** Fig. to waste away money or a period of time. □ Please don't piddle all your money away. □ Jane piddled away most of the day.

**pie in the sky** 1. Fig. a future reward after death, considered as a replacement for a reward not received on earth. □ Don't hold out for pie in the sky. Get realistic. □ If he didn't hope for some heavenly pie in the sky, he would probably be a real crook. 2. Fig. having to do with a hope for a special reward. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ Get rid of your pie-in-the-sky ideas! □ What these pie-in-the-sky people really want is money.

**piece of cake** Fig. something easy to do. □ No problem. When you know what you're doing, it's a piece of cake. □ Glad to help. It was a piece of cake. □ Rescuing frightened cats is my specialty. Piece of cake!

a **piece (of the action)** and a **bit of the action**; a **slice of the action** Sl. a share in the activity or the profits. (Especially of a business scheme or gambling activity.) □ If you get in on that real estate deal, I want a piece, too. □ Deal Tom in. He wants a piece of the action.

**piece something out** 1. Lit. to add patches or pieces to something to make it complete. □ There is not quite enough cloth to make a shirt, but I think I can piece it out with some scraps of a complementary color for the collar. □ We managed to piece out the material that we needed. 2. Fig. to add missing parts to a story, explanation, or narrative to make it make sense. □ Before she passed out, she muttered a few things and we were able to piece the whole story out from that. □ We pieced out the story from the few bits we heard from her.

**piece something together** to fit something together; to assemble the pieces of something, such as a puzzle or something puzzling, and make sense of it. □ The police were unable to piece the story together. □ The detective tried to piece together the events leading up to the crime.

**pierce through something** to poke through something; to penetrate something. □ He pierced through the meat with a fork and then put it in a spicy marinade. □ Mary pierced the yarn through with the knitting needles.

a **piercing scream** Fig. a very loud and shrill scream. □ Suddenly, there was a piercing scream from the next room. □ Bob heard Susan's piercing scream and ran to help her.

**pig out (on something)** Inf. to eat too much of something; to make a pig of oneself. □ I intend to really pig out on pizza. □ I love to pig out on ice cream.

**pile in(to something)** to climb in or get in roughly. □ Okay, kids, pile in! □ The children piled into the car and slammed the door.

**pile off (of something)** to get down off something; to clamber down off something. □ All the kids piled off the wagon and ran into the barn. □ She stopped the wagon, and they piled off.

**pile on((to) someone or something)** to make a heap of people on someone or something. □ The football players piled onto the poor guy holding the ball. □ They ran up to the ballcarrier and piled on.

**pile out (of something)** [for many people] to get out of something roughly. □ Okay, kids, pile out! □ The car door burst open, and the children piled out.

**pile someone into something and pile someone into** to bunch people into something in a disorderly fashion. □ She piled the kids into the van and headed off for school. □ She piled in the kids and closed the doors. □ Pile them in and let's go. □ They piled themselves into the car and sped off.
pile someone or something on(to) someone or something and pile someone or something on1 to heap people or things onto someone or something. □ The wrestler piled the referee onto his unconscious opponent. □ We piled the kids on the heap of leaves we had raked up. □ Pile the chili! What’s a hot dog without chili?

pile something up1 1. to crash or wreck something. □ Drive carefully if you don’t want to pile the car up. □ The driver piled up the car against a tree. 2. to make something into a heap. □ Carl piled all the leaves up and set them afire. □ Please pile up the leaves.

pile the work on (someone) Fig. to give someone a lot of work to do. □ The boss really piled the work on me this week. □ The boss piled on the work this week.

pile up 1. Lit. [for things] to gather or accumulate. □ The newspapers began to pile up after a few days. □ Work is really piling up around here. 2. Fig. [for a number of vehicles] to crash together. □ Nearly twenty cars piled up on the bridge this morning.

pilfer from someone or something to steal from someone or a group. □ The petty thief had pilfered from several merchants in town. □ Someone has pilfered from the petty-cash drawer.

pilfer something from someone or something to steal something from someone or something. □ Did you pilfer this money from your parents? □ Who pilfered some money from the cash box?

pillar of strength and pillar of support someone or something that consistently provides moral, emotional, or financial support as does a pillar. □ My parents are my pillars of support. □ John looked to God as his pillar of strength.

pillar of support Go to previous.

pilot someone or something through (something) to guide or steer someone or something through something, especially through a waterway. □ We hired someone to pilot us through the harbor entrance. □ The channel was treacherous, and we hired someone to pilot the ship through.

pilot something into something and pilot something in1 to steer or guide something into something. (Usually refers to steering a ship.) □ We need to signal for a pilot to pilot our ship into the harbor. □ Fred piloted in the freighter.

pilot something out of something and pilot something out1 to steer or guide something out of something. (Usually refers to steering a ship.) □ The chubby little man with a pipe piloted the huge ship out of the harbor. □ The storm made it very difficult to pilot the ship out. □ Help me pilot out this old tub.

pin one’s faith on someone or something and pin one’s hopes on someone or something Fig. to fasten one’s faith or hope to someone or something. □ Don’t pin your faith on Tom. He can’t always do exactly what you want. □ He pinned his hopes on being rescued soon.

pin one’s hopes on someone or something Go to previous.

pin someone down1 (on something) and nail someone down1 (on something) Fig. to demand and receive a firm answer from someone to some question. (Alludes to shifting from answer to answer; commit to one answer or another.) □ I tried to pin him down on a time and place, but he was very evasive. □ Don’t try to pin down the mayor on anything! □ I want to nail her down on a meeting time.

pin someone or something against something to press and hold someone or something against something. □ The police pinned the mugger against the wall and put handcuffs on him. □ The wildlife veterinarian pinned the rhino against the walls of the enclosure and subdued it so it could be treated.

pin someone or something beneath someone, something or an animal to trap someone or something beneath someone, an animal, or something. □ The mine cave-in pinned four miners beneath a beam. □ I held the alligator’s mouth closed and pinned it beneath me.

pin someone or something under someone or something to trap someone or something under someone or something. □ Someone knocked Gerry down and pinned Randy under him. □ The accident pinned Maggie under the car.

pin someone’s ears back1 1. Fig. to beat someone, especially about the head. □ Don’t talk to me like that or I will pin your ears back! □ Max wanted to pin back Lefty’s ears for making fun of him. 2. Fig. to give someone a good scolding. □ Did you hear him? He really pinned Chuck’s ears back. □ He pinned back Chuck’s ears.

pin something back1 to hold something back by pinning. □ I will pin the curtains back to let a little more light in. □ Jane pinned back the curtains.

pin something down1 and nail something down1 1. Lit. to attach or affix something with nails or pins. □ Pin the pattern down temporarily. □ Nail down this piece of flooring every 12 inches. 2. Fig. to determine or fix something, such as a date, an agreement, an amount of money, a decision, etc. □ It will be ready sometime next month. I can’t pin the date down just yet, however. □ I can’t pin down the exact date just now.

pin something on someone Fig. Inf. to blame something on someone; to frame someone for a crime; to make it appear that an innocent person has actually committed a crime. (See also pin something on someone or something.) □ Don’t try to pin that crime on me! I didn’t do it. □ The gang member tried to pin the crime on a rival gang.

pin something on someone or something to hang something on someone or something by pinning. (See also pin something on someone.) □ The mayor pinned the medal on the boy who had rescued the swimmer. □ I pinned a yellow ribbon on my lapel.

pin something (on)to something to attach or fix something to someone or something by pinning. □ The mayor pinned the medal onto the lapel of the brave young hero. □ She pinned a medal to his lapel.

pin something up1 1. to raise something and hold it up with pins. □ I will pin this hem up and then sew it later. □ Please pin up the hem so I can see where to sew it. 2. Go to next.

pin something up on(to) something and pin something up1 to attach something to something, for display, with pins. □ I pinned the picture up onto the bulletin board where everyone could see it. □ I pinned up the picture.

pinch and scrape Go to scrimp and save.

pinch someone for something Sl. to arrest someone for something. □ The cops pinched Max for driving without a license. □ Max was pinched for speeding.
**pinch** something back\(^1\) to pinch off a bit of the top of a plant so it will branch and grow more fully. □ You should pinch this back so it will branch. □ Pinch back the new leaves at the top.

**pinch** something from someone or something Sl. to steal something from someone or something. □ Sam pinched an apple from the produce stand. □ We saw a pickpocket pinch a wallet from an old man.

**pinch** something off\(^1\) Go to next.

**pinch** something off (of) something and **pinch** something off\(^1\) to sever something from something by pinching. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Pinch the buds off the lower branches so the one at the top will bloom. □ Pinch off the lower buds.

**pinch-hit for** someone 1. Fig. to bat for someone else in a baseball game. □ Wally Wilson pinch-hit for Gary Franklin. □ Rodney Jones pinch-hitting for Babe DiMaggio. 2. Fig. to substitute for someone in any situation. □ Bart will pinch-hit for Fred, who is at another meeting today. □ Who will pinch-hit for me while I am on vacation?

**pine after** someone or something and **pine for** someone or something; **pine over** someone or something to long for or grieve for someone or something. □ Bob pined after Doris for weeks after she left. □ Dan is still pining for his last dog. □ There is no point in pining over Claire.

**pine away** (after someone or something) to waste away in melancholy and longing for someone or something. □ A year later, he was still pining away after Claire. □ Still, he is pining away.

**pine for someone or something** Go to pine after someone or something.

**pine over someone or something** Go to pine after someone or something.

**pins and needles** Fig. a tingling feeling in some part of one's body, especially the arms and legs. (See also on pins and needles.) □ I've got pins and needles in my legs. □ Mary gets pins and needles if she crosses her arms for long.

**pipe down** to become quiet; to cease making noise; to shut up. (Especially as a rude command.) □ Pipe down! I'm trying to sleep. □ Come on! Pipe down and get back to work!

a **pipe dream** Fig. a wish or an idea that is impossible to achieve or carry out. (From the dreams or visions induced by the smoking of an opium pipe.) □ Going to the West Indies is a pipe dream. We'll never have enough money. □ Your hopes of winning a lot of money are just a silly pipe dream.

**pipe** something away\(^1\) to conduct a liquid or a gas away through a pipe. □ We will have to pipe the excess water away. □ They piped away the water.

**pipe** something from some place (to some place) to conduct a liquid or a gas from one place to another place through a pipe. □ One oil company wanted to pipe oil all the way from northern Alaska to a southern port on the Pacific. □ The company pipes gas from the storage tanks in the middle of the state.

**pipe** something into some place and **pipe** something in\(^1\)

1. Lit. to conduct a liquid or a gas into some place through a pipe. □ An excellent delivery system piped oxygen into every hospital room. □ They piped it in. 2. Fig. to bring music or other sound into a place over wires. □ They piped music into the stairways and elevators. □ The elevators were nice except that the management had piped in music.

**pipe up** (with something) Fig. to interject a comment; to interrupt with a comment. □ Nick piped up with an interesting thought. □ You can always count on Alice to pipe up.

**piping** hot [of food] extremely hot. □ On a cold day, I like to eat piping hot soup. □ Be careful! This coffee is piping hot!

**pipped** (up) Sl. intoxicated. □ I'm not drunk. Just a little pipped up. □ She's pipped and ready to get sick.

**pique** someone's curiosity and **pique** someone's interest to arouse interest; to arouse curiosity. □ The advertisement piqued my curiosity about the product. □ The professor tried to pique the students' interest in French literature.

**pique** someone's interest Go to previous.

**piss** someone off\(^1\) Inf. to make someone angry. (Crude. Potentially offensive, even though it is widely used. Use with discretion.) □ She really pissed me off! □ That's enough to piss off anybody.

**pissed (off)** Inf. angry. (Crude. Potentially offensive, even though it is heard widely. Use with discretion.) □ I was so pissed off I could have screamed. □ He's come back, and he's sure pissed.

the **pit** of one's stomach Fig. the middle of one's stomach; the location of a “visceral response.” □ I got a strange feeling in the pit of my stomach when they told me the bad news.

**pit one's shoulder to the wheel** Go to have one's shoulder to the wheel.

**pit someone or something against** someone or something to set someone or something in opposition to someone or something. □ The rules of the tournament pit their team against ours. □ John pitted Mary against Sally in the tennis match.

**pitch** a tent to erect a tent at a campsite. □ The campers pitched their tent in a clearing in the woods. □ I pitched my tent next to a large oak tree.

**pitch black** very black; as black as pitch. □ The hearse was pitch black. □ The bandit rode on a pitch black horse and wore black clothing.

**pitch camp** to set up or arrange a campsite. □ We pitched camp near the stream. □ Two campers went ahead of us to pitch camp while it was still light.

**pitch dark** very dark; as dark as pitch. □ I couldn't see anything outside because it was pitch dark. □ The room was pitch dark, and I couldn't find the light switch!

**pitch forward** to jerk or thrust forward. □ Suddenly the car pitched forward, jerking the passengers around. □ We pitched forward inside the car as we went over the bumpy road.

**pitch in (and help) (with something)** Fig. to join in and help someone with something. □ Would you please pitch in and help with the party? □ Come on! Pitch in!
pitch someone a curve(ball) Fig. to surprise someone with an unexpected act or event. (Referring to a curveball in baseball. It is the route of the ball that is curved, not the ball itself. See also throw someone a curve(ball).) □ You really pitched me a curveball when you said I had done a poor job. I did my best. □ You asked Tom a trick question. You certainly pitched him a curve.

pitch someone or something out(of) something and pitch someone or something out1 to throw someone or something out of something or some place. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The usher pitched the drunk out of the theater. □ The usher pitched out the annoying person.

pitch someone or something over something to toss someone or something over something. □ Then Max tried to pitch Lefty over the railing onto the tracks. □ Billy pitched the stone over the wall.

pitch something at someone or something 1. to throw something at someone or something. □ The boys pitched cans at the tree. □ We all pitched rocks at the big boulder. 2. to aim advertising at a particular group. □ They pitched the ad campaign at teenagers. □ These comedy programs are pitched at the lowest level of mentality.

pitch something away1 to toss or throw something away. □ He pitched the broken stick away, and looked around for something stronger. □ He pitched away the stick.

pitch something into something and pitch something in1 to toss or throw something into something. □ Please pitch your aluminum cans into this container. □ She pitched in the can.

pitch something out1 to throw something away; to discard something. □ This cottage cheese is so old, I'm going to pitch it out. □ They pitched out the bad food.

pitch (the) woo Inf. to kiss and caress; to woo someone. (Old but still heard.) □ They were out by the barn pitching woo. □ Old Ted can hardly see any more, but he can still pitch the woo.

pivot on something to rotate on something; to spin around, centered on something. □ This part spins around and pivots on this little red spot, which is what they call a jewel. □ If the lever will not pivot on the bar, it needs some lubrication.

place a price on one's head Go to a price on one's head.

place a strain on someone or something 1. Lit. to burden and nearly overwhelm someone or something. □ The weight of all the trucks placed a strain on the bridge. 2. Fig. to tax the resources or strength of someone, a group, or something to the utmost. □ All of the trouble at work placed a strain on Kelly. □ The recession placed a strain on the economy.

place an order to submit an order. □ My secretary placed an order for a new computer. □ I placed my order only yesterday.

A place for everything, and everything in its place. Prov. Everything in order and put away where it belongs. (Used to describe a very orderly thing or place.) □ I like to put my books in alphabetical order by author. She has a place for everything, and everything in its place. □ Barbara's room is so tidy. A place for everything, and everything in its place.

place of business a place where business is done; a factory or office. □ Our place of business opens at 9:00 a.m. each day. □ You will have to come to our place of business to make a purchase.

a place of concealment a hiding place. □ She brought her little safe out of a place of concealment where it had been for decades.

place one's trust in someone or something to trust someone or something. □ If you place your trust in me, everything will work out all right. □ You should place your trust in your own proven talent.

place someone to recall someone's name; to recall the details about a person that would help you identify the person. □ I am sorry, I can't seem to place you. Could you tell me your name again? □ I can't place her. Did I meet her once before?

place someone by someone or something Go to by someone or something.

place someone in an awkward position Fig. to put someone in an embarrassing or delicate situation. □ Your decision places me in an awkward position. □ I'm afraid I have put myself in sort of an awkward position.

place someone on a pedestal Go to on a pedestal.

place someone or something above someone or something 1. Lit. to put someone or something in a place that is higher than someone or something else. □ I placed Sally above everyone else in a place where she could see everything. □ I placed the book above Sally on a shelf. □ Who placed the mirror above the fireplace? 2. Fig. to hold someone or something in higher regard than someone or something else. □ I placed her above all others in honesty. □ She seems to place money above her family. □ She placed herself above almost everyone else.

place someone or something at something 1. to put someone or something in a place where she could see everyone. □ The king placed extra guards at the door for the night. □ I placed the wine bottle at the left of the host. 2. to figure that someone or something was in a certain place. □ The detective placed Randy at the scene of the crime about midnight. □ I place the getaway car at the first tollbooth at dawn.

place someone or something before someone or something and put someone or something before someone or something 1. to put someone or something in front of someone or something, especially in a line. □ The teacher placed George before Bob, because Bob was a little taller. □ Tom placed himself before the group and began to speak. 2. to consider someone or something more important than someone or something. □ I am sorry, but I place my wife and her welfare before yours! □ He places his job before his family!

place someone or something behind someone or something 1. to move someone or something to a place behind or to the rear of someone or something else. □ Place the taller boy behind John in the second row. □ Place the iris behind the nasturtium. 2. to rank or estimate someone or something behind someone or something else. □ I would place George behind Fred in this contest. □ Frank placed the white horse well behind the black one in the race.

place someone or something in jeopardy to put someone or something at risk. □ Do you realize that what you just
said places all of us in jeopardy? ☐ She has placed the entire project in jeopardy.

**place someone or something in someone’s care** Go to in the care of someone.

**place someone or something in the trust of someone** Go to in the trust of someone.

**place someone or something into the care of someone** Go to in the care of someone.

**place someone or something next to someone or something** to put someone or something immediately adjacent to someone or something. ☐ Please don’t place Donna next to Betty for the class photograph. They are wearing identical dresses. ☐ Please don’t place the flowers next to me. I have hay fever.

**place someone or something on someone or something** to put or lay someone or something on someone or something.

☐ The archbishop placed the crown on the new queen. ☐ The police officer placed Timmy on the sergeant’s desk and gave him an ice-cream cone.

**place someone or something under someone’s care** Go to in the care of someone.

**place someone with someone or something** to get someone a job with someone or some company.

☐ The agency was able to place me with Dave, who runs a small candy store on Maple Street. ☐ They placed me with a firm that makes doghouses.

**place something aside** to set something aside or out of the way. ☐ Place this one aside and we’ll keep it for ourselves.

☐ Place aside some of the smaller ones for later.

**place something at a premium** to force up the value of something so that its price is higher. ☐ The rapid changes in the market placed all the medical stocks at a premium.

☐ The goods had been placed at a premium by the changers.

**place something back** 1. to move something backwards.

☐ Place this chair back a little. It is in the walkway. ☐ Would you please place the boxes back so there is more room to get through? 2. to return something to where it was. ☐ You found it on the table. Place it back when you finish. ☐ When you finish examining the book from the shelf, place it back.

**place something down** (on something) to put something down on something.

☐ Place the book down on the top of the table. ☐ Please place down the book on the table.

**place something in something** to put something inside something.

☐ Place the rabbit in the pen with the others. ☐ Please place your dishes in the sink when you finish.

**place something under someone or something** to put something beneath someone or something.

☐ Bill was in the tree trying to get down, so we placed a ladder under him.

☐ I placed my wallet under my pillow.

**place something up against something** Go to up against something.

**place something with someone or something** to leave something in the care of someone or something.

☐ We placed the trunk with Fred and his wife. ☐ Mary placed the problem with the committee, hoping a solution could be found.

**place the blame on someone or something (for something)** to blame someone or something for something.

☐ Please don’t try to place the blame on me for the accident. ☐ The insurance company placed the blame on the weather.

**a place to call one’s own** a home of one’s very own. ☐ I am tired of living with my parents. I want a place to call my own.

**plague someone or something with something** to bother or annoy someone or something with something.

☐ Stop plaguing me with your requests. ☐ We plagued the committee with ideas.

**plain and simple** Go to pure and simple.

**plain as a pikestaff** Go to next.

*plain as day* and *plain as a pikestaff 1.* Cliché very plain and simple. (*Also: as ~.*) ☐ Although his face was as plain as day, his smile made him look interesting and friendly. ☐ Fred: I have a suspicion that Marcia is upset with me. Alan: A suspicion? Come on, Fred, that’s been plain as a pikestaff for quite some time! 2. and *plain as the nose on one’s face* Cliché clear and understandable. (*Also: as ~.*) ☐ The lecture was as plain as day. No one had to ask questions. ☐ Jane: I don’t understand why Professor Potter has been so friendly this week. Alan: It’s plain as the nose on your face. He wants to be nominated for Professor of the Year.

**plan for someone** to prepare enough [of something] for someone.

☐ Fred just called and said he can show up for dinner after all. Please plan for him. ☐ Tony wasn’t planned for, and there is no place for him to sit.

**plan for something** 1. to prepare for something.

☐ I need to take some time and plan for my retirement. ☐ We carefully planned for almost every possibility. 2. to prepare or estimate for a certain number [of people or things].

☐ I am planning for twelve. I hope everyone can come.

**plan on someone** to be ready for someone; to anticipate someone’s arrival.

☐ Don’t plan on Sam. He has a cold and probably won’t come. ☐ We are planning on Ted and Bill.

**plan on something** to prepare for something; to be ready for something; to anticipate something.

☐ If I were you, I would plan on a big crowd at your open house. ☐ This was not planned on.

**plan something out** to make thorough plans for something.

☐ Let us sit down and plan our strategy out. ☐ We sat down and planned out our strategy.

**plane something away** to smooth off bumps or irregularities with a plane. ☐ Please plane the bumps away so that the board is perfectly smooth. ☐ Sam planed away the bumps.

**plane something down** 1. to smooth something down with a plane; to remove some material from something with a plane. ☐ I will have to plane the door down before I hang it again. ☐ I planed down the edge of the door for you.

**plane something off** to remove bumps, nicks, or scrapes by planing.

☐ Plane the rough places off so the surface will be as smooth as possible. ☐ Sam planed off the bumps.

**plank over something** to cover something over with planking.

☐ The county planked over the old bridge so bicyclists could use it.

**plant something in something** 1. Lit. to set out a plant in something; to sow seeds in something.

☐ Are you going to plant tomatoes in these pots? ☐ What have you planted in
play a prank on someone and play a prank on someone to do a trick that affects someone. □ Somebody played a trick on me by hiding my shoes. □ The little boys planned to play a trick on their teacher by turning up the heat in the classroom.

play about (with someone or something) Go to play around (with someone or something).

play against someone or something to compete against someone or something in a team sport. □ We won’t be ready to play against the other team this weekend. □ We refuse to play against you until the field is in better condition.

play along (with someone or something) 1. Lit. to play a musical instrument with someone or a group. □ The trombonist sat down and began to play along with the others. □ Do you mind if I play along? 2. Fig. to pretend to cooperate with someone or something in a joke, scam, etc. □ I decided that I would play along with Larry for a while and see what would happen. □ I don’t think I want to play along.

play an old warhorse Go to an old warhorse.

play around (with someone or something) 1. and play about (with someone or something) to play and frolic with someone or something. □ Kelly likes to play around with the other kids. □ The boys are out in the yard, playing about with the neighbor girls. □ Will you kids stop playing about and get busy? □ Stop playing around and get busy! 2. Euph. to have a romantic or sexual affair with someone or persons in general. □ Kelly found out that her husband had been playing around with Susan. □ I can’t believe that Roger is playing around!

play at full blast Go to at full blast.

play at something to pretend to be doing something. □ You are not fixing the car, you are just playing at repair work! □ Stop playing at doing the dishes and get the job done.

play ball with someone 1. Lit. to toss a ball back and forth with someone. □ Carla is out playing ball with the little kids. □ Will you play ball with us? 2. Lit. to play baseball or some other team sport with someone. □ Do you want to play ball with our team? □ I decided I wouldn’t play ball with the school team anymore. 3. Fig. to cooperate with someone. □ Why can’t you guys play ball with us? □ Max won’t play ball with the gang anymore.

play both ends (against the middle) Fig. [for one] to scheme in a way that pits two sides against each other (for one’s own gain). □ I told my brother that Mary doesn’t like him. Then I told Mary that my brother doesn’t like her. They broke up, so now I can have the car this weekend. I succeeded in playing both ends against the middle. □ If you try to play both ends, you’re likely to get in trouble with both sides.

play by ear Go to play something by ear.

play by the book Go to by the book.

play cat and mouse with someone Fig. to be coy and evasive with someone. □ I know what you are up to. Don’t play cat and mouse with me! □ I wish that they wouldn’t play cat and mouse with me!

play dead to pretend to be dead. □ When the bear attacked me, I just dropped down and played dead.
play down to someone to condescend to one's audience.

Why are you playing down to the audience? They will walk out on you! □ Don't play down to the people who have paid their money to see you.

play dumb Go to play ignorant.

play fair to do something by the rules; to do something in a fair and just manner. □ John won't play with Bill anymore because Bill doesn't play fair. □ You moved the golf ball with your foot! That's not playing fair!

play fast and loose (with someone or something) Fig. to act carelessly, thoughtlessly, and irresponsibly. □ I'm tired of your playing fast and loose with me. Leave me alone. □ Bob got fired for playing fast and loose with the company's money.

play first chair 1. to be the leader of a section of instruments in an orchestra or a band. (More literal than the following sense.) □ Sally learned to play the violin so well that she now plays first chair in the orchestra. □ I'm going to practice my flute so I can play first chair. 2. Fig. to act as a leader. □ I need to get this job done. Who plays first chair around here? □ You're not the boss! You don't play first chair.

play footsie with someone 1. to get romantically or sexually involved with someone. (Refers literally to secretly pushing or rubbing feet with someone under the table.) □ Someone said that Ruth is playing footsie with Henry. □ Henry and Ruth are playing footsie with each other. 2. to get involved in a scheme with someone; to cooperate with someone. □ The guy who runs the butcher shop was playing footsie with the city meat inspector. □ Henry was playing footsie with the mayor in order to get the contract.

play for keeps to do things with permanent effect; to be serious in one's actions. (From the game of marbles, where you moved the golf ball to win.) □ We are playing for keeps, so be careful of what you do.

play for something 1. to gamble for something; to use something as the medium of exchange for gaming or gambling. □ Let's just play for nickels, okay? □ We will play for dollar bills. 2. to play for a particular reason, other than winning. □ We are just playing for fun. □ They are not competing. They are playing for practice.

play for time Fig. to stall; to act in such a way as to gain time. □ I'll play for time while you sneak out the window. □ The lawyers for the defense were playing for time while they looked for a witness.

play freeze-out to open windows and doors, or turn down a thermostat, making someone cold. □ Wow, it's cold in here! Who's playing freeze-out? □ Is someone trying to play freeze-out?

play games (with someone) Fig. to use clever strategies against someone. □ Come on! Stop playing games with me. Let's talk this over.

play hard to get Fig. to act coy, intentionally shy, and fickle. (Usually refers to someone of the opposite sex.) □ Why can't we go out? Why do you play hard to get? □ Sally annoys all the boys because she plays hard to get.

play hardball (with someone) Fig. to act strong and aggressive about an issue with someone. □ Things are getting a little tough. The president has decided to play hardball on this issue. □ If he wants to play hardball with us, we can play that way, too.

play havoc with someone or something Go to raise havoc with someone or something.

play hell with someone or something Fig. to cause enormous disruptions with someone or something. (Use discretion with hell.) □ Your proposal would play hell with Gerry and his plans. □ This new event really plays hell with my schedule.

play hob with someone or something Go to raise hob with someone or something.

play hooky to fail to attend school or some other event. □ Why aren't you in school? Are you playing hooky? □ I don't have time for the sales meeting today, so I think I'll just play hooky.

play ignorant and play dumb to pretend to be ignorant [of something]. □ I played ignorant even though I knew about the surprise party. □ John played dumb when I asked him if he knew who had been on the telephone.

play in something 1. to play a musical instrument in some musical organization. □ I used to play in a band. □ I wanted to play in the orchestra but I wasn't good enough. 2. [for someone] to play the action of a game in a particular position or location. □ Fred played in left field for the rest of the game. □ I will play in the backfield for the rest of the game. 3. to perform in a specific production. □ She played in the Broadway production of Major Barbara. □ Once, I played in The Mikado.

play in the big leagues Fig. to be involved in something of large or important proportions. (Alludes to playing a professional sport at the highest level.) □ You had better shape up if you want to play in the big leagues. □ The conductor shouted at the oboist, “You're playing in the big leagues now. Tune up or ship out.”

play innocent to pretend to be innocent and not concerned. □ There is no need to play innocent. I know you broke the lamp! □ John is playing innocent, and he knows more than he is telling us.

play into someone’s hands Fig. [for a person one is scheming against] to assist one in one's scheming without realizing it. □ John is doing exactly what I hoped he would. He's playing into my hands. □ John played into my hands by taking the cash he found in my desk. I caught him and had him arrested.

play it cool 1. Inf. to do something while not revealing insecurities or incompetence; to act blasé. □ Play it cool, man. Look like you belong there. □ If the boss walks in, just play it cool. 2. Inf. to hold one's temper. □ Come on now. Let it pass. Play it cool. □ Don’t let them get you mad. Play it cool.

play it for all it's worth Fig. to exploit a problem, disability, or injury to get as much sympathy or compensation as possible. □ He injured his hand before the examination and he played it for all it was worth in order to get the exam delayed.

play it safe to be or act safe; to avoid taking a risk. □ You should play it safe and take your umbrella. □ If you have a cold or the flu, play it safe and go to bed.

play like someone or something to pretend to be someone or a type of a person. □ Sam is playing like Mr. Watson,
play on

the teacher. □ He is playing like a teacher and helping Mary with her homework.

play on to continue to play. □ The band played on and the dance continued until the wee hours of the morning. □ We played on and on until the last guests left the party.

play on someone’s heartstrings Fig. to attempt to get sympathy from someone. □ She is crying so she can play on your heartstrings and try to get you to take her home.

play on something to have an effect on something; to manage something for a desired effect. (The on can be replaced by upon.) □ The clerk played on my sense of responsibility in trying to get me to buy the book. □ See if you can get her to confess by playing on her sense of guilt.

play one’s cards close to one’s chest and play one’s cards close to one’s vest; keep one’s cards close to one’s chest; keep one’s cards close to one’s vest Fig. to keep to oneself or be very cautious in one’s dealing with people. (As if one were playing cards and not permitting anyone to see any of the cards.) □ He is very cautious. He plays his cards close to his chest. □ You seem to be playing your cards close to your vest.

play one’s cards right and play one’s cards well Fig. to work or negotiate correctly and skillfully. □ If you play your cards right, you can get whatever you want. □ She didn’t play her cards well, and she ended up with something less than what she wanted.

play one’s cards well Go to previous.

play one’s heart out Go to cry one’s heart out.

play one’s trump card 1. Lit. [in certain card games] to play a card that, according to the rules of the game, outranks certain other cards and is thus able to take any card of another suit. □ Bob played his trump card and ended the game as the winner. 2. Fig. to use a special trick; to use one’s most powerful or effective strategy or device. □ I won’t play my trump card until I have tried everything else.

□ I thought that the whole situation was hopeless until Mary played her trump card and solved the whole problem.

play out [for a process] to run out; to finish. □ The whole incident is about to play out. Then it all will be forgotten. □ When the event plays out, everything will return to normal.

play politics 1. Lit. to negotiate politically. □ Everybody at city hall is playing politics as usual. □ If you’re elected as a member of a political party, you’ll have to play politics. 2. to allow politics to dominate in matters where principle should prevail. □ Look, I came here to discuss the legal issues of this trial, not play politics. □ They’re not making reasonable decisions. They’re playing politics.

play possum Fig. to pretend to be inactive, unobservant, asleep, or dead. (The possum refers to an opossum.) □ I knew that Bob wasn’t asleep. He was just playing possum.

□ I can’t tell if this animal is dead or just playing possum.

play second fiddle (to someone) Fig. to be in a subordinate position to someone. □ I’m tired of playing second fiddle to John. □ I’m better trained than he, and I have more experience. I shouldn’t always play second fiddle.

play someone against someone else to cause someone to dispute with someone else. □ Don tried to play George against David, but they figured out what he was up to. □ Alice never managed to play Tom against Fred.

play someone for a fool Fig. to treat someone like a fool; to assume someone is naive or stupid. □ Don’t play me for a fool. I won’t have it. □ You are playing me for a fool! Stop it!

play someone off against someone else to scheme in a manner that pits two of your adversaries against one another. □ Bill wanted to beat me up and so did Bob. I did some fast talking, and they ended up fighting with each other. I really played Bill off against Bob. □ The president played the House off against the Senate and ended up getting his own way.

play someone or something down1 to lessen the effect or importance of someone or something. □ John is a famous actor, but the director tried to play him down as just another member of the cast. □ Her lawyer tried to play down her earlier arrest.

play someone or something up1 to make someone or something seem to be more important. □ The director tried to play Ann up, but she was not really a star. □ Try to play up the good qualities of our product.

play something as something to deal with something as if it were something else. □ I will play this matter as a simple case of mistaken identity. □ We will play this lapse as an instance of forgetfulness and not make too much of it.

play something at full blast Go to at full blast.

play something back1 (to someone) to play a recording to someone. □ Can you play the speech back to me? □ Please play back the speech to me, so I can hear how I sound.

play something by ear 1. to be able to play a piece of music after just listening to it a few times, without looking at the notes. □ I can play “Stardust” by ear. □ Some people can play Chopin’s music by ear. 2. and play by ear to play a musical instrument well, without formal training. □ John can play the piano by ear. □ If I could play by ear, I wouldn’t have to take lessons—or practice! 3. to improvise; to decide one’s next steps after one is already involved in a situation. □ If we go into the meeting unprepared, we’ll have to play everything by ear. □ He never prepared his presentations. He always played things by ear.

play something off1 to play a game to break a tied score. □ They decided not to play the tie off because it had grown so late. □ They went ahead and played off the tie after all.

play something on someone or something to aim a light or a hose on someone or something. □ The fireman played water on the burning building. □ The stagehand played a spotlight on the singer.

play something out1 1. to play something, such as a game, to the very end. □ I was bored with the game, but I felt I had to play it out. □ She played out the rest of the game. 2. to unwind, unfold, or unroll something. (See also pay something out.) □ Please play some more rope out. □ They played out many feet of cable.

play something over to replay something, such as a game, a videotape, an audio recording, etc. □ There was an objection to the way the referee handled the game, so they played it over. □ Let’s play that song over again.

play something through1 to play something, such as a piece of recorded music, all the way through. □ I played the album through, hoping to find even one song I liked. □ As I played through the album, I didn’t hear anything I liked.
play something up* to emphasize something; to be a booster of something. □ The press played the scandal up so much that everyone became bored with it. □ They really played up the scandal.

play something with someone or something 1. to play a game with someone or a group. □ Do you want to play checkers with me? □ Fran played ball with the dog for a while. 2. to assume a particular role with someone or some group. □ Don't play the fool with me! □ Don always tried to play the successful entrepreneur with the board of directors.

play (the) devil's advocate Fig. to put forward arguments against or objections to a proposition—which one may actually agree with—purely to test the validity of the proposition. (The devil's advocate opposes the canonization of a saint in order to prove that the grounds for canonization are sound.) □ I agree with your plan. I'm just playing the devil's advocate so you'll know what the opposition will say. □ Mary offered to play devil's advocate and argue against our case so that we would find out any flaws in it.

play the devil with something Fig. to cause disruption with something; to foul something up. □ Your being late really played the devil with my plans for the day. □ This weather is really playing the devil with my arthritis.

play the field to date many different people rather than just one. □ When Tom told Ann good-bye, he said he wanted to play the field. □ He said he wanted to play the field while he was still young.

play the fool Fig. to act in a silly manner in order to amuse other people. □ The teacher told Tom to stop playing the fool and sit down. □ Fred likes playing the fool, but we didn't find him funny last night.

play the heavy Fig. to act the part of a mean person; to do the unpleasant tasks that no one else wants to do. (Refers originally to playing the role of someone evil in a movie, etc.) □ I'm a nice guy, but at work, I am required to play the heavy. The boss makes me do all the cruel things.

play the horses Go to next.

play the ponies and play the horses to wager on horse races. □ I used to play the ponies every afternoon during the summer. Then I ran out of money.

play the race card Go to the race card.

play the (stock) market to invest in the stock market. (As if it were a game or as if it were gambling.) □ Would you rather put your money in the bank or play the market? □ I've learned my lesson playing the market. I lost a fortune.

play through [for golfers] to pass someone on the golf course. □ Do you mind if we play through? We have to get back to the courtroom by two o'clock. □ We let them play through because they were moving so fast.

play to someone or something 1. to perform something for someone or a group. □ The cast played to one of their classmates who was confined to the hospital. □ Gerald Watson will play to a small gathering of wealthy socialites this Saturday evening. 2. to aim one's performance only toward a particular person, group, or a particular taste. □ The comedian was playing only to the juveniles in the audience. □ It was clear that she was playing to the people in the cheaper seats.

play to the crowd Go to next.

play to the gallery and play to the crowd to perform in a manner that will get the strong approval of the audience; to perform in a manner that will get the approval of the lower elements in the audience. □ John is a competent actor, but he has a tendency to play to the crowd. □ When he made the rude remark, he was just playing to the gallery.

play tricks on someone 1. Lit. to pull pranks on someone. □ You had better not play any tricks on me! □ Stop playing tricks on people! 2. Fig. [for something, such as the eyes] to deceive someone. □ Did I see him fall down or are my eyes playing tricks on me? □ My brain is playing tricks on me. I can't remember a word you said.

play up to someone to flatter someone; to try to gain influence with someone. □ It won't do any good to play up to me. I refuse to agree to your proposal. □ I played up to him and he still wouldn't give in to me.

play (up)on something 1. Lit. to make music on a musical instrument. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Can you play upon this instrument, or only the one you are holding? □ I can't play on this! It's broken. 2. Lit. to play a game on a field or court. □ Shall we play on the floor or on the table? □ Let's play on the field. It's dry enough now. 3. Fig. to exploit something—including a word—for some purpose; to develop something for some purpose. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You are just playing on words! □ You are playing on a misunderstanding. 4. Fig. [for light] to sparkle on something. □ The reflections of the candles played on the surface of the wall. □ The lights played on the crystal goblets.

play with a full deck 1. Lit. to play cards with a complete deck, containing all the cards. □ Are we playing with a full deck or did some card drop on the floor? I haven't seen the three of hearts all evening! 2. Fig. to operate as if one were playing with a full deck. (Usually with a misnomer, or persons.) □ That guy's not playing with a full deck. □ Look sharp, you dummies! Pretend you are playing with a full deck.

play with fire 1. Lit. to use fire as a toy; to experiment with fire. □ Jimmy! I've told you never to play with fire! 2. Fig. to play cards with a complete deck, containing all the cards. □ Are we playing with a full deck or did some card drop on the floor? I haven't seen the three of hearts all evening! 3. Fig. to operate as if one were playing with a full deck. (Usually with a misnomer, or persons.) □ That guy's not playing with a full deck. □ Look sharp, you dummies! Pretend you are playing with a full deck.

play with someone or something 1. to play games with someone or a group. □ I love to play Ping-Pong. Will you play with me? □ They won't play with our team. We are too good. 2. to toy with someone or something. □ You are just playing with me. Can't you take me seriously? □ Please don't play with that crystal vase.

play-by-play description a description of an event given as the event is taking place. (Usually in reference to a sporting event.) □ And now here is Bill Jones with a play-by-play description of the baseball game. □ John was giving me a play-by-play description of the argument going on next door.

played out too exhausted to continue. □ At the end of the race, Donna was played out. □ After the race, we were played out for the rest of the day.
Please hold. Go to Hold the phone.

plead for someone to beg for someone to be spared. Tom pleaded for Dave, but it was no use. Dave was found guilty.

She pleaded for her husband, but the judge sentenced him to ten years in prison.

plead for something to beg for something. I don’t want to have to plead for what’s already mine.

The children were pleading for ice cream, so we got some for them.

plead guilty to something to state that one is guilty of a crime before a court of law.

Gerald refused to plead guilty to the crime and had to stand trial.

Max pleaded guilty to the charge and then fled town.

plead to something to enter an admission of guilt to a specific crime.

Max pleaded to the lesser charge of larceny.

Lefty pleaded to the grand larceny charge.

plead with someone to beg something of someone; to make an emotional appeal to someone.

I have plenty of candy.

We were pleased with your work.

We don’t mind becoming engaged to be married.

I chose not to plow through the snow-covered streets so traffic could plow through the snow.

I am quite pleased with you. You did a fine job.

We plotted against the opposing party.

We plotted the course they would be taking on a map of the area.

The runner plowed into the ditch.

The farmer plowed some old coins up and took them to the museum.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I have an idea about how to remodel this room.

The plot thickens. Things are becoming more complicated or interesting.

The police assumed that the woman was murdered by her ex-husband, but he has an alibi.

The plot thickens. John is supposed to be going out with Mary, but I saw him last night with Sally.

The plot thickens.

We plotted the course on a chart of the upper reaches of the Nile.

I have an idea about how to remodel this room.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.

The farmer plowed all the profits back into the company.

I plotted out my ideas on a map of the area.
pluck at someone or something to pull or pick at someone or something. □ Kelly plucked at Ed, picking off the burrs that had caught on his clothing. □ Kelly plucked at the strings of the guitar.

pluck something from someone or something to pick, grab, or snatch something from someone. □ Sally plucked a chocolate from the box and popped it into her mouth. □ He stooped over and plucked a rose from the bush.

pluck something off (of) someone or something and pluck something off1 to pick something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ She plucked the mosquito off his back before it could bite him. □ She plucked off the bud.

pluck something out of something and pluck something out1 to snatch something out of something. □ She plucked the coin out of his hand and put it in her pocket. □ Reaching into the fountain, Jane plucked out the coin.

pluck up someone’s courage to bolster someone’s, including one’s own, courage. □ I hope you are able to pluck up your courage so that you can do what has to be done. □ Some good advice from a friend helped pluck up my courage.

plug (oneself) in(to something) to become attached to something; to become attached to some sort of network or system. □ As soon as I have plugged my laptop into the local network, I will have access to the Internet. □ I plugged myself into the computer network and began to communicate quickly and efficiently.

plug something into something and plug something in1 to connect something to something else, usually by connecting wires together with a plug and socket. □ Plug this end of the wire into the wall. □ Plug in the lamp and turn it on.

plug something up1 to stop or fill up a hole, crack, or gap. □ Take out the nail and plug the hole up with something. □ You have to plug up the cracks to keep out the cold.

plumb loco Rur. completely crazy. (Loco is from a Spanish word meaning “mad.”) □ You’re plumb loco if you think I’ll go along with that. □ All those people were running around like they were plumb loco.

plummet to earth to fall rapidly to earth from a great height. □ The rocket plummeted to earth and exploded as it struck. □ As the plane plummeted to earth, all the people on the ground were screaming.

plummet to something to drop or fall to some level or low point. □ Stock prices plummeted to record low levels. □ The rock plummeted to the river at the base of the cliff.

plump for someone or something to support or promote someone or something. □ Henry spent a lot of energy plumping for Bill, who was running for vice president. □ She spent a lot of time plumping for our candidate.

plump something down1 1. to drop a heavy load of something. □ She plumped the load of groceries onto the bench and looked through her purse for the keys. □ Jill plumped down her packages. 2. to drop something as if it were a heavy load. □ He plumped the potatoes down on each plate, making a loud noise each time. □ Dave plumped down a huge slab of meat onto the grill.

plump something up1 to pat or shake something like a pillow into a fuller shape. □ Todd plumped his pillow up and finished making the bed. □ He plumped up his pillow.

plunge down something to run or fall down something. □ The car plunged down the hill and ran into a tree at the bottom. □ The bicyclist plunged down the side of the hill at a great speed.

plunge from something to fall or flee from something or some place. □ The eagle plunged from the sky to the lake to capture its prey. □ Lily plunged from the room in embarrassment.

plunge in(to something) to dive or rush into something; to immerse oneself in something. □ Ned took off his shoes and plunged into the river, hoping to rescue Frank. □ He plunged into his work and lost track of time.

plunge something into something and plunge something in1 to drive or stab something into someone or something. □ The murderer plunged the knife into his victim. □ She plunged in the dagger.

plunge to something 1. to fall or drop down to something. □ The temperature plunged to zero last night. □ The burning car plunged to the floor of the canyon. 2. to dive or fall to one’s death. □ She walked straight to the edge of the cliff and plunged to her death. □ The burro slipped and plunged to an untimely end.

plunk (oneself) down to sit or fall down hard. □ Nancy pulled up a chair and plunked herself down. □ She pulled the chair up and plunked down. □ She plunked herself down in the middle of the kids and began to sing.

plunk someone or something down1 to place, drop, or plop someone or something down hard. □ He picked her up and plunked her down in a chair and began to shout at her. □ Sally plunked down the book in anger.

ply between something and something else to travel between things or places regularly or constantly. □ There are a number of small craft that ply between Santerem and Manaus on a regular basis. □ Our little ship was unable to ply the entire distance between the two islands.

ply someone with something else to try to supply or give something to someone. (Implies an attempt to influence or fawn upon someone.) □ We plied the mayor with gifts and favors, but it got us nowhere. □ Don’t try to ply the police officer with gifts. That is considered a bribe.

pock something with something to cause dents or small craters by shooting or throwing something at something. □ The hail pocked the roof of the car with dents. □ The side of the house was pocked with tiny dents where the hail had struck.

a pocket of resistance Fig. a small group of people who resist change or domination. □ The accounting department seems to be a pocket of resistance when it comes to automating.

poetic justice appropriate, ideal, or ironic punishment. □ It was poetic justice that Jane won the race after Mary tried to get her banned from the race. □ The car thieves tried to steal a car with no gas. That’s poetic justice.
point to point to indicate, reveal, or suggest something; to emphasize something; to make a hole by pushing something through something; to push something through a hole.

point down to point downward to something. The point of view a way of thinking about something; [someone’s] viewpoint; an attitude or expression of self-interest.

point at someone or something 1. [for someone] to direct an extended finger at someone or something; to point one’s finger at someone or something. You should not point at people. Harry pointed at the mess Jerry had made and scowled. 2. [for something] to aim at someone or something. The gun pointed directly at him. He was frightened. The sign pointed at a small roadside cafe, populated by truck drivers.

point down to something to aim downward to something.

the point of no return the halfway point; the point at which it is too late to turn back. The flight was past the point of no return, so we had to continue to our destination. The entire project is past the point of no return; we will have to continue with it.

point of view a way of thinking about something; [someone’s] viewpoint; an attitude or expression of self-interest. From my point of view, all this talk is a waste of time. I can understand her point of view. She has made some good observations about the problem.

point someone or something out to select or indicate someone or something (from a group). Everyone pointed out the error pointed out. She pointed out the boy who took her purse.

point something at someone or something to aim or direct something at someone or something. Don’t ever point a gun at anyone! Point the rifle at the target and pull the trigger.

point something up 1. Fig. to emphasize something; to emphasize one aspect of something. This is a very important thing to learn. Let me point it up one more time by drawing this diagram on the board. This points up what I’ve been telling you. 2. Fig. to tack-point something; to repair the joints in masonry. I hired someone to point the chimney up. Carl pointed up the brick wall.

point the finger at someone Fig. to blame someone; to identify someone as the guilty person. Don’t point the finger at me! I didn’t take the money. The manager refused to point the finger at anyone in particular and said that everyone was sometimes guilty of being late.

point to someone or something to aim at someone or something. Who is she pointing to? He pointed to the door.

point to something to indicate, reveal, or suggest something. All the evidence seems to point to his guilt. The signs point to a very cold winter.

point to something as something to identify something as something. All the indications pointed to him as the next president.

point toward someone or something to direct an extended finger toward someone or something. The teacher pointed toward Laura and asked her to come to the front of the room. Randy pointed toward the door and frowned at the dog.

poise oneself for something to get ready for something. She poised herself for a dive. Fred poised himself for a fall, but everything worked out all right.

poise over someone or something to hover or hang over someone or something. She spent the entire afternoon poised over her desk, pouting. The dog poised over the downed duck, waiting for the hunter.

poised for something ready for something; in the right position and waiting for something. The cat stared at the mouse, poised for action. The army was poised for battle.

poised to do something ready to do something; in the right position to do something. The cat is poised to jump on the mouse. The army is poised to attack at dawn.

poison someone against someone or something to cause someone to have negative or hateful thoughts about someone, a group, or something. You have done nothing more than poison Gerald against all of us! Stop talking to him! Your negative comments poisoned everyone against the proposal.

poison someone or an animal with something to render someone or an animal sick or dead with a poison. He intended to poison his wife with arsenic. Barry wanted to poison the cat with something that left no trace. He poisoned himself with the cleaning compound.

poison something with something to render something poisonous with something. She poisoned the soup with arsenic. They are poisoning our water supply with pollutants.

poke a hole in something and poke a hole through something to make a hole by pushing something through something; to push something through a hole. The carpenter poked a hole in the wall with a nail. The fisherman poked a hole through the ice with a pick.

poke about Go to poke around.

poke about (in something) and poke around (in something) to rummage around in something or some place; to look through things in something or some place. I’ll have to go up and poke about in the attic to see if I can find it. Janet went to the attic and spent the rest of the afternoon poking around.

poke along to move along slowly; to lag or tarry. Get moving. Stop poking along. I was just poking along, taking my time, not paying attention to what was going on around me.

poke around 1. and poke about to look or search around. I’ve been poking around in the library looking for some statistics. I don’t mind if you look in my drawer for a paper clip, but please don’t poke about. 2. to waste time while moving about. I just poked around all afternoon and didn’t accomplish much. Stop poking around and get moving.

poke around (in something) Go to poke about (in something).

poke at someone or something to thrust or jab at someone or something. Stop poking at me! Don’t poke at the turtle. It might bite you.

poke fun at someone or something to make fun of someone or something. You shouldn’t poke fun at me for my
Poison one's nose in(to something) and stick one's nose in(to something) Fig. to interfere with something; to be nosy about something. ☐ I wish you'd stop poking your nose into my business. ☐ She was too up for me to stick my nose in and ask what was wrong.

Poke out (of something) to stick out of something; to extend out of something. ☐ The bean sprouts were beginning to poke out of the soil of the garden. ☐ I knew there were little birds in the birdhouse, because a little head poked out now and then.

Poke someone in something to strike or jab someone in some body part. ☐ Billy poked Bobby in the tummy and made him cry. ☐ She poked herself in the eye accidentally.

Poke something at someone or something to jab or thrust something at someone or something. ☐ Don't poke that thing at me! ☐ The hunter poked his spear at the pig one more time and decided it was dead.

Poke something into something and poke something in† to stick or cram something into something. ☐ He poked his finger into the jam, pulled it out again, and licked it. ☐ Jeff poked in his finger.

Poke something out of something and poke something out† to thrust something out of something. ☐ The lobster poked its antennae out of the little cave and wiggled them around. ☐ It poked out its antennae.

Poke something through someone or something to jab or stab something through someone or something. ☐ The evil knight poked his weapon through Arthur and withdrew it again. ☐ Danny poked his finger through the plastic pool liner by mistake.

Poke through (something) to stick through something; to extend through something. ☐ The tips of Tommy's toes poked through his sneakers and looked very cold. ☐ The end of the last spoon poked through the piecrust on the freshly baked pie. Now we knew where it had disappeared to.

Polarize something into something to divide a group into two segments. ☐ Your actions have just polarized the students into two opposing groups! ☐ We polarized the entire population into two factions.

*Poles apart very different; far from coming to an agreement. (Alludes to the distance between the north and south poles. *Typically: be ~; become ~; grow ~.) ☐ Mr. and Mrs. Jones don't get along well. They are poles apart. ☐ They'll never sign the contract because they are poles apart.

Polish something off† to eat, consume, exhaust, or complete all of something. ☐ Who polished off the cake? ☐ Who polished off the cake?

Polish something up† to rub something until it shines. ☐ Polish the silver up and make it look nice and shiny. ☐ If you will polish up the silver, I will put it away.

A political football Fig. an issue that becomes politically divisive; a problem that doesn't get solved because the politics of the issue get in the way. ☐ The question of campaign contributions has become a political football. All the politicians who accept questionable money are pointing fingers at each other.

Politics makes strange bedfellows. Prov. People who would normally dislike and avoid one another will work together if they think it is politically useful to do so. ☐ Jill: I never would have thought that genteel, aristocratic candidate would pick such a rabble-rousing, rough-handed running mate. Jane: Politics makes strange bedfellows.

Pollute something with something to adulterate something with something; to dirty something with something. ☐ You should not pollute the stream with chemicals. ☐ Someone polluted the sewer with automotive oil.

Ponder (upon) something to think on something; to consider something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) ☐ Ponder upon this awhile. See what you come up with. ☐ I need to ponder on this.

Pontificate on something to speak and act dogmatically and pompously. ☐ Must you pontificate on your own virtues so much? ☐ The speaker was pontificating on the virtues of a fat-free diet.

Pooch out to stick or bulge out, as with a belly. ☐ His chubby tummy pooched out when he relaxed.

Poop out Inf. to quit; to wear out and stop. ☐ He pooped out after about an hour of hard work. ☐ I think I'm going to poop out pretty soon.

Poop someone or something out Inf. to cause someone to become exhausted or give out. ☐ All that exercise really pooped everyone out. ☐ A full day of play at the beach had pooped the dog out. ☐ The activity pooped out the dog.

Pooped (out) 1. Inf. [of a person or an animal] exhausted; worn out. ☐ I'm really pooped out. ☐ The horse looked sort of pooped in the final stretch. 2. Inf. intoxicated. ☐ How much of that stuff does it take to get pooped? ☐ He's been drinking all night and is totally pooped out.

*Poor as a church mouse and *poor as church mice very poor. (*Also: as ~.) ☐ My aunt is as poor as a church mouse. ☐ The Browns are poor as church mice.

Poor but clean Cliché having little money but clean and of good habits, nonetheless. (Either extremely condescending or jocular. Some people would consider it offensive.) ☐ My salary isn't very high, and I only have one old car. Anyway, I'm poor but clean. ☐ When Fred uttered the phrase "poor but clean" in reference to some of the people working in the yard, Ellen went into a rage.

Pop around (for a visit) and pop by (for a visit); pop in (for a visit); pop over (for a visit) to come by [someone's residence] for a visit. ☐ You simply must pop around for a visit sometime. ☐ I will pop by about noon. ☐ I can pop in for only a minute.

Pop back (for something) to come back to a place for just a moment. ☐ Okay, I think I can pop back for a minute. ☐ I have to pop back for something I forgot.

Pop by (for a visit) Go to pop around (for a visit).

Pop down (for a visit) to come or go to someone's home that is downstairs or in a place on a lower level. ☐ You simply must pop down for a visit whenever you get a chance. ☐ I'll try to pop down tomorrow evening after dinner.

Pop for something Inf. to pay for a treat (for someone). ☐ Let's have some ice cream. I'll pop for it. ☐ It's about time you popped for coffee.

Pop in (for a visit) Go to pop around (for a visit).
pop in(to something) 1. Lit. Inf. to come or go into some place, such as a store, shop, etc., for a moment. □ Let me pop into the bakery for a minute. □ I have to pop into the drugstore for some shampoo. 2. Fig. to snap into place in something. □ The little plastic thing popped into its slot, and the model plane was finished. □ It pops in and holds tight if you do it right.

pop off 1. Sl. to make an unnecessary remark; to interrupt with a remark; to sound off. □ Please don’t pop off all the time. □ Bob keeps popping off when he should be listening. 2. Sl. to lose one’s temper. □ Now, don’t pop off. Keep your cool. □ I don’t know why she popped off at me. All I did was say hello. 3. Sl. to die. □ My uncle popped off last week. □ I hope I’m asleep when I pop off. 4. Sl. to leave; to depart in haste. □ Bye, I must pop off. □ Got to pop off. I’m late.

pop one’s cork 1. Fig. to suddenly become mentally disturbed; to go crazy. □ I was so upset that I nearly popped my cork. □ They put him away because he popped his cork. 2. Fig. to become very angry. □ My mother popped her cork when she heard about my low grades. □ Calm down! Don’t pop your cork.

pop out (of something) to jump out of something; to burst out of something. □ Suddenly, a little mouse popped out of the drawer. □ I opened the drawer and a mouse popped out.

pop over (for a visit) Go to pop around (for a visit).

pop (some) tops Sl. to drink beer. □ Wanna go out tonight and pop some tops? □ We are going to pop tops and watch the B-ball game.

pop someone off! Inf. to kill someone. □ Max was told to pop Lefty off because he was trying to muscle in on the gang’s turf. □ Max intended to pop off Lefty.

pop someone on something Inf. to strike someone on some body part. □ If you don’t sit down, I’ll pop you on the chin! □ Max popped Lefty on the nose.

pop something into something and pop something in to fit, snap, or press something into place in something. □ Lee popped the lever into place, and the machine began to function. □ Lee popped in the plastic part, and the toy ran beautifully.

pop something on(to) something and pop something on to snap something onto something. □ Denise took one more sip of the medicine and popped the lid onto the bottle.

pop something out of something and pop something out to release something from something so that it jumps or bursts out, possibly with a popping sound. □ Sue popped the cork out of the champagne bottle. □ It took a little effort to pop the cork out. □ She popped out the cork with a quick tug.

pop something up to remove something by making it jump or burst upwards. □ Henry popped the lid up and helped himself to the strawberry preserves. □ He popped up the lid and cleaned out the jam jar.

pop the question [for a man] to ask a woman to marry him. (Could also be used by a woman asking a man.) □ She waited for years for him to pop the question. □ Finally she popped the question.

pop up 1. [for a baseball batter] to hit a baseball that goes high upward rather than outward. □ The catcher came to bat and popped up. □ I hope I don’t pop up this time. 2. [for a baseball] to fly high upward rather than outward. □ The ball popped up and went foul. □ The ball will always pop up if you hit it in a certain way. 3. to arise suddenly; to appear without warning. □ New problems keep popping up all the time. □ Billy popped up out of nowhere and scared his mother.

pop up (some place) to appear suddenly and unexpectedly some place. □ I never know where Henry is going to pop up next. □ A new problem has popped up.

pore over something to look over something carefully. □ She pored over the reports, looking for errors. □ I need to take a few hours to pore over these contracts and see if they are ready to be signed.

pork out (on something) Inf. to overeat on something; to become fat as a pig from eating something. (A play on pig out.) □ I pork out on french fries whenever I get the chance. □ I wish I didn’t pork out all the time.

portent of things to come Go to a harbinger of things to come.

portion something out to give out shares of something. □ Who will portion the cake out? □ She portioned out the chocolate carefully, making sure everyone got an equal share.

portray someone as someone or something to represent or describe someone as someone or a type of person. □ Fred portrayed his political opponent as an evil man. □ She tried to portray herself as a grand lady, but she fooled no one.

portray someone or something as someone to develop a character that one is playing in a dramatic production as a kind of person or someone having certain characteristics or a particular personality. □ Tom portrayed Scrooge as an evil old man. □ Randy hopes to portray his character as a sympathetic friend.

pose a question to ask a question; to imply the need for asking a question. □ Genetic research poses many ethical questions. □ My interviewer posed a hypothetical question.

pose as someone to pretend to be someone else. □ The impostor posed as the president of the company. □ My twin posed as me while I went on vacation.

pose someone as someone to pretend to be someone or a type of person. □ I posed as Gerald and got the job. □ I posed as a nurse and got a job at a summer camp.

pose for someone or something to assume a posture appropriate to the subject of a photograph or painting. □ Paul wanted me to pose for him, but I declined. □ Will you pose for my painting?

*possessed by something obsessed or driven by something. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ Ned was possessed by a desire to become the best at everything he did. □ Jan acts as if she is possessed by the need to be right all the time.

*possessed of something having something; possessing something. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ She is possessed of a large amount of money. □ Todd wishes he was possessed of a large car and a fine house.

Possession is nine-tenths of the law. Prov. If you actually possess something, you have a stronger legal claim to owning it than someone who merely says it belongs to
him or her. □ Dana may say he owns this house, but we actually live in it, and possession is nine-tenths of the law.

**post someone somewhere** to place someone, as if on guard, at something or some place. □ The police chief posted a guard at the hospital door. □ The boss posted himself at the water cooler to catch up on the gossip.

**post something on something** to fasten a notice onto something. □ Please post this notice on the door where everyone will see it. □ I will post this photo on the bulletin board.

**post something to someone** to mail something to someone. □ I posted it to him over a month ago. I can’t imagine where it is now. □ The letter was posted last week.

**postage and handling** charges for shipping [something] and for wrapping and handling the item. □ The cost of the book was quite reasonable, but the postage and handling was outrageous. □ They did not charge postage and handling because I prepaid the order.

**a poster child (for something)** Fig. someone who is a classic example of a state or type of person. □ She is a poster child for soccer moms.

**postpone something until something** to delay something until something happens or until a later time. □ Can we postpone our meeting until tomorrow? □ The picnic was postponed until Saturday.

**posture as** someone or something to pretend to be someone or a particular type of person. □ Why is the secretary posturing as the manager and giving out assignments? □ Carla entered the ballroom, posturing as a grand duchess of somewhere or another.

The pot is calling the kettle black, and That’s the pot calling the kettle black. Prov. You should not criticize someone for a fault that you have too. (Not polite to say about the person you are addressing.) □ Bill told Barbara she was sloppy, but Bill never cleans up after himself, either. That’s the pot calling the kettle black. □ My sister says I dress funny, but if you’ve seen some of the clothes she wears, you know it’s a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

**a pot of gold** 1. Lit. a container filled with gold, as in myth guarded by a leprechaun. □ I was hoping to find a pot of gold in the cellar, but there were only cobwebs. 2. Fig. an imaginary reward. □ Whoever gets to the porch first wins a pot of gold.

**pot something up** 1 to put plants into pots. □ If you would like one of these tomato plants, I’ll pot one up for you. □ Jan potted up a plant for me.

**pounce (up)on someone or something** to spring or swoop upon someone or something; to seize someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ As Gerald came into the room, his friend Daniel pounced on him and frightened him to death. □ The cat pounced upon a mouse.

**pound a beat** Fig. to walk a regular route. □ The cop pounded the same beat for years and years. □ Pounding a beat will wreck your feet.

**pound along something** 1. Fig. to walk or run along something awkwardly or heavily. □ As the horse pounded along the street, the rider tried hard to get it to slow down. □ Tom pounded along the pavement, looking a bit angry. 2. Fig. to tap or hammer along something. □ The worker pounded along the edge of the roof, looking for rotten places. □ I pounded along the wall, looking for a stud to nail into.

**pound away (at someone or something)** to hammer or batter constantly on someone or something. □ The cops pounded away at the poor guy, and then they put him in handcuffs. □ The jackhammer kept pounding away at the pavement.

**pound for pound** [Usually of value, quality, strength, etc.] considering the amount of weight involved. □ Pound for pound, a dog fed properly is much stronger than a dog that has to fend for itself. □ Pound for pound, there is more food value in beef than in chicken.

**a pound of flesh** Fig. a payment or punishment that involves suffering and sacrifice on the part of the person being punished. (Typically: give someone ∼; owe someone ∼; pay someone ∼; take ∼.) □ He wants revenge. He won’t be satisfied until he takes his pound of flesh.

**pound on someone or something** to beat or hammer on someone or something. □ She kept pounding on him until he released her. □ Will you please stop pounding on that drum?

**pound one’s ear** Sl. to sleep. □ I’ve got to spend more time pounding my ear. □ She went home to pound her ear an hour or two before work.

**pound someone’s head in** 1 Fig. to beat someone, especially about the head. □ Fred looked like he wanted to pound Mike’s head in; he was so mad! □ Do you want me to pound in your head?

**pound something down** 1 to hammer, flatten, or batter something. □ Please pound that nail down so that no one gets hurt on it. □ Yes, please pound down that nail!

**pound something in** 1 Go to hammer something into something.

**pound something into someone** Go to hammer something into someone.

**pound something on someone or something** to hit or strike someone or something with something. □ Sarah pounded the vase on the robber until it broke. □ Betty pounded her shoe on the radiator, hoping the racket would magically bring heat.

**pound something out** 1 Lit. to flatten something by pounding. □ He pounded the gold leaf out very thin. □ He pounded out the gold leaf. 2. Fig. to play something loudly on the piano, perhaps with difficulty or clumsily. □ Here, pound this one out. A little softer, please. □ She was pounding out a nice little tune. 3. Fig. to type something on a keyboard. □ I have finished writing it. Can I borrow your laptop so I can pound it out? □ All the reporters were pounding out stories for the next edition of the paper.

**pound something up** 1 to break something up by pounding. □ Pound the crackers up into crumbs and use them to coat the chicken before you fry it. □ Pound up the crackers and put the crumbs in a jar.

**pound the books** Go to hit the books.
pound the pavement Fig. to walk through the streets looking for a job. □ I spent two months pounding the pavement after the factory I worked for closed. □ Hey, Bob. You'd better get busy pounding those nails unless you want to be out pounding the pavement.

pour (all) over someone or something to flood over someone or something. (Compare this with pure over something.) □ The water from the broken dam poured all over the rocks standing at its base. □ The spilled milk poured over my lap.

pour along something to rush along something in great numbers or in a great amount. □ Hundreds of people poured along the street during the lunch hour. □ The rain water poured along the gutter, heading toward the sewer basin.

pour cold water on something 1. Lit. to douse something with cold water. □ Pour cold water on the vegetables to freshen them. □ I poured cold water on my head to cool myself off. 2. and dash cold water on something; throw cold water on something Fig. to discourage doing something; to reduce enthusiasm for something. (Alludes to cooling passion with cold water.) □ When my father said I couldn't have the car, he poured cold water on my plans. □ John threw cold water on the whole project by refusing to participate.

pour down (on someone or something) 1. Lit. [for water, as with rain] to shower down on someone. □ The rain poured down on us, soak ing us to the bone. □ John threw cold water on the whole project by refusing to participate. 2. Fig. [for blessings, criticism, praise, kudos, etc.] to flow down on someone or something. □ Criticism poured down on the mayor until he resigned. □ Blessings poured down on the early settlers in the form of good harvests and plentiful game.

pour forth to gush out; to gush forth. □ The milk gushed out of the hole in the container. □ A tremendous amount of water poured forth when the fire hydrant was knocked over.

pour in(to something) 1. Lit. to flow or flood into something. □ The rain poured into the open window. □ I left the window open and the rain just poured in. 2. Fig. [for people or things] to continue to arrive in great numbers. □ Complaints poured into the television station after the scandalous broadcast. □ Cards and letters are still pouring in.

pour it on thick Go to lay it on thick.

pour money down the drain Fig. to waste money; to throw money away. □ What a waste! Buying that old car is just pouring money down the drain. □ Don't buy any more of that low-quality merchandise. That's just throwing money down the drain.

pour oil on troubled water(s) Fig. to calm someone or something down. (A thin layer of oil will actually calm a small area of a rough sea.) □ Don can calm things down. He's good at pouring oil on troubled waters. □ Alice is very good at pouring oil on troubled water.

pour one's heart out to someone and pour one's heart out! Fig. to tell one's personal feelings to someone else. □ I didn't mean to pour my heart out to you, but I guess I just had to talk to someone. □ She poured out her heart to her friend.

pour oneself into something 1. Fig. to get deeply involved with something. □ He distracted himself from his grief by pouring himself into his work. □ She poured herself into the project and got it done on time. 2. Fig. to fit oneself into clothing that is very tight. (Usually jocular.) □ Marilyn didn't put that dress on, she poured herself in! □ She looks as if she poured herself into those jeans.

pour out (of something) 1. Lit. [for something] to stream, fall, or gush out of something or some place. □ The water poured out of the broken pipe and flooded the basement. □ The pipe split and the water just poured out. 2. Fig. [for people] to come out of a place in great numbers. □ At the end of the game, people poured out of the stadium for an hour.

pour out one's soul Fig. to confess something [to someone]; to reveal one's deepest concerns. □ Every time she calls me up, she takes an hour or more to pour out her soul.

pour something back¹ (in(to something)) to replace a liquid into something. □ Larry poured the extra glass of orange juice back into the pitcher. □ Lily took too much and poured some back. □ Pour back the extra juice into the pitcher.

pour something into something and pour something in¹ to guide a flow of liquid into something. □ She poured the lemonade into the pitcher and carried it to the porch. □ She held the glass and poured in the lemonade.

pour something off (of) something and pour something off⁴ to drain liquid off the top of something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Valerie poured the cream off the milk. □ Valerie poured off the cream.

pour something on(to) something to discharge a vessel of something onto something. □ Don broke open the piggy bank and poured the money onto the kitchen table. □ Don spread out a towel on the table and poured the money on it.

pour something out on(to) someone or something and pour something out¹ to empty something onto someone or something. □ She poured the pitcher of ice water out onto Dave, making him scream. □ Sarah poured out the pitcher on the floor by accident.

pour something over someone or something to cover or douse someone or something with something. □ As I poured the cooling water over myself, I felt relaxed for the first time since I began the long hike. □ Mary poured some milk over her cereal.

pour something through something to cause something to flow through something, such as a filter. □ The chemist poured the mixture through the filter or opening. □ I can't get the syrup into the bottle without pouring it through a funnel.

pour through something to flow freely through something. □ The water poured through the leak in the window frame. □ The rain poured through the hole in the roof.

pour with rain to rain heavily. (Said of the sky, day, morning, night, the weather, etc.) □ The sky was pouring with rain and the sun never shone from dawn to dusk. □ It poured with rain the entire night.

pouring rain very heavy rain. □ The children's clothes were soaked after they played out in the pouring rain. □ I waited in the pouring rain for the next bus.

pout about someone or something to be sullen about someone or something. □ There is no need to pout about the cat. She'll come back. □ Sally is pouting about her lost dog.
Poverty is no sin. Go to next.

Poverty is not a crime. and Poverty is no sin. Prov. You should not condemn someone for being poor. □ Ellen: I wish there were a law to make all those poor people move out of our neighborhood. Jim: Poverty is not a crime, Ellen.

powder one’s face Go to next.

powder one’s nose and powder one’s face to depart to the bathroom. (Usually said by women, or jocularly by men.) □ Excuse me, I have to powder my nose. □ She just went out to powder her face.

powder up Sl. to drink heavily; to get drunk. □ Let’s go out and powder up. □ He’s at the tavern powdering up.

the power behind the throne Fig. the person who actually controls the person who is apparently in charge. □ Mr. Smith appears to run the shop, but his brother is the power behind the throne. □ They say that the vice president is the power behind the throne.

a power play Fig. a strategy using one’s power or authority to carry out a plan or to get one’s way. □ In a blatant power play, the manager claimed he had initiated the sales campaign.

power something up1 to start something, such as an engine. □ You should power the engine up and let it run awhile before you drive away. □ Power up the engine and mow the grass.

power something with something to provide something as the source of energy for something to operate. □ The government decided to power its vans with natural gas engines. □ We will power the generators with coal as long as it is cheap.

power up to start an engine. □ Well, let’s power up so we will be ready to leave with the others. □ It’s time to power up and get going.

the powers that be the people who are in authority. □ The powers that be have decided to send back the immigrants. □ I have applied for a license, and the powers that be are considering my application.

A pox on someone or something! Fig. A curse on someone or something! (Old. Now usually jocular.) □ A pox on you, you creep! □ I’ve been trying to make this computer work all day. A pox on it!

Practice makes perfect. Prov. Cliché Doing something over and over again is the only way to learn to do it well. □ Jill: I’m not going to try to play the piano anymore. I always make so many mistakes. Jane: Don’t give up. Practice makes perfect. □ Child: How come you’re so good at peeling potatoes? Father: I did it a lot in the army, and practice makes perfect.

practice (upon) someone or something to train or drill on someone or something. (In preparation for the real thing. Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I do not want a dental student practicing upon me. □ I want to learn how to braid hair. Can I practice on you?

Practice what you preach. Prov. Cliché You yourself should do the things you advise other people to do. □ Dad always told us we should only watch an hour of television every day, but we all knew he didn’t practice what he preached.

praise someone or something to the skies Fig. to give someone or something much praise. □ He wasn’t very good, but his friends praised him to the skies. □ They liked your pie. Everyone praised it to the skies.

prance around to dance, jump, or strut around. □ The little deer were prancing around, enjoying the spring air. □ Stop prancing around and get to work.

prance around something to dance or jump in celebration around something or throughout some place. (Compare this with waltz around something.) □ The kids pranced around the room, celebrating. □ They pranced around the table that held the ice cream and cake.

prattle (away) about someone or something to chatter idly and endlessly about someone or something. □ The little girl prattled away for an hour about her school, her friends, and her toys. □ I wish you would stop prattling about your friends.

pray for someone or something 1. to beseech God, or some other deity, on behalf of someone or something. □ I will pray for you to recover from your illness quickly. □ As the fire spread throughout the old church, the congregation prayed for its preservation. 2. to ask God, or some other deity, to grant something. □ The family prayed for David’s safety. □ All the people prayed for peace.

pray over something 1. to say grace over a meal. □ Do you pray over your meals? □ We prayed over dinner just after we sat down to eat. 2. to seek divine guidance about something through prayer. □ I will have to think about it and pray over it awhile. I’ll have an answer next week. □ She prayed over the problem for a while and felt she had a solution.

pray to someone or something to utter prayers of praise or supplication to some divine or supernatural being or something. □ I pray to God that all this works out. □ The high priest prayed to the spirits of his ancestors that the rains would come.

pray to the porcelain god Sl. to kneel at the toilet bowl and vomit from drunkenness. □ Wally spent a while praying to the porcelain god last night. □ I think I have to go pray to the porcelain god.

preach about something to give a moral or stern discourse on something. □ Please don’t preach about the evils of fried food. I like the stuff, and people eat it all the time and don’t die! □ She was preaching about the value of a fat-free diet.

preach against someone or something to exhort against someone or something. □ The evangelist preached against the operator of the town’s only saloon. □ The principal kept preaching against drinking and drugs.

preach at someone to lecture or moralize at someone. □ Don’t preach at me! I don’t need any of your moralizing. □ I really don’t wish to be preached at.

preach to someone to give a moral discourse to someone. □ Please don’t preach to me. I know that I did wrong. □ When you preach to us like that, we don’t pay any attention to you.

preach to the choir and preach to the converted Fig. to make one’s case primarily to one’s supporters; to make one’s case only to those people who are present or who are already friendly to the issues. □ There is no need to convince us of the value of hard work. We already know...
preach to the converted

*preference over someone or something the right to come before someone or something else; greater importance than someone or something else. (*Typically: take ~; have ~; be given ~.) □ Ambulances have precedence over regular cars at intersections. □ My manager’s concerns take precedence over mine.

precious few and precious little very few; very little. (Few for people or things that can be counted, and little for amounts.) □ We get precious few tourists here in the winter. □ There’s precious little food in the house and there is no money.

precious little Go to previous.

precipitate into something 1. Lit. [for a chemical] to go out of solution into solid form. □ The sodium chloride precipitated into a salt. □ Will this compound precipitate into anything if I cool it? 2. Fig. [for something] to become a more serious matter. □ By then, the street fight had precipitated into a riot. □ We were afraid that the argument would precipitate into a fight.

precipitate something into something 1. Lit. to cause a chemical to go out of a solution into a solid form. □ Adding just one salt grain at the right time will precipitate the salt dissolved into the water into large crystals. □ One grain precipitated the dissolved salt into crystals. 2. Fig. to cause something to become more serious. □ The gunshot precipitated the incident into a riot. □ The rally was precipitated into a serious brawl.

preclude someone or something from something to prevent someone or something from being included in something; to eliminate someone from something in advance. □ Your remarks do not preclude me from trying again, do they? □ These facts do not preclude my company from considering, do they?

predicate something (up)on someone to base something on someone. □ There is no need to predicate my promotion upon the effectiveness of my secretary! □ You can hardly predicate the picnic on the weather, can you?

predispose someone or something to (ward) something to make someone or something susceptible to something. □ Your comments will not predispose me toward a favorable treatment of your case. □ Do you think that this weather will predispose me to catching a cold?

preface something by something to begin something by saying, writing, or reading something. □ I would like to preface my prepared remarks by making a personal observation. □ Her remarks were prefaced by the reading of a poem.

preface something with something to begin something with a particular message. □ She prefaced her speech with a recitation of one of her favorite poems. □ Alice prefaced her remarks with a few personal comments.

prefer someone or something to someone or something else to rank the desirability of someone or something over someone or something else. □ For the post of treasurer, I prefer Don to Jill. □ I prefer missing a meal to Jill’s cooking.

prefer something against someone to file legal charges against someone [with the police]; to file a complaint or a charge against someone. □ The neighbors preferred charges against the driver of the car who ruined their lawns. □ I will not prefer charges against the driver, since it was partly my fault.

prefix something to something to place something at the beginning of a word or part of a word. □ If you prefix a re- to some verbs, you get an entirely different meaning. □ You can’t prefix anything to some verbs.

prejudice someone or something against someone or something to turn someone or a group against someone or something. □ I believe that the lawyer was trying to prejudice the jury against the defendant. □ The discussion about how calves are raised prejudiced me against eating veal.

a prelude to something an act or event that comes before and signals another act or event. □ Her rudeness to her boss was a prelude to her resignation. □ The Munich Pact was a prelude to World War II.

prepare someone for something to build someone up for shocking news. □ I went in and had a talk with her to prepare her for the report. □ You should prepare yourself for the worst.

prepare someone or something for something to get someone or something ready for something. □ I prepared her for her trip by going over her itinerary. □ I prepared the garden for planting.

prescribe something for someone to order a medication to be given to or sold to someone. □ I asked the doctor to prescribe a painkiller for me. □ What can you prescribe for this illness?

prescribe something for something to suggest or recommend something for a particular disease. □ Could you prescribe something for my cold? □ What can you prescribe for this illness?

present someone (to someone) (at something) to introduce someone to someone at some event. □ They presented him to the queen at her birthday party. □ I will present you to the rest of the committee.

present someone with something Go to present something to someone.

present something on a silver platter Go to on a silver platter.

present something to someone and present someone with something to give something to someone, especially if done ceremoniously. □ They presented a watch to me when I retired. □ They presented me with a watch when I retired.

preserve someone or something against something to guard or protect someone or something against something. (Stilted or old-fashioned in reference to people.) □ I hope that the vaccine will preserve us against influenza. □ There is nothing in the jam to preserve it against spoilage.

preserve someone or something from someone or something to protect or guard someone or something from someone or something. □ Please help preserve our people from the attacks of our enemies. □ Is there any way to preserve my skin against the harmful rays of the sun?

preserve something for someone or something to save, maintain, or protect something for someone or some-
press something on 1. Go to next.
press something onto something and press something on 1. to put pressure on something and cause it to stick to the surface of something. □ I pressed the label onto the envelope and took it to the post office. □ I pressed on the label.
press something out of something and press something out 1. to squeeze something out of something by applying pressure. □ The Indians press the acid out of the manioc before they use it as food. □ Gene used an iron to press the wrinkles out of his suit coat. □ Go back and press out all the wrinkles!
press something together to use pressure to close or unite things. □ He pressed his lips together and would say no more. □ Why are his lips pressed together so tightly?
press something (up)on someone or to urge or force something on someone; to try to get someone to accept something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ He always presses second helpings upon his guests. □ She pressed a gift on us that we could not refuse.
press the panic button Go to hit the panic button. press (up)on someone or something to put pressure on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The crowd pressed upon the child, squeezing out all his breath. □ The load presses on your car’s springs very heavily.
pressed for cash Go to next.
*pressed for money and *pressed for cash; *pushed for cash; *pushed for money Fig. needing money; short of money. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~; seem ~.) □ We are usually pushed for money at this time of year. □ I’m a little pressed for money just now.
*pressed for time and *pushed for time Fig. needing time; in a hurry. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~; seem ~.) □ If I weren’t so pushed for time, I could help you. □ I can’t talk to you. I’m too pushed for time. □ Can’t talk to you now. I’m pressed for time.
pressure someone into something to force someone into doing something. □ Please don’t try to pressure me into taking that promotion. □ You can’t pressure me into it. I won’t do it!
presume (up)on someone or something to take unwelcome advantage of someone or something. □ I didn’t mean to seem to presume upon you. I apologize. □ I did not feel that you presumed on me.
pretend to something to claim to have a skill or quality. □ I can hardly pretend to the artistry that Wally has, but I can play the piano a bit. □ I can’t pretend to that level of skill.
*pretty as a picture very pretty. (*Also: as ~.) □ Sweet little Mary is as pretty as a picture. □ Their new house is pretty as a picture.
Pretty is as pretty does. Prov. It is more important to treat people well than to be good-looking; just because you are good-looking does not mean you are a good person. (Said only of girls and women.) □ Janice may have a
pretty oneself or something up

pretty oneself or something up† Rut. to make oneself or something more attractive; to tidy oneself or something up. □ I tried to pretty myself up for him, but he didn’t notice. □ Let’s try to pretty up this room.

a pretty pickle Fig. a difficult situation. (Pickle = a bad situation.) □ Well, this is a pretty pickle you’ve gotten us into.

Pretty please? an emphasised form of please? □ Pretty please? I need an answer! □ Can I have my book back? Pretty please?

a pretty state of affairs and a fine state of affairs an unpleasant state of affairs. □ This is a pretty state of affairs, and it’s all your fault. □ What a fine state of affairs you’ve got us into.

prevail against someone or something to win out over someone or something; to dominate someone or something. □ You will not prevail against me! □ I am sure that our team will prevail against the challengers.

prevail (upon) someone or something (to do something) to appeal to someone or a group to do something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I will prevail upon her to attend the meeting. □ I prevailed on the committee to no avail.

prevent someone from doing something to keep someone from doing something. □ You can’t prevent me from doing it! □ We must try to prevent her from going back there.

Prevention is better than cure. Prov. It is better to try to keep a bad thing from happening than it is to fix the bad thing once it has happened. (See also An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.) □ If we spend more money on education, so that children learn to be responsible citizens, we won’t have to spend so much money on prisons. Prevention is better than cure.

prey on something [for an animal] to feed on another animal as a matter of habit or preference. □ Owls prey on mice. □ Many birds prey on snakes.

prey (upon) someone or something (to do something) Fig. to take advantage of someone or something. (See also prey on something. Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The people of that island prey on tourists and do not give them good treatment. □ I really don’t want to seem to prey upon your kindness.

* a price on one’s head a reward for one’s capture. (“Typically: get ~; have ~; put ~; place ~.”) □ We captured a thief who had a price on his head, and the sheriff gave us the reward. □ The crook was so mean, he turned in his own brother, who had a price on his head.

the price one has to pay the sacrifice that one has to make; the unpleasantness that one has to suffer. □ Being away from home a lot is the price one has to pay for success.

price someone or something out of the market to raise or lower a price and drive someone or something out of the marketplace. □ You are a very good singer, but your agent has priced you out of the market. □ The discount prices posted by the chain store were meant to price us out of the market.

price something down† to lower the price of something. □ When they start pricing this stuff down at the end of the season, I’ll come in and buy something. □ I hope to price down the merchandise soon.

price something out to list and total all the component prices of goods and services for a complex project. □ I have finished listing all the materials required for the project, and now I have to price it out so that we can decide if we can afford it.

price something up† to raise the price of something. □ They have priced oranges up so high that I can’t afford any. □ Why do they price up these common foods so high?

prick up its ears† and prick up one’s ears† Fig. [for an animal or a person] to become attentive. (The animal will adjust its ears toward the sound.) □ The sound made the dog prick its ears up. □ When Fred heard his name, he pricked up his ears. □ She pricked her ears up when she heard his name.

pride and joy Fig. something or someone that one is very proud of. (Often in reference to a baby, a car, a house, etc. Fixed order.) □ And this is our little pride and joy, Roger. □ Fred pulled up in his pride and joy and asked if I wanted a ride.

Pride goes before a fall. and Pride goeth before a fall. Prov. If you are too proud and overconfident, you will make mistakes leading to your defeat. (Biblical.) □ Sue: I’m the best student in my history class. I’m sure I can pass the exam without studying very hard. Sam: Be careful. Pride goes before a fall, you know.

pride oneself in something and pride oneself on something to take pride in one of one’s qualities or accomplishments. □ She prides herself in her ability to spot a shoplifter. □ I pride myself on my ability to find compromises.

prime mover Fig. the force that sets something going; someone or something that starts something off. □ The assistant manager was the prime mover in getting the manager sacked. □ Discontent with his job was the prime mover in John’s deciding to retire early.

prime something with something to enable something to start working or functioning with something. □ Larry primed the pump with a little water, and it began to do its work. □ We will prime the market for our new product with a free coupon offer.

primp (oneself) up to get dressed up; to fix oneself up by combing, brushing, adjusting, etc. □ Let me stop in the powder room and primp myself up a bit. □ I have to go in here and primp up.

the primrose path Fig. earthly delights that come to an end. □ She led him down the primrose path until she got tired of him.

print something in something 1. to make block letters in a specific location on a paper. □ Please print your name in the box. □ Would you please print the information in the space provided? 2. to publish something in a publication. □ They printed my letter in today’s paper. □ Her stories have been printed in several magazines.

print something out† 1. to write something out by using block letters. □ Please print it out. I can’t read your handwriting. □ Print out your name, please. 2. to use a com-
produce something on/to someone or something

project something on(to) someone or something

produce something for something 1. to make something for some purpose. 2. This production line produces brackets for the installation of the circuit boards in the next production line. 3. We produce the seats for the trucks that they assemble on the other side of town. 4. to bring something out for some purpose. 5. Lee quickly produced a penknife for cutting the string on the package. 6. Ruth can always produce the right tool for the job.

produce something from something to create something from something; to make something out of something. 1. We are able to produce a high-quality writing paper from the scraps we trim off the edges of the books as we bind them. 2. Jane produces an excellent jelly from the grapes she grows in her backyard.

profit by something and profit from something 1. Lit. to gain money from something. 2. You will surely profit by investing in this stock. 3. I know I will profit from this investment. 4. Fig. to learn from something. 5. I am sure you will profit by your unpleasant experience. 6. Yes, I will profit from my failure.

progress to something to reach all the way to something or some place. 1. The crisis has progressed to its final stage. 2. Things had progressed to a serious stage where nothing more could be done for him.

progress toward something to move partway toward some goal. 1. Nancy is progressing toward her degree quite nicely. 2. We are progressing toward the end of the project.

progress with something to continue to move toward something or completing something. 1. I can’t seem to progress with this project. 2. How are you progressing with the building of your model ship?

prohibit someone from something 1. to prevent someone from doing something. 2. The committee voted to prohibit people from leaving before the meeting was over. 3. They prohibit anyone from being seated after the first act has started. 4. to keep someone out of some place. 5. Our policy is to prohibit people from the beach area after dark. 6. State law prohibits children from this dangerous area while the machines are running.

prohibit something from something 1. to prevent something from happening or from doing something. 2. My mother prohibits me from going out with friends on school nights. 3. Why do you want to prohibit the cars from traveling on this street during rush hour? 4. to keep something out of or away from something or some place. 5. The law prohibited bicycles from the sidewalks. 6. The city council prohibits unleashed dogs from the public parks.

project into something to extend into something. 1. The end of the grand piano projected into the next room, but she objected into the flower bed when it was parked, but that was all right.

project something onto someone to imagine that someone else experiences one’s feelings, especially one’s guilt or anger. 1. Since you project your anger onto your best friends, you imagine you have gathered a number of angry people around you. 2. You should not project your feelings onto other people.

project something on(to) someone or something and project something upon someone or something to show a pic-
ture, such as from a film, transparency, etc., onto something, such as a screen, wall, etc., or even onto a person. □ Henry projected the pictures onto the screen as he discussed each one. □ The teacher had to project the slides upon the wall.

promise someone the moon Go to promise the moon (to someone).

promise something to someone to pledge something to someone. □ I promised this vase to my niece. □ Is this book promised to anyone?

promise the moon (to someone) and promise someone the moon to make extravagant promises to someone. □ Bill will promise you the moon, but he won’t live up to his promises. □ My boss promised the moon, but never gave me a raise.

Promises are like piecrust, made to be broken. Prov. It is useless to make promises, because people always break their promises. □ Lisa made Andrew promise not to drink anymore, but promises are like piecrust, made to be broken.

promote someone (from something) (to something) to raise someone’s rank from something to something. □ They promoted her from teller to vice president. □ Carl promoted his daughter to supervisor.

prone to something likely to [do] something; apt to have something. □ My boss is prone to anger when my work isn’t done on schedule. □ My sister is prone to sneezing because of her allergies.

pronounce something on someone or something to make a statement, usually a judgment, about someone or something. □ The judge pronounced final judgment on the prisoner. □ The family all pronounced a positive opinion on the cake.

The proof is in the pudding. Prov. You cannot be sure that you have succeeded until you have examined the result of your efforts. □ Jill: I think we’ve done a good job of fixing the lawn mower. Jane: Well, the proof is in the pudding. We haven’t even tried to mow the lawn with it yet.

prop someone or something up1 (against someone or something) to stand or lean someone or something against someone or something. □ He was so tired I had to prop him up against the wall while I looked for the door key. □ I propped up the man against the wall. □ I propped the mop up against the wall.

A prophet is not without honor save in his own country. Prov. Everyone recognizes that a wise person is wise, except for the people close to him or her. (Biblical.) □ No one in the novelist’s country would publish her books, but last year she won the Nobel Prize. A prophet is not without honor save in his own country.

propose a toast to make a toast before a celebratory drink. □ I’d like to propose a toast in honor of your birthday. □ At the wedding reception, the bride’s father proposed a toast to the new couple.

propose something to someone to suggest something to someone. □ I have an idea I would like to propose to you. □ Sam wanted to propose a new plan to Sarah.

propose to someone to suggest marriage to someone, usually a male to a female. □ Guess who proposed to me last night? □ Do you think that Sam will propose to Mary?

prospect for something to search for something, especially for metals or minerals. □ The old men said they were prospecting for gold. □ What are they prospecting for out in the desert?

prosper from something to gain wealth from something. □ Carla prospered from trading on the options exchange. □ I hope you prosper from your new enterprise.

prostrate oneself before someone or something 1. Lit. to lay oneself out in respect or obedience in front of someone or something. □ The members of the cult prostrated themselves before their leader. □ They prostrated themselves before the altar. 2. Fig. to submit to someone’s dominance. □ If you think I’m going to prostrate myself before you and do as you ask, you are wrong. □ I will not prostrate myself before the high council!

protect someone or something against someone or something and protect someone or something from someone or something to shield or preserve someone or something against someone or something. □ Please come along and protect us against muggers as we walk home. □ What will protect my car against thieves?

protest about someone or something and protest against someone or something 1. to complain about someone or something. □ Valerie is always protesting about some problem at work. □ She filed a complaint that protested against her supervisor. 2. to rally or demonstrate against someone or something. □ A number of people protested about the war. □ They were mainly protesting against the draft.

protrude from someone or something to stick out from someone or something. □ Even in the dark, I knew he was hurt because I could see the knife protruding from him. □ A knife protruded from the victim’s back.

*proud as a peacock and *vain as a peacock overly proud; vain. (*Also: as —.) □ Mike’s been strut ting around proud as a peacock since he won that award. □ I sometimes think Elizabeth must spend all day admiring herself in a mirror. She’s as vain as a peacock.

prove oneself as something to demonstrate that one can serve in a certain office or capacity. □ It’s time to promote her. She has proved herself as a teller. □ I proved myself as an investor by making a lot of money in the stock market.

prove something to someone to substantiate a claim about something to someone; to make someone believe or accept a statement about something. □ What do I have to do to prove my innocence to you? □ Nothing you say will prove it to me.

prove to be something to be shown to be someone or something; to be found to be someone or something. □ Susan proved to be a good friend when she lent me some money. □ The food proved to be spoiled when I smelled it.

provide against something to plan against something happening. □ Have you provided against the possible collapse of the agreement? □ We have not provided against financial disaster.

provide for someone or something to supply the needs of someone or something. □ Don’t worry, we will provide for you. □ We will provide for the committee in the budget.

provide someone with something to supply something to someone. □ I will provide you with an escort to your car.
pry something up<sup>†</sup> to raise something with or as with a lever. □ See if you can pry that trapdoor up. □ Pry up that lid.

psych out 1. Inf. to have a nervous or emotional trauma; to go mad for a brief time. □ Another day like this one and I’ll psych out for sure. □ He looked at the bill and psyched out. 2. Inf. to become very excited; to lose mental control. □ I was so angry, I almost psyched out. □ The kids were psyching out over the rock star.

psych someone out<sup>†</sup> 1. Inf. to get someone very excited; to cause someone to lose mental control. □ Wow! What you just said really psyched me out! □ He psyched out his friends. 2. Inf. to figure someone out; to know how someone thinks. □ It took me a while to psych out Fred, but I have him figured out now. □ Don’t waste time trying to psych me out. I am an enigma.

psych someone up<sup>†</sup> Inf. to get someone excited or mentally prepared for something. □ I psyched myself up to sing in front of all those people. □ The coach psyched up the team for the game.

psych up Inf. to get mentally ready for something. □ I have to psych up before the big game tonight. □ We want to psych up so we can play a good game.

psyched (out) 1. Inf. excited; overwhelmed; thrilled. □ She’s really psyched out. □ That’s great. I’m really psyched about my new job! 2. Inf. intoxicated. □ She’s just lying there psyched out. □ Two beers and a shot of whiskey and he was psyched out.

psyched (up) Inf. completely mentally ready (for something). □ I’m really psyched for this test. □ The team isn’t psyched up enough to do a good job.

psyched up (for something) Inf. excited and enthusiastic. □ I can play a great tennis game if I’m psyched up. □ She is really psyched up for the game.

publish or perish Fig. [for a professor] to try to publish scholarly books or articles to prevent getting released from a university or falling into disfavor in a university. (Also occurs as other parts of speech. See the examples.) □ Alice knew she would have to publish or perish if she took the teaching job. □ This is a major research university and publish or perish is the order of the day.

pucker something up<sup>†</sup> to cause something to wrinkle up, especially the edges of the mouth, as when tasting something very sour. □ She puckered her lips up and pouted for a while. □ She puckered up her lips when she tasted the lemon juice.

pucker up 1. Lit. to tighten one’s lips together into a circle as if to kiss. □ He puckered up and kissed her once, and then again. 2. Fig. [for something] to shrink up and get wrinkled. □ The material puckered up when I washed it. □ The top edge of the drapes puckered up and I don’t know how to straighten it out.

puff along 1. [for someone] to run along, puffing to breathe. □ Sam puffed along, jogging on his morning route. □ As Wally puffed along, he thought again about going on a diet. 2. [for an engine] to move along, putting out puffs of smoke or steam. □ The old engine puffed along, driving the small boat slowly up the river. □ The locomotive puffed along, not making very much headway up the hill.
puff (away) at something 1. to blow at or into something in puffs. □ She puffed away at the beach ball, blowing it up as fast as she could. □ Todd puffed at the fire until it grew larger. 2. and puff (away) on something to smoke something, such as a cigar, cigarette, or pipe. □ Scott was puffing away at his pipe. □ She is always puffing on a cigarette.

puff out to swell out. □ The frog’s throat puffed out, and we expected to hear a croak. □ The sail puffed out, and the boat began to move.

puff someone or something up to boost or promote someone or something. □ Judy puffed Nell up so much that Nell could not begin to live up to her reputation. □ Don’t puff up your own accomplishments so much.

puff something out to cause something to swell out or expand outward. □ The frog puffed its throat out and croaked. □ The frog puffed out its throat and croaked a mighty croak.

puff up to swell up. □ Her finger puffed up and she thought she might have an infection. □ His eyelids had puffed up during the night.

puff up (into something) to assume a larger shape by filling up with air or water; to swell up into something. □ The strange-looking fish puffed up into a round ball. □ The fish puffed up and stuck out its spines.

pull a boner Inf. to do something stupid or silly. □ Boy, I really pulled a boner! I’m so dumb. □ If you pull a boner like that again, you’re fired!

pull a fast one to succeed in an act of deception. □ She was pulling a fast one when she said she had a headache (Police and underworld. Note the variations in the exam-

pull a few strings Go to pull (some) strings.

pull a gun (on someone) and pull a knife (on someone) to bring out a gun or knife suddenly so that it is ready for use against someone. □ I screamed when the mugger pulled a knife on me. □ The police shot the thief when he pulled a knife on me.

pull a job Sl. to carry out a crime, especially a robbery. (Police and underworld. Note the variations in the examples.) □ Richard decided that it was not a good time to pull a bank job. □ Willie and Richard left town after they pulled the job.

pull a knife (on someone) Go to pull a gun (on some-

pull a muscle to strain a muscle and suffer the attendant pain. □ I pulled a muscle in my back and can’t play golf today.

pull a stunt (on someone) and pull a trick (on some-

pull a trick (on someone) Go to previous.

pull ahead (of someone or something) to pass someone or something and continue moving. □ The runner pulled ahead of the rest of the field. □ Our car pulled ahead of theirs.

pull all the stops out! Fig. to use everything available; to not hold back. (Alludes to pulling out all of the stops on an organ so that it will sound as loud as possible.)

The mayor decided to pull out all the stops and campaign in every district. □ Todd pulled all the stops out for his exhibition and impressed everyone with his painting artistry.

pull around to something to drive around to something or some place. □ Please pull around to the back and deliver the furniture there. □ We told the driver to pull around to the service entrance.

pull at someone to vie for someone’s attention or concern. (See also pull at someone or something.) □ There are too many demands pulling at me. I need to cut down on my responsibilities. □ I don’t see how I can function with so many different things pulling at me.

pull at someone or something to tug at someone or something. (See also pull at someone or something.) □ The child kept pulling at her mother to get her attention. □ Don’t keep pulling at your hair. It will come out.

pull away from someone or something to jerk away or draw away from someone or something. □ Suddenly, she pulled away from me and fled. □ The car pulled away from the curb and drove off.

pull back (from someone or something) to move back from someone or something. □ When I saw how sick he looked, I pulled back from him in shock. □ I took one look at the snake and pulled back.

pull down (an amount of money) Fig. Inf. to earn a stated amount of money. (“An amount of money” is expressed as a figure or other indication of an actual amount.) □ She pulls down about $40,000 a year. □ They pull down pretty good salaries.

pull for someone or something to support and cheer for someone, a group, or something. □ We’re pulling for you. We know you can do it! □ All the students were pulling for the team.

pull in one’s ears Fig. to stop listening in on someone or something. (The opposite of prick up one’s ears.) □ Now, pull in your ears. This is none of your business. □ Pull in your ears and mind your own business.

pull in one’s horns Go to draw in one’s horns.

pull in some place [for a wheeled vehicle] to steer or drive to a point off the main route. □ Let’s pull in at the next motel and get some rest. □ I want to pull in at a service station and have my tires checked.

pull in(to some place) to drive into some place. □ A strange car just pulled into our driveway. □ Some stranger just pulled in.

pull off (something) to steer or turn a vehicle off the road. □ I pulled off the road and rested for a while. □ I had to pull off and rest.

pull on something to tug something. □ I pulled on the rope, hoping to get it loose. □ Please help me pull on the anchor chain so we can raise the anchor.

pull one over on someone to deceive someone. □ Don’t try to trick me! You can’t pull one over on me.

pull one’s belt in† (a notch) Go to take one’s belt in† (a notch).

pull one’s (own) weight Go to carry one’s (own) weight.

pull one’s punches 1. [for a boxer] to strike with light blows to enable the other boxer to win. □ Bill has been
barred from the boxing ring for pulling his punches. "I never pulled punches in my life!" cried Tom. 2. Fig. to hold back in one's criticism. (Usually in the negative. The one's can be replaced with any in the negative.) 2 I didn't pull any punches. I told her exactly what I thought of her. 2 The teacher doesn't pull any punches when it comes to discipline.

pull oneself together 1. Fig. to compose oneself; to gather one's wits about one. 2 I have to pull myself together and try it again. 2 Now try to pull yourself together and get through this crisis. 2 Fig. to gather up one's things together. 2 I'll be ready to leave as soon as I pull myself together. 2 I want to pull myself together and leave.

pull oneself up by one's (own) bootstraps Fig. to improve or become a success by one's own efforts. 2 If Sam had a little encouragement, he could pull himself up by his bootstraps. 2 Given a chance, I'm sure I can pull myself up by my own bootstraps.

pull (out) in front of someone or something to drive out into the road in front of someone or some vehicle. 2 A car pulled out in front of me, and I almost hit it. 2 The car pulled in front of a truck and there was a terrible wreck.

pull out of something 1. to withdraw from something. 2 For some reason, he pulled out of the coalition and went his own way. 2 The other side got impatient with the negotiations and pulled out. 2 To drive out of something, such as a driveway, parking space, garage, etc. 2 The car pulled out of the driveway and nearly hit a truck. 2 Look out! A car is about to pull out!

pull over (to something) to steer over to something, such as the side of the road. 2 Betty pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the traffic to thin. 2 The police officer ordered her to pull over.

pull rank (on someone) Fig. to assert one's rank, authority, or position over someone when making a request or giving an order. 2 Don't pull rank on me! I don't have to do what you say! 2 When she couldn't get her way politely, she pulled rank and really got some action.

pull (some) strings and pull a few strings to use influence (with someone to get something done). 2 I can get it done easily by pulling a few strings. 2 Is it possible to get anything done around here without pulling some strings?

pull someone about 1. Lit. to drag someone around. 2 The boys were pulling one another about and playing very rough. 2 Don't pull your little brother about so! 2 Fig. to give someone a hard time. 2 I'm tired of your double-talk! Stop pulling me about! 2 You can't believe what she tells people. She is always pulling people about.

pull someone apart 1. Lit. to separate people who are entangled. 2 The teacher pulled the fighting boys apart and sent them home. 2 They hugged each other so tightly that no one could have pulled them apart. 2 Fig. to upset someone very much; to cause someone grief and torment. 2 This whole terrible affair has just pulled me apart. 2 Don't let this matter pull you apart. Things won't always be this bad.

pull someone aside 1 to grasp and pull a person to one side. 2 I pulled the child aside and scolded him for trying to sneak into the theater. 2 I pulled aside the child to say something to him.

pull someone down 1 Fig. to degrade someone; to humiliate someone. (See also pull someone or something down.) 2 I'm afraid that your so-called friends are pulling you down behind your back. 2 There is no need to pull down everyone.

pull someone into something and pull someone in 1 Lit. to bring someone into a place; to draw someone into a place. 2 Advertising will pull hundreds of customers in. 2 The sale pulled in a lot of customers.

pull someone into something and pull someone in 1 Fig. to get someone involved in something. 2 Please don't pull me into this argument. 2 Don't pull in anyone else.

pull someone or an animal down 1 to drag or force someone or an animal down. 2 The wolves pulled the hunter down and set upon him. 2 They pulled down the hunter.

pull someone or an animal through (something) 1. Lit. to manage to get someone or an animal through an opening. 2 Do you think you can pull the cow through this narrow door to the shed? 2 Fig. to help someone or an animal survive a difficult time or situation. 2 All her friends worked hard to pull her through the crisis. 2 The vet worked hard to pull the cat through the illness.

pull someone or something apart 1 to separate or dismember someone or something. 2 The murderer pulled his victim apart and sought to dispose of the parts. 2 He pulled apart his victim. 2 Nick pulled the parts of the box apart.

pull someone or something around to drag or haul someone or something around. 2 The woman had pulled her children around all day while she did the shopping. All of them were glad to get home. 2 Nick pulled around his wagon and collected discarded aluminum cans.

pull someone or something away from someone or something and pull someone or something away 1 to grasp and haul someone or something away from someone or something. 2 The lady pulled the child away from the edge of the well. 2 Please pull your dog away from my hedge. 2 Pull away that dog, or I will call the police!

pull someone or something back 1 (from someone or something) to grasp and haul someone or something away from someone or something. 2 The cop pulled the kid away from the other kid and made them stop fighting. 2 I pulled back the child from the dangerous hole.

pull someone or something by something to grasp someone or something by something and tug or haul. 2 I pulled him by the hand, trying to get him to follow me. 2 Timmy pulled the toy duck by its string and it quacked as it waddled along.

pull someone or something into something and pull someone or something in 1 to haul or drag someone or something into something or some place. 2 She pulled him into the room and closed the door. 2 Lisa pulled in her friend and closed the door.

pull someone or something over (to something) [for someone] to cause someone or a vehicle to drive over to something, such as the side of the road. 2 The cop pulled Betty over to the side of the road. 2 I pulled the car over to the side.
pull someone or something to pieces to pull someone or something apart; to separate someone or something into pieces. □ The machine almost pulled him to pieces when he got his arm caught in it.

pull someone or something under 1. Lit. to drag someone or something beneath the surface of something. □ The strong undertow pulled John under the surface. □ The whirlpool nearly pulled the boat under. 2. Fig. to cause someone or something to fail. □ The heavy debt load pulled Don under. He went out of business. □ The recession pulled his candy shop under.

pull someone or something up1 to drag or haul someone or something upward or to an upright position. □ Bob had slipped down into the creek, so I reached down and pulled him up. □ I pulled up Bob and nearly fell in myself. □ Nick pulled the cushion up and propped it against the back of the sofa.

pull someone’s leg Fig. to kid, fool, or trick someone. □ You don’t mean that. You’re just pulling my leg. □ Don’t believe him. He’s just pulling your leg.

pull someone’s or something’s teeth Fig. to reduce the power or efficacy of someone or something. □ The mayor tried to pull the teeth of the new law. □ The city council pulled the teeth of the new mayor.

pull someone through (something) to help someone survive or get through something difficult. □ With the help of the doctor, we pulled her through her illness. □ With lots of encouragement, we pulled her through.

pull someone up short to cause someone to stop short. □ My scream pulled him up short. □ The sudden thought that everything might not be all right pulled Tom up short.

pull something down1 1. to demolish something; to raze something. □ Why do they want to pull the building down? Why not remodel it? □ They are going to pull down the old building today. 2. to lower or reduce the amount of something. □ That last test pulled my grade down. □ Let’s see if we can pull down your temperature with aspirin.

pull something down over someone or something to draw something down over someone or something. □ Lucy’s mother pulled the dress down over Lucy and buttoned it up in back. □ Sarah pulled the cover down over the birde cage and turned out the lights.

pull something off1 1. Inf. to manage to make something happen. □ Yes, I can pull it off. □ Do you think you can pull off this deal? 2. and pull something off (of) someone or something Lit. to tug or drag something off someone or something else. (Of) is usually retained before pronouns. □ Sam pulled the covers off the bed and fell into it, dead tired. □ He pulled off his clothes and stepped into the shower.

pull something on1 to draw on an article of clothing. □ He pulled his pants on. □ He pulled on his pants quickly and ran outside while putting on his shirt.

pull something on someone to play a trick on someone; to deceive someone with a trick. (The word something is often used.) □ You wouldn’t pull a trick on me, would you? □ Who would pull something like that on an old lady?

pull something out2 to pull something out of someone or something.

pull something out of a hat and pull something out of thin air 1. Lit. [for a magician] to make something, such as a live rabbit, seem to appear by pulling it out of a top hat or out of the air. □ He pulled a rabbit out of a hat and then pulled a chicken out of thin air. 2. Fig. to produce something seemingly out of nowhere. □ Where am I going to get the money? I can’t just pull it out of a hat! □ I don’t know where she found the book. She pulled it out of thin air, I guess.

pull something out of someone to draw or force information out of someone. □ The cops finally pulled a confession out of Max. □ I thought I would never pull her name out of her.

pull something out of someone or something and pull something out1 to withdraw something from someone or something. □ I pulled the arrow out of the injured soldier and tried to stop the bleeding. □ I pulled out the arrow.

pull something out of someone’s hands Go to out of someone’s hands.

pull something out of the fire 1. Lit. to drag or take something out of a fire before it is consumed. □ The fire was too big, so he pulled a few logs out of the fire. 2. Fig. to rescue something; to save something just before it’s too late. □ Can we rescue this project? Is there time to pull it out of the fire? □ There is no way we can pull this one out of the fire.

pull something out of thin air Go to pull something out of a hat.

pull something over someone or something to draw something over someone or something. □ The doctor pulled a sheet over Gerald and left the room. □ Sharon pulled the cover over the birde cage for the night.

pull something to close something, usually a door of some type. □ The door is open a little. Pull it to so no one will hear us. □ Please pull the door to.

pull something together 1. Lit. to close something, such as a pair of drapes or sliding doors. □ Please pull the doors together when you finish in the closet. □ Would you pull the drapes together before you turn on the lights? 2. Fig. to assemble something, such as a meal. □ I will hardly have time to pull a snack together. □ I will pull a nice dinner together for the two of us. 3. Fig. to organize something; to arrange something. □ How about a party? I’ll see if I can pull something together for Friday night. 4. Fig. to tidy things up; to straighten things up and make them orderly. □ This place is a mess. Please pull things together.

pull something toward oneself to draw something closer to oneself. □ He pulled his plate toward himself and began eating like a starving man. □ Mary pulled the basket of fruit toward herself and chose a nice juicy peach.

pull something up1 Go to pull something up to something.

pull something up1 (out of something) to draw something upward out of something. □ The worker pulled a cold wet dog up out of the pond. □ He pulled up the dog out of the pond.

pull something up to something and pull something up1 to draw something close to something else. □ She pulled the chair up to the table and began to examine the papers. □ She pulled up a chair.
pulled through someone or something to flow or surge through someone or something. I pumped in the air.

pulmonary 1. Of the lungs. 2. Of the lung. 3. Of the breathing. 4. Of the bronchial passages. 5. Of the air passages. 6. Of the heart. 7. Of the pulmonary arteries.

pull someone out of something by pulling a connector from a socket. Fig. to retrieve the power or effectiveness of something; to disable something.

pull the rug out on someone. Fig. to remove something from someone or something by force or suction. Are you trying to pump me for company secrets?

pull the plug on something to terminate the function of something by pulling a connector from a socket. Fig. to reduce the power or effectiveness of something; to disable something. The representative of the other company pumped Harry for information, but he refused to say anything. Are you trying to pump me for company secrets?

pull up (to) to cooperate; to work well together.

pull up to something to drive up close to something. Fig. to end an end to someone's activities or plans. (Based on pull the plug on something) 2. Fig. to put an end to someone's activities or plans. (Based on pull the plug on something) 2. The mayor was doing a fine job until the treasurer pulled the plug on him. David pulled the plug on Fred, who was taking too long with the project.

pull up to the drive-in window and placed my order.

pull up to the drive-in window and placed my order.

pull up to the drive-in window and placed my order.

pull the rug out on someone. Fig. to remove something from someone or something by force or suction. Are you trying to pump me for company secrets?

pull the rug out† (from under someone) Fig. to make someone or someone's plans fall through; to upset someone's plans. Don pulled the rug out from under me in my deal with Bill Franklin. I was close to getting the contract until Don came along and pulled out the rug.

pull the wool over someone's eyes Fig. to deceive someone. You can't pull the wool over my eyes. I know what's going on. Don't try to pull the wool over her eyes. She's too smart.

pull through (something) to survive something. I am sure that your uncle will pull through the illness.

pull together as a team to cooperate; to work well together. Let's all pull together and get this done. If we pull together as a team, we can get this job done on time.

pull up a chair. Please get a chair and sit down and join us. (Assumes that there is seating available. The speaker does not necessarily mean that the person spoken to actually has to move a chair.) Tom: Well, hello, Bob! Bob: Hi, Tom. Pull up a chair. The three men were sitting at a table for four. Bob came up and said hello. Bill said, "Pull up a chair." Bob sat in the fourth chair at the table.

pull (up) alongside (of someone or something) to move to a point beside someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) The car pulled up alongside the truck and honked and the people inside waved and waved. Please pull alongside the curb.

pull up (somewhere) Go to haul up (somewhere).

pull up stakes. 1. Lit. to pull up tent stakes to take down a tent in preparation to leaving. Let's pull up stakes and head home before the storm hits. Fig. to end one's ties to a particular place; to get ready to move away from a place where one has lived or worked for a long time. Even after all these years, pulling up stakes is easier than you think. It's time to pull up stakes and move on.

pull up to something to drive up close to something. I pulled up to the drive-in window and placed my order. When the taxi pulls up to the curb, open the door and get in.

pulse through someone or something to flow or surge through someone or something. A jolt of electricity pulsed through Sam, causing him to jerk his hand away from the wire. They repaired the power lines and electricity began to pulse through the wires again.
punch someone’s lights out Sl. to knock someone out with a fist. □ You had better stop that, or I will punch your lights out! □ Do you want me to punch your lights out?
punch something down1 to press something down. □ Punch this lever down and then try to place your telephone call. □ Punch down this lever and push this button.
punch something in1 to crush or smash something in. □ Who punched the cereal box in? □ Who punched in the cereal box?
punch something into something to stick or press something into something. □ She punched her finger into the cake and ruined my lovely icing job. □ He finally punched a spoon into the cereal box to get it open.
punch something out of something and punch something out1 to press on something and make it pop out of something. □ She punched the perforated stickers out of the page and stuck them onto her schoolbooks. □ Jane punched out the stickers.
punch something up1 to register a figure on a cash register or calculator. □ Jake punched the total up, and the register drawer opened. □ He punched up the total too carelessly.

Punctuality is the soul of business. Prov. You should be on time for all your business appointments. □ The office manager insisted on everyone’s coming to work on time, not a minute late. “Punctuality is the soul of business,” she said.
punctuate something with something 1. to add a particular punctuation mark to a piece of writing. □ You have punctuated this ad with too many exclamation points. 2. to add emphasis to one’s speaking by adding phrases, exclamations, or other devices. □ Her comments were punctuated with a few choice swear words. □ Tom punctuated his address with a few choice comments about politicians.
punish someone by something to discipline someone by doing something. □ The headmaster punished the children by forcing them to go to bed early. □ She punished herself by not eating.
punish someone for something to discipline someone for [doing] something. □ Someone will punish you for what you did. □ Please don’t punish me for doing it. I’m sorry.
punish someone with something to use something to discipline someone. □ The captain punished the sailor with the lash. □ Sally threatened to punish Timmy with a spanking.
punk out Sl. to chicken out (of something); to withdraw from something in cowardice. □ He was supposed to ask her out, but he punked out at the last minute. □ Come on! Stick with it! Don’t punk out!
puppy love Fig. mild infatuation; infatuation as in a crush. (Used especially of adolescent relationships.) □ Is it really love or just puppy love? □ Look at them together. It may be puppy love, but it looks wonderful.
purchase something for someone to buy something for someone else; to buy something to give to someone. □ Tony purchased a number of toys for the children in the orphanage. □ Who did you purchase this gift for?
pure and simple and plain and simple absolutely; without further complication or elaboration. □ I told you what you must do, and you must do it, pure and simple. □ Will you kindly explain to me what it is, pure and simple, that I am expected to do? □ Just tell me plain and simple, do you intend to go or don’t you?

*pure as the driven snow* pure and chaste. (Often used ironically. *Also: as ~.) □ Jill: Sue must have gone to bed with every man in town. Jane: And I always thought she was as pure as the driven snow. □ Robert was notoriously promiscuous, but tried to convince all his girlfriends that he was pure as the driven snow.
pure luck and blind luck complete luck; nothing but plain luck. □ I have no skill. I won by pure luck.
purge someone or something from something to rid something of something or someone or something. □ We are going to purge the delinquent members from the list. □ The court purged her arrest from the records.
purge someone or something of someone or something to rid someone of something or someone or something. □ The medicine is designed to purge the patient of the deadly toxin. □ We purged the list of the delinquent members.
purge something away1 to wash or flush something away. □ We will purge the rusty water away and then start up the pump again. We will have fresh, clean water again in no time. □ Laura purged away the rusty water.
purr like a cat and purr like a kitten 1. Fig. [for an engine] to run well and smoothly. □ My car really purred after I got it tuned up. □ New spark plugs and this old heap will really purr like a cat. 2. Fig. [for a person] to be very pleased, and perhaps moan or purr with pleasure. □ She was so pleased that she purred like a cat. □ Sarah really purrs like a kitten when she is happy.
purr like a kitten Go to previous.
purse something up1 to bunch or pucker something up. (Usually the lips.) □ When he tasted the lemon juice, he pursed his lips up and spat it out. □ Don pursed up his lips as if to spit it out.
push ahead (with something) 1. Lit. to go on ahead, pushing with something. □ The worker pushed ahead with the plow, moving the snow to the side of the road. □ Our car followed the snowplow, which was pushing ahead at a fast clip. 2. and *push ahead (on something)* Fig. to continue to progress with something. □ Let’s push ahead with this project immediately. □ I want to push ahead on this project.
push along to move along; to travel along as with a purpose. □ We must push along. We have a long way to travel before morning. □ They pushed along at a steady clip until they arrived at their destination.
push at someone or something to apply pressure to and try to move someone or something. □ She pushed at him, trying to get him to get out of the way, but he wouldn’t budge. □ Mary pushed at the door, trying to open it against the wind. □ There is no need for you to push at me so hard.
push down on something to press down on something, such as a button, stamp, lever, etc. □ Push down on this button if you want room service. □ Don’t push down on the door handle too hard. It will break.
**push**

**push for something** to request or demand something.

The citizens are pushing for an investigation of the police department. □ My secretary is pushing for a raise.

**push forward** to move forward; to move onward toward a goal. □ We have lots to do. We must push forward! □ They are pushing forward, hoping to complete the project on time.

**push off** and **shove off** to leave. (As if one were pushing a boat away from a dock.) □ Well, it looks like it's time to push off. □ It's time to go. Let's shove off.

**push on someone or something to put pressure on someone or something.** □ Don't push on me! I can't move any faster than the person in front of me! □ Push on this button if you want the steward to come. □ Push on the door a little. It will open.

**push on (to something)** 1. to move on to another topic; to stop doing one thing and move on to another. □ Okay. Let's push on to the next topic. □ Let us push on. We are nearly finished with the list. 2. to travel onward to something or some place. □ We left Denver and pushed on to Omaha. □ Let us push on. We are nearly there.

**push on (with something)** to continue to try to make progress with something. □ Let's push on with this project. We must finish it soon. □ Yes, let's push on and finish.

**push one's luck** and **press one's luck** to expect continued good fortune; to expect to continue to escape bad luck. (Often implies unreasonable expectation.) □ You're okay so far, but don't push your luck. □ Bob pressed his luck too much and got into a lot of trouble.

**push (oneself) away (from something)** to move oneself back and away from something. □ The skater pushed herself away from the wall. □ Tom pushed himself away from the table when he had eaten enough.

**push (oneself) by (someone or something)** to shove or thrust oneself past someone or something. □ In a hurry, I pushed myself by the security guard, and almost got arrested for doing so. □ I pushed by Jane and went in first.

**push (oneself) off (on something)** [for someone in a boat] to apply pressure to something on the shore, thus propelling the boat and oneself away. □ The weekend sailor pushed himself off on the boat he had moored to. □ We pushed off on the dock.

**push out** to spread out; to expand outward. □ The sides of the box pushed out, and I was afraid it would break. □ His little tummy pushed out when he was full.

**push past (someone or something)** to force one's way past someone or something. (Considered a rude act.) □ Nick pushed past the others and made himself first in line. □ I pushed past the gate and went right in.

**push someone around** **Fig.** to harass someone physically; to jostle someone. (See also push someone or something about.) □ I wish you would stop pushing me around all the time. □ Stop pushing Max around if you know what's good for you.

**push someone into something** and **push someone in** to force someone into a situation; to force someone to do something. □ They are trying to push me into signing the contract. □ Please don't push me into it! □ You pushed me in!

**push someone or something about** and **push someone or something around** to jostle someone around. □ The crowd pushed the visitors around and made them feel unwelcome. □ People on the sidewalk pushed the delegation about during the noon rush hour.

**push someone or something about in something** and **push someone or something around in something**; **push someone or something around** 1 to propel someone or something about on wheels. □ Freddie pushed his brother about in the wagon. □ The nurse pushed around Aunt Mary in her wheelchair.

**push someone or something across (something)** to move or propel someone or something across something. □ Jill pushed Fred across the ice. He simply could not skate at all. □ The old car stalled just before the bridge, so we pushed it across.

**push someone or something ahead of someone** to push someone or something forward from behind. □ I pushed Gerald ahead of me so he could get a better view. □ Sally pushed the cart ahead of her and filled it from the supermarket shelves.

**push someone or something along** to apply pressure to move someone or something along. □ The mother tried to push her child along, but he wouldn't go. □ Jane pushed the cart along, down the supermarket aisle.

**push someone or something around** Go to push someone or something about.

**push someone or something around in something** Go to push someone or something about in something.

**push someone or something aside** to shove someone or something to one side. □ Martha pushed Bill aside and went in ahead of him. □ He pushed aside the papers and laid his books on the desk.

**push someone or something (away) (from something)** to move or force someone or something away from something. □ The police pushed the crowd away from the movie star. □ They pushed away the hecklers from the stage.

**push someone or something back** (from something or someone) to move or force someone or something back from someone or something. □ I quickly pushed her back from the edge. She almost fell over. □ There wasn't enough room, so we pushed back the furniture. □ Tony pushed Jane back from the edge.

**push someone or something down** to force someone or something downward. □ Every time he tried to get up, the other boys pushed him down again. □ I pushed down the button and the machine began to operate.

**push someone or something forward** to shove or move someone or something to the front. □ Mary's mother pushed her forward where she would be seen. □ Let me push the piano bench forward for you.

**push someone or something into someone or something to cause someone or something to bump into someone or something. □ Todd accidentally pushed Marlene into Bill. □ I pushed the lawn mower into the tree by accident.

**push someone or something off (of) someone or something** to apply pressure to and force someone or something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ He con-
continue to come at me, but I managed to push him off me and escape. I pushed off the attacker.

push someone or something on (ahead) (of someone or something) to move or propel someone or something ahead. He did not want to go in with me, but I pushed him on forward or ahead of me. I went into each room to clean it, pushing the laundry cart on ahead. She paused for a moment to rest, and then pushed the baby stroller on.

push someone or something out of something and push someone or something out 1 to force someone or something out of something. Nick pushed the intruder out of the house. Tony pushed out the intruder.

push someone or something over to make someone or something fall over or fall down. When you ran into me, you nearly pushed me over. You nearly pushed over your friend.

push someone or something over (something) to cause someone or something to move over something. The convict pushed his buddy over the wall and followed after him. He climbed up to the top of the fence and I pushed him over.

push someone or something to someone or something to propel someone or something to or as far as someone or something. Max pushed Lefty to the window and made him look out. I pushed the chair to the window.

push someone or something toward someone or something to propel someone or something to someone or something. The drama coach got behind the shy young actor playing Romeo and pushed him toward Juliet. Clyde pushed his victim toward the edge of the cliff.

push someone or something up to raise or lift someone or something. Clyde is sliding down again. Push him up. Push up the window, please.

push someone, something, or an animal into something to guide, shove, or press someone, something, or an animal inside of something. I pushed the lawn mower into the garage and closed the door. I opened the garage door and pushed the dog in.

push someone to something to try to drive or force a person to do something. After the bankruptcy the board pushed the president to resign. We pushed her to reconsider, but her mind was made up.

push someone to the wall and press someone to the wall to force someone into a position where there is only one choice to make; to put someone in a defensive position. There was little else I could do. They pushed me to the wall.

push someone too far Fig. to antagonize someone too much; to be too confrontational with someone. I guess I pushed him too far, because he began shouting at me and threatening to hit me.

push someone up against the wall Go to up against the wall.

push something in 1 to crush something in; to make something cave in. He ran at the door and pushed it in. He pushed in the door.

push something off on (to) someone to place one’s task onto another person; to make someone else do an unwanted job. Don’t push the dirty work off onto me. Kelly pushed some of her workload off on me.

push something through (something) 1. Lit. to force something to penetrate something. Tony pushed the needle through the cloth, and drew the thread tight. He pushed the needle through just like a tailor. 2. Fig. to force passage of a motion or law. The committee chairman managed to push the bill through the committee. With a little lobbying, they pushed it through.

push something to close or nearly close something, such as a door. The door is open a little. Please push it to. Todd came in and pushed the door to.

push something (up) against someone or something to press something against someone or something. I pushed the chair up against the door to prevent the robber from getting in. Accidentally, I pushed the door against Donna and hurt her sore elbow.

push the envelope Fig. to expand the definition, categorization, dimensions, or perimeters of something. The engineers wanted to completely redesign the product, but couldn’t push the envelope because of a very restricted budget.

push the panic button Go to hit the panic button.

push through (something) to work through or force one’s way through something. I pushed through the snow, trying to get to the post office on time. The snow was very deep, but I pushed through.

push toward someone or something to move or struggle toward someone or something. The crowd pushed toward the convicted man, but the police held them back. The horses pushed toward the corral gate.

push (up) against someone or something to put pressure on someone or something. The small dog pushed up against me, wagging its tail. Push up against the ceiling tile while I try to tack it back in place.

push up on something to raise something upward; to push something up from below. Larry pushed up on the trapdoor and lifted it so he could climb out. Push up on this lever if you want the lights to get brighter.

pushed for money Go to pressed for money.

pushed for time Go to pressed for time.

pushing up (the) daisies Fig. dead and buried. (Usually in the future tense.) I’ll be pushing up daisies before this problem is solved. If you talk to me like that again, you’ll be pushing up the daisies.

pussyfoot around Fig. to go about timidly and cautiously. (Alludes to a cat walking carefully.) Stop pussyfooting around! Get on with it! I wish that they would not pussyfoot around when there are tough decisions to be made.

put a bee in someone’s bonnet (about someone or something) Fig. to give someone an idea about someone or something; to urge someone to do something. Julie put a bee in my bonnet about a way to solve our money problems. Sam put a bee in my bonnet about having a party for Jane. He put a bee in my bonnet about Jane. I’m glad he put a bee in my bonnet.

put a cap on something Fig. to put a limit on something. We need to put a cap on spending in every department. The city put a cap on the amount each landlord could charge.
put a contract on someone [for an underworld character] to order someone to kill someone else. □ The mob put out a contract on some crook from Detroit.

put a damper on something Fig. to have a dulling or numbing influence on something. □ The bad news really put a damper on everything. □ The rainy weather put a damper on our picnic.

put a dog off the scent to distract a dog from trailing the scent of someone or an animal. □ The odor of a skunk put the dogs off the scent.

put a hold on something to place restriction on something so that it is reserved, delayed, or inactivated. □ The bank put a hold on my credit card until I paid my bill. □ The committee agreed to put a hold on the troublesome piece of business.

put a horse out to pasture to retire a horse by allowing it to live out its days in a pasture with no work. (See also put someone out to pasture.) □ The horse could not longer work, so we put it out to pasture.

put a lid on something Go to a lid on something.

put a plug in† (for someone or something) to say something favoring someone or something; to advertise someone or something. □ I hope that when you are in talking to the manager, you put a plug in for me. □ I could use some help. While you’re there, put in a plug.

put a premium on something to make something harder or more expensive to obtain or do. □ The recent action of the bank directors put a premium on new home loans. □ The scarcity of steel put a premium on the cost of new cars.

put a price on one’s head Go to a price on one’s head.

put a smile on someone’s face Fig. to please someone; to make someone happy. □ We are going to give Andy a pretty good raise, and I know that’ll put a smile on his face. □ The surprise birthday party really put a smile on my dad’s face.

Put a sock in it! Go to Stuff a sock in it!

put a spin on something to twist a report or story to one’s advantage; to interpret an event to make it seem favorable or beneficial to oneself or one’s cause. □ The mayor tried to put a positive spin on the damaging polls. □ The pundit’s spin on the new legislation was highly critical.

put a stop to something and put an end to something to bring something to an end. □ I want you to put a stop to all this bad behavior. □ Please put an end to this conversation.

put a strain on someone or something to burden or overload someone or something. □ All this bad economic news puts a strain on everyone’s nerves. □ The epidemic put a strain on the resources of the hospital.

put all one’s eggs in one basket Fig. to make everything dependent on only one thing; to place all one’s resources in one place, account, etc. (If the basket is dropped, all is lost.) □ Don’t invest all your money in one company. Never put all your eggs in one basket. □ I advise you to diversify and not to put all your eggs in one basket.

put an amount of time in something to spend an amount of time (doing something). □ You put how much time in? □ I put in four months on that project.

put an animal down† Euph. to take the life of an animal mercifully. □ We put down our old dog last year. □ It’s kind to put fatally ill animals down.

put an animal out† to send an animal, such as a pet, outdoors. □ Did you put the cat out? □ Yes, I put out the cat.

put an end to something Go to a put a stop to something.

put another way Go to to put it another way.

put balls on something Sf. to make something more masculine or powerful; to give something authority and strength. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ Come on, sing louder. Put some balls on it. □ This story is too namby-pamby. Put some balls on it.

Put ‘em up! Go to Hands up!

Put ’er there, pal. Inf. Please shake hands with me. □ Glad to meet you. Put ’er there, pal.

put hair on someone’s chest Fig. to do or take something to invigorate or energize someone, always a male, except in jest. □ Here, have a drink of this stuff! It’ll put hair on your chest. □ That stuff is powerful. It will really put hair on your chest.

put ideas into someone’s head Fig. to suggest something—usually something bad—to someone (who would not have thought of it otherwise). □ Bill keeps getting into trouble. Please don’t put ideas into his head. □ Bob would get along all right if other kids didn’t put ideas into his head.

put in a good word (for someone) to pretend; to act as if something were true. □ If you see the boss, please put in a good word.

put in a hard day at work and put in a hard day’s work Fig. to work very hard at one’s job. □ I put in a hard day at work at the office, and now I want to be left alone to rest.

put in an appearance (at something) to appear briefly at some place or at some event. □ I only wanted to put in an appearance at the reception, but I ended up staying for two hours. □ Do we have to stay a long time, or can we just put in an appearance?

put in for something to apply for something; to make a request for something. □ I put in for a transfer, but I bet I don’t get it. □ She put in for a new file cabinet, but she never got one.

put in some place to dock [a vessel] temporarily some place. □ The ship put in at Bridgetown, Barbados, for repairs. □ We will put in at Honolulu for a few hours.

put it on the line Go to say the line.

put money up† (for something) to provide the funding for something. □ The government put the money up for the cost of construction. □ Who will put up the money for my education?

put off by someone or something distressed or repelled by someone or something. □ I was really put off by your behavior. □ We were all put off by the unfairness of the rules.

put on to pretend; to act as if something were true. □ Ann wasn’t really angry. She was just putting on. □ I can’t believe she was just putting on. She really looked mad.

put on a (brave) front Go to put up a (brave) front.
**put on airs** and **give oneself airs** Fig. to act better than one really is; to pretend to be good or to be superior. □ Pay no attention to her. She is just putting on airs. □ Stop giving yourself airs and act like the rest of us.

**put on an act** to pretend that one is something other than what one is. □ Be yourself, Ann. Stop putting on an act. □ You don’t have to put on an act. We accept you the way you are.

**put on the dog** and **put on the ritz** to make things extra special or dress formally for a special event. □ Frank’s really putting on the dog for the big party Friday night. □ They really put on the ritz for us.

**put on weight** and **to gain weight; to get fat.** put on the ritz Go to previous.

**put on the dog** and **put on an act** to pretend that one is something other than what one is. □ Be yourself, Ann. Stop putting on an act. □ You don’t have to put on an act. We accept you the way you are.

**put on weight** to gain weight; to get fat. □ I think I am putting on a little weight. I had better go on a diet. □ He has put on a lot of weight since last year.

**put one at (one’s) ease** Fig. to cause someone to relax or feel welcome. □ She usually tells a little joke to put you at your ease. □ Please do something to put me at ease.

**put one foot in front of the other** 1. Lit. to walk deliberately. □ I was so tired that I could hardly even put one foot in front of the other. □ She was putting one foot in front of the other so carefully that I thought she must be ill. 2. Fig. to do things carefully and in their proper order. □ Let’s do it right now. Just put one foot in front of the other. One thing at a time. □ All I need to do is put one foot in front of the other. Everything else will take care of itself.

**put one in one’s place** to rebuke someone; to remind one of one’s (lower) rank or station. □ The boss put me in my place for criticizing her. □ Then her boss put her in her place for being rude.

**put one over on one’s head** Go to in over one’s head.

**put one off one’s game** Go to off one’s game.

**put one off one’s stride** 1. Lit. to cause one to deviate from a rhythmic stride while walking, running, or marching. □ A rabbit ran across the path and put me off my stride. 2. Fig. to interfere with one’s normal and natural progress or rate of progress. □ Your startling comments put Larry off his stride for a moment. □ He was put off his stride by an interruption from the audience.

**put one on one’s feet** Go to get one on one’s feet.

**put one on one’s guard** to make one wary or cautious. □ The menacing growl by the watchdog put me on my guard. □ Every time the boss comes around, it puts me on my guard.

**put one on one’s honor** Fig. to inform one that one is trusted to act honorably, legally, and fairly without supervision. □ I’ll put you on your honor when I have to leave the room during the test. □ They put us on our honor to take no more than we had paid for.

**put one out of (one’s) misery** 1. Euph. Fig. to kill someone as an act of mercy. (See also put some creature out of its misery.) □ Why doesn’t the doctor simply put her out of her misery? □ He took pills to put himself out of his misery. 2. Fig. to end a suspenseful situation for someone. □ Please, put me out of misery; what happened? □ I put her out of her misery and told her how the movie ended.

**put one over on someone** Go to put something over on someone.

**put one’s back (in) to something** 1. Fig. to apply great physical effort to lift or move something. □ All right, you guys. Put your backs into moving this piano. □ You can lift it if you put your back into it. 2. Fig. to apply a lot of mental or creative effort to doing something. (From ①.) □ If we put our backs into it, we can bake twelve dozen cookies today. □ The artist put his back into finishing the picture on time.

**put one’s best foot forward** Fig. to act or appear at one’s best; to try to make a good impression. □ When you apply for a job, you should always put your best foot forward. □ I try to put my best foot forward whenever I meet someone for the first time.

**put one’s cards on the table** Go to lay one’s cards on the table.

**put one’s dibs on something** to lay a claim to something; to announce one’s claim to something. □ She put her dibs on the last piece of cake. □ I put my dibs on the seat by the window.

**put one’s face on** Fig. [for a woman] to apply cosmetics. □ Martha’s gone to put her face on. □ We’ll be on our way once my wife has put her face on.

**put one’s feet up** 1 to sit down, lean back, and rest; to lie down. □ He was really exhausted and had to go put his feet up. □ Time to put up my feet and get some rest.

**put one’s finger on something** 1. Lit. to touch something with one’s finger. □ I put my finger on the button and pressed. □ Put your finger on this spot and push hard. 2. Fig. to identify and state the essence of something. □ That is correct! You have certainly put your finger on the problem. □ When she mentioned money, she really put her finger on the problem.

**put one’s foot down (about something or someone)** Fig. to assert something strongly. □ The boss put her foot down and refused to accept any more changes to the plan.

**put one’s foot in it** Go to next.

**put one’s foot in one’s mouth** and **put one’s foot in it; stick one’s foot in one’s mouth** Fig. to say something that you regret; to say something stupid, insulting, or hurtful. □ When I told Ann that her hair was more beautiful than I had ever seen it, I really put my foot in my mouth. It was a wig. □ I put my foot in it by telling John’s secret; he found out.

**put one’s hair up** 1 to arrange one’s hair into a ponytail, bun, etc. (with curlers, hairpins, etc.). □ I can’t go out because I just put my hair up. □ I put up my hair every night.

**put one’s hand to the plow** Fig. to get busy; to help out; to start working. (Alludes to grasping a plow, ready to work the fields.) □ You should start work now. It’s time to put your hand to the plow. □ Put your hand to the plow and get the job done!

**put one’s hand up** 1 to raise one’s hand to get attention from whomever is in charge. □ The student put his hand up to ask a question of the teacher. □ She put up her hand to ask a question.

**put one’s hands on** someone, something, or an animal and **lay one’s hands on** someone, something, or an animal 1. Lit. to place one’s hands on someone or an animal. □ He put his hands on the sick woman and proclaimed her cured. This act of faith healing failed, alas. □ He laid his
hands on the dog and gently felt for broken bones. 2. Fig. to locate and get hold of someone or something. □ As soon as I can lay my hands on him, I’ll get him right over here. □ I am trying to put my hands on the book you suggested. 3. Fig. to get hold of someone or an animal with punishment or harm as a goal. □ just wait till I put my hands on you! □ When I lay my hands on Ken, he will be sorry he ever lied to me.

put one’s head on the block (for someone or something) Fig. to take great risks for someone or something; to go to a lot of trouble or difficulty for someone or something; to attempt to gain favor for someone or something. □ I don’t know why I should put my head on the block for Joan. What has she ever done for me? □ Sally tried to get me to put in a good word about her with the boss. But the last time I put my head on the block for anyone, it all backfired, and when the person goofed up, I looked like an idiot!

put one’s house in order Fig. to start thinking in a serious manner. (Usually used with children.) □ It’s time to put our thinking caps on, children. □ All right now, let’s put our thinking caps and do some arithmetic.

put one’s mind to something and set one’s mind to something Fig. to concentrate on doing something; to give the doing of something one’s full attention. □ I know I can do it if I put my mind to it. □ I will set my mind to it and finish by noon.

put one’s money on someone or something (to do something) 1. Fig. to bet money that someone or something will accomplish something. □ I put my money on the favorite to win the race. □ Donna put her money on the winning horse. 2. Fig. to predict the outcome of an event involving someone or something. (This is not a wager.) □ I put my money on Bob to get elected this time. □ Alice put her money on the most popular candidate.

put one’s neck on the line Fig. to put oneself at great risk. □ I put my neck on the line and recommended you for the job, and now look what you’ve done! I’m ruined!

put one’s nose in (where it’s not wanted) and stick one’s nose in (where it’s not wanted) Fig. to interfere in someone else’s business. □ Why do you always have to stick your nose in? □ Please don’t put your nose in where it’s not wanted!

put one’s nose out of joint Go to get one’s nose out of joint.

put one’s nose to the grindstone Fig. to keep busy doing one’s work. (Also with have and get, as in the examples.) □ The boss told me to put my nose to the grindstone. □ I’ve had my nose to the grindstone ever since I started working here. □ If the other people in this office would get their noses to the grindstone, more work would get done.

put one’s oar in and stick one’s oar in; put one’s two cents’ (worth) in Fig. to add one’s comments or opinion, even if unwanted or unasked for. □ You don’t need to put your oar in. I don’t need your advice. □ I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have stuck my oar in when you were arguing with your wife. □ Do you mind if I put in my oar? I have a suggestion. □ There is no need for you to put in your two cents’ worth.

put one’s own house in order to make one’s own affairs right, before or instead of criticizing someone else. (See also put one’s house in order.) □ You should put your own house in order before criticizing someone else. □ I have to put my own house in order before I criticize others.

put one’s thinking cap on Fig. to start thinking in a serious manner. (Usually used with children.) □ It’s time to put our thinking caps on, children. □ All right now, let’s put our thinking caps and do some arithmetic.

put one’s trust in someone or something to trust someone or something. □ Will I never be able to put my trust in you? □ You can put your trust in the bank. Its deposits are insured.

put one’s two cents’ (worth) in Fig. to put one’s oar in; put one through one’s paces and put something through its paces Fig. to give someone or something a thorough test; to show what someone or something can do. □ I brought the young gymnast out and put her through her paces.

put oneself in someone else’s place and put oneself in someone else’s shoes to allow oneself to see or experience something from someone else’s point of view. □ Put yourself in someone else’s place, and see how it feels. □ I put myself in Tom’s shoes and realized that I would have made exactly the same choice.

put oneself out to inconvenience oneself. □ I just don’t know why I put myself out for you! □ No, I did not put myself out at all. It was no trouble, in fact.

put out to generate [lots of something]. □ What a great machine. It really puts out! □ The new laser printer really puts out!

put out a warrant (on someone) and send out a warrant (on someone) to issue a warrant for the arrest of someone. □ The police put out a warrant on Max. □ We sent out a warrant on Lefty “Fingers” Moran at the same time.

put out (about someone or something) irritated; bothered. □ John behaved rudely at the party, and the hostess was quite put out. □ Liz was quite put out about the question.

put out (some) feelers (on someone or something) to arrange to find out about something in an indirect manner. □ I put out some feelers on Betty to try and find out what is going on. □ I will put out feelers on what’s going on with June.

put paid to something to consider something closed or completed; to mark or indicate that something is no longer important or pending. (As if one were stamping a bill “paid.”) □ At last, we were able to put paid to the matter of who is to manage the accounts.

put people or things together to join or combine people or things. □ We will put Sam and Trudy together at the dinner table. □ Let’s put all the crystal goblets together.
**put people’s heads together** to join together with someone to confer.  
| Let’s put our heads together and come up with a solution to this problem.  
| Mary and Ted put their heads together, but failed to provide anything new.

**put pressure on** something to apply weight or pressure to something. (See also *put (the) pressure on* someone to do something.)

| Put pressure on the wound to stop the bleeding.  
| Put some pressure on the papers to flatten them out.

**put roots down**¹ (some place) to settle down somewhere; to make a place one’s permanent home.  
| I’m not ready to put roots down anywhere yet.  
| I’m ready to put down roots some place.  
| I want to settle down. I want to put roots down and buy a house.

**put some creature out of its misery** to kill an animal in a humane manner. (See also *put one out of one’s misery.*)

| The vet put that dog with cancer out of its misery.  
| Please, put my sick goldfish out of its misery.

**put some distance between** someone and oneself or something to move or travel away from someone or something.  
| I fill and I aren’t getting along. I need to put some distance between her and me.  
| I drove fast to put some distance between Max and me.

**put some sweet lines on** someone Go to lay some sweet lines on someone.

**put some teeth into** something Fig. to increase the power or efficacy of something.  
| The mayor tried to put some teeth into the new law.  
| The delivery clause in the contract put some teeth into the agreement.

**put (some) years on** someone or something Fig. to cause someone or something to age prematurely; to cause deterioration in the state of someone or something. (The *some* may be replaced with a specific number or period of time.)

| The events of the last week have really put a lot of years on Gerald.  
| The severe weather put many years on the roof of the house.

**put someone across (in a good way)** and **get someone across (in a good way)** to present someone in a good way or a good light.  
| I don’t want Tom to make the speech. He doesn’t put himself across well.  
| I get myself across in situations like this. I’ll do it.

**put someone away**¹ 1. Sl. to kill someone. (Underworld.)

| They’ve put away witnesses in the past.  
| They’ve put away in the cold ground.  
| and send someone away Euph. to have someone put into a mental institution.  
| My uncle died last week. They put him away on Saturday.  
| They put away my uncle in the cold ground.  
| and send someone away Euph. to sentence someone to prison for a length of time. (Underworld.)  
| They put Richard away for fifteen years.  
| They put away the whole gang.

**put someone behind bars** Go to behind bars.

**put someone behind the eight ball** Go to behind the eight ball.

**put someone by someone or something** Go to by someone or something.

**put someone down as** something bad to judge that someone is bad or undesirable in some way. (See also *put someone down as something.*)

| He was so rude that I put him down as someone to be avoided.  
| If you act silly all the time, people will put you down as a fool.

**put someone down (for something)** to put someone’s name on a list of people who volunteer to do something or give an amount of money.  
| Can I put you down for ten dollars?  
| We’re having a picnic, and you’re invited. Everyone is bringing something. Can I put you down for potato salad?

**put someone in**¹ Go to put someone into power.

**put someone in a bad mood** Go to in a bad mood.

**put someone in an awkward position** to make a situation difficult for someone; to make it difficult for someone to evade or avoid acting.  
| Your demands have put me in an awkward position. I don’t know what to do.  
| I’m afraid I’ve put myself in sort of an awkward position.

**put someone in harm’s way** Go to in harm’s way.

**put someone in mind of** someone or something to remind someone of someone or something.  
| Mary puts me in mind of her mother when she was that age.  
| This place puts me in mind of the village where I was brought up.

**put someone in the hole** Go to in the hole.

**put someone in the picture** Go to in the picture.

**put someone in touch with** someone or something to cause or help someone to communicate with someone or something.  
| Can you put me in touch with Liz?  
| Would you please put me in touch with the main office?

**put someone in(side) (something)** to place or insert someone inside something.  
| The sheriff put Roger inside the cell and locked the door.  
| He opened the cell door and put Roger in.

**put someone into power** and **put someone in**¹ to elect or appoint someone to office or a position of power.  
| The board decided to put an unknown from another company into the presidency.  
| They put in a complete unknown.

**put someone into the doghouse** Go to in the doghouse.

**put someone into the doldrums** Go to in the doldrums.

**put someone into the gutter** Go to in the gutter.

**put someone off**¹ 1. to delay dealing with someone until a later time.  
| I hate to keep putting you off, but we are not ready to deal with you yet.  
| I had to put off the plumber again. He really wants his money.  
| I don’t wish to see Mr. Brown now. Please put him off.  
| I don’t want to talk to reporters. Tell them something that will put them off.  
| Put off those annoying people!

**put someone off (of) something** and **put someone off**¹ to remove someone from a form of transportation, such as a train, ship, or airplane, owing to illness or misbehavior. (See also *put someone off.* Of is usually retained before pronouns.)  
| The captain ordered that the unruly passengers be put off the ship at the next port.  
| We put the thief off at the dock.

**put someone off the scent** Fig. to distract someone or a group following a scent or trail. (From *put a dog off the scent,* the scent or trail can be purely figurative.)
(See also put someone off the track.) □ The clever maneuvers of the bandits put the sheriff’s posse off the scent. □ The mob laundered the drug money to try to put investigators off the trail.

**put someone off the track** and **put someone off the trail** to cause someone to lose a trail that is being followed. (See also put someone off the scent; throw someone off the track.) □ A distraction put me off the track and I almost got lost in the jungle. □ I was following an escaped convict and something put me off the trail.

**put someone off the trail** Go to previous.

**put someone on** to tease or deceive someone innocently and in fun. □ Come on! You’re just putting me on! □ He got real mad even though they were only putting him on.

**put someone on a pedestal** Go to on a pedestal.

**put someone on hold** Fig. to stop all activity or communication with someone. (See also put someone or something on hold.) □ John put Ann on hold and started dating Mary. □ “You can’t just put me on hold!” cried Ann.

**put someone on the spot** Fig. to ask someone forthright questions; to demand that someone produce as expected. □ Don’t put me on the spot. I can’t give you an instant answer. □ The boss put Bob on the spot and demanded that he do everything he had promised.

**put someone onto someone or something** to alert someone to the existence of someone or something; to lead someone to someone or something. □ Nancy put Elaine onto George, who knew of a job that Elaine might be interested in. □ Nancy put Elaine onto a good job lead.

**put someone or an animal out of something** and **put someone or an animal out** to get rid of someone or an animal; to eliminate someone or an animal from something or some place. □ The usher put the noisy boys out of the theater. □ He put out the boys. □ Please put out the cat after dinner.

**put someone or an animal to sleep** 1. to cause someone or an animal to sleep, perhaps through drugs or anesthesia. □ The doctor put the patient to sleep before the operation. □ I put the cat to sleep by stroking its tummy. 2. Euph. to kill someone or an animal. □ We had to put our dog to sleep. □ The robber said he’d put us to sleep forever if we didn’t cooperate.

**put someone or some creature to death** to kill someone or some creature. □ The killer was put to death right at midnight.

**put someone or some creature out in the cold** Go to out in the cold.

**put someone or something above someone or something** to place someone or something at a higher level than someone or something. □ The captain put one soldier above the wall so he could see trouble coming. □ In the painting, the artist put an angel above the small shed.

**put someone or something ahead (of someone or something)** 1. to move or place someone or something in front of someone or something. □ The teacher put Freddie ahead of Mike, because Mike had been disrespectful. □ Don’t put him ahead! I didn’t do anything. 2. to think of someone or something as more important than someone or some-thing. □ I put Gerry ahead of Betty as far as strength is concerned. □ Yes, I would put Gary ahead. □ She put herself ahead of everyone else and expected special treatment.

**put someone or something among someone or something** to place someone or something in the midst of people or things. □ The martial arts instructor put Fred among the strongest students to see what he would do. □ The shopkeeper put the green pears among the ripe ones and tried to sell them.

**put someone or something at loose ends** Go to at loose ends.

**put someone or something at someone’s disposal** to make someone or something available to someone; to offer someone or something to someone. □ I’d be glad to help you if you need me. I put myself at your disposal. □ I put my car at my neighbor’s disposal.

**put someone or something before someone or something** Go to place someone or something before someone or something.

**put someone or something down** 1. Go to set someone or something down. 2. Fig. to belittle or degrade someone or something. □ It’s an old car, but that’s no reason to put it down. □ You put down everything you don’t understand!

**put someone or something down as something** to write down the name of someone or a group as something. (See also put someone down as something.) □ I will put you down as cook for the benefit luncheon. □ I put down John as a likely prospect.

**put someone or something forward** 1. Lit. to move someone or something forward. □ The director put all the players forward during the last scene, leaving more room for the chorus to come on for the finale. □ Could you put your left foot forward a little? 2. Fig. to suggest someone or something; to advance the name of someone or something. □ I put Henry forward as a possible nominee. □ I would like to put forward a plan.

**put someone or something in** 1. Go to put someone or something into something.

**put someone or something in(to) jeopardy** to put someone or something into danger. □ What you just said puts Bill into jeopardy. □ It puts his plans in jeopardy.

**put someone or something into order** to put people or things into a proper sequence. □ Would you please put these people into order by height so we can march into the auditorium? □ Could you put these magazines into order?

**put someone or something into something** and **put someone or something in** to insert or install someone or something into something. □ The magician put the woman into the cabinet and locked the door. □ She put the woman and locked the cabinet.

**put someone or something into the middle of nowhere** Go to in the middle of nowhere.

**put someone or something on hold** to put someone or someone’s telephone call on an electronic hold. (See also put someone or something on hold.) □ Please don’t put me on hold! I’m in a hurry! □ I am going to have to put your call on hold.

**put someone or something on ice** 1. Lit. to put a body part or corpse on ice or under refrigeration to preserve it; to put a foodstuff on ice or under refrigeration to cool it. □ The surgeon transplanted a heart that had been put on ice.
put someone or something on something

to place someone or something on top of something.

put someone or something on track
Go to on track.

put someone or something out of one’s mind
to forget someone or something; to make an effort to stop thinking about someone or something.

put someone or something out of the way
to move someone or something out of a pathway.

put someone or something over
to succeed in making someone or something be accepted.

put someone or something through (to someone)
to put someone’s telephone call through to someone.

put someone or something to the test
Fig. to see what someone or something can achieve.

put someone or something under something
Fig. to place someone or something beneath something.

put someone out

1. to distress or inconvenience someone.

2. I’d like to have a ride home, but not if it puts you out.

put someone out of the way
Euph. to kill someone.

put someone out on a limb
Go to out on a limb.

put someone out to pasture
Fig. to retire someone.

put someone over a barrel
Go to over a barrel.

put someone’s back up
Go to get someone’s dander up.

put someone’s eye out
1. to puncture or harm someone’s eye and destroy its ability to see.

2. Careful with that stick or you’ll put your eye out.

put someone’s nose out of joint
Fig. to make someone resentful.

put someone through something
to cause someone to have to endure something.

put someone through the mill
Go to through the mill.

put someone through the wringer
Fig. to give someone a difficult time; to interrogate someone thoroughly.

put someone to bed and send someone to bed
to make someone go to bed.

put someone to bed with a shovel
SL to bury someone; to kill and bury someone.

put someone to bed with a shovel
SL to bury someone; to kill and bury someone.

put someone to sleep
1. to make someone ashamed.

2. to show someone up.

3. to make someone clear to someone.

put someone under
Fig. to anesthetize someone.

put someone under arrest
Go to under arrest.

put someone up
1. to provide lodging for someone.

2. I hope I can find someone to put me up.

put someone up for club president
We put up about fifty candidates.

put someone up against someone
to place someone into competition with someone else.

put someone up against someone
Fig. to give someone the idea of doing something.

put someone up with someone
to house someone with someone.

put someone wise to someone or something
Go to wise to someone or something.

put something across (to someone)
and get something across (to someone)
Fig. to make something clear to
someone; to convince someone of something; to get a plan accepted. □ I don’t know how to put this point across to my class. Can you help? □ Can you help me get this across?

**put something aside** to set or place something to the side. □ I put the magazine aside and began reading a book. □ Put aside your work for a minute and listen to what I have to tell you.

**put something aside for a rainy day** Go to save (something) for a rainy day.

**put something aside** (for something) to hold something in reserve for some purpose. □ You should put a little of the sugar aside for your coffee in the morning. □ Please put aside some money for me. □ I can put a little aside.

**put something at a premium** to make something available only at an extra cost or through extra effort. □ The scarcity of fresh vegetables at this time of year puts broccoli at a premium. □ The high demand for apples puts them at a premium.

**put something at an amount** to price something at a certain amount of money; to estimate something at a certain figure. □ I would put the charges at about two hundred dollars. □ She put the damages at nearly two hundred thousand dollars.

**put something at someone’s door** Go to lay something at someone’s door.

**put something away** 1. Lit. to return something to its proper storage place. □ When you are finished with the hammer, please put it away. Don’t leave it out. □ Put away this mess! 2. Fig. to eat something. □ Are you going to put this last piece of cake away? □ Did you put away that whole pizza?

**put something back** 1. to return something to where it was before. □ Please put the book back when you finish it. □ Put back the book when you finish. 2. Go to set something back.

**put something back in play** Go to in play.

**put something back on track** Go to back on track.

**put something behind** one Fig. to try to forget about something. □ I look forward to putting all my problems behind me. □ She will be happier when all this can be put behind her.

**put something behind** someone or something to place something in back of someone or something. □ I put the box behind Mary, and she didn’t even know it was there. □ Please put the present behind the couch where Janet will not see it.

**put something by** and **lay something by** to reserve a portion of something; to preserve and store something, such as food. □ I put some money by for a rainy day. □ I laid some eggs by for our use tomorrow.

**put something down** 1. Fig. to repress or put a stop to something such as a riot or rebellion. □ The army was called to put down the rebellion. □ The police used tear gas to put the riot down. 2. Go to set something down.

**put something down** in black and white and **set something down** in black and white Fig. to write down the terms of an agreement; to draw up a written contract; to put the details of something down on paper. (Alludes to black ink and white paper.) □ We agree on all the major points. Now, let’s set it down in black and white. □ I think I understand what you are talking about, but we need to put down the details in black and white.

**put something down to** something and **set something down to** something to explain something as being caused by something else. □ I put his bad humor down to his illness. □ We set your failure down to your emotional upset.

**put (something) forth** to exert effort. □ You are going to have to put more effort forth if you want to succeed. □ You need to put forth. You are not carrying your load.

**put something forward** to state an idea; to advance an idea. □ Toward the end of the meeting, Sally put an idea forward. □ He put several suggestions forward.

**put something in** to submit something, such as an order, request, or demand. □ In fact, I put the order in some time ago. □ I put in a request for a new monitor.

**put something in a nutshell** Fig. to state something very concisely. (Alludes to the small size of a nutshell and the amount that it would hold.) □ The explanation is long and involved, but let me put it in a nutshell for you. □ To put it in a nutshell: you are fired!

**put something in apple-pie order** Go to in apple-pie order.

**put something in layaway** and **put something in will-call** to purchase something by paying part of the price initially, and not receiving the goods until all the money has been paid. □ I couldn’t afford a winter coat right now, so I picked one out and put it in layaway. □ Please put this in will-call. I’ll pay for it next month.

**put something in limbo** Go to in limbo.

**put something in mothballs** 1. Lit. to put something into storage or reserve. □ He put his winter coat in storage with mothballs each fall and had to air it out for a week each spring. 2. Fig. to put something into storage or reserve. (Often said of warships.) □ The navy put the old cruiser in mothballs and no one ever expected to see it again. □ Let’s just put this small bicycle in mothballs until we hear of a child who can use it.

**put something in order** Go to in order.

**put something in play** Go to in play.

**put something in quotes** to put quotation marks around writing or printing. □ Please put this word in quotes, since it means something special the way you have used it here. □ They put it in quotes so people would know it means something different.

**put something in the back of someone’s mind** Go to in the back of someone’s mind.

**put something in the open** Go to in the open.

**put something in the way of someone or something** to place a barrier in the way of someone or something. □ You know I don’t want to put anything in the way of your happiness. □ I would never put anything in the way of you and Donna.

**put something in will-call** Go to put something in layaway.

**put something in writing** Go to in writing.

**put something into(side) someone or something** to place or insert something inside someone or something. □ The surgeon put a tube inside Chuck and left it there to drain
**put something into effect**

- **fluid.** While you have the closet door open, will you put this in?

- **put something into effect** and **put something into force** to make something take effect; to begin using or enforcing a policy or procedure. □ When will the city council put this law into effect? □ We will put it into force tomorrow.

- **put something into orbit** Go to in orbit.

- **put something in(to) order** to make something tidy. □ Please put this room in order. □ I will put it in order as soon as I have a minute.

- **put something into perspective** Go to in perspective.

- **put something into place** Go to in place.

- **put something into practice** to make a suggested procedure the actual procedure. □ That is a good policy. I suggest you put it into practice immediately. □ I plan to put the new technique into practice as soon as I can.

- **put something in(to) print** to publish something; to record something spoken in printed letters. □ The article looks good. We will put it into print as soon as possible. □ We’ll put it in print as soon as we can.

- **put something in(to) service** and **put something into use** to start to use a thing; to make a device operate and function. □ I hope that they are able to put the elevator into service again soon. I am tired of climbing stairs. □ We will put it in service within an hour. □ When can we put the new copier into use?

- **put something in(to) someone’s head** Fig. to give ideas to someone who might not have thought of them without help. □ Who put that idea into your head? □ No one put it in my head. I thought of it all by myself.

- **put something into use** Go to put something in(to) service.

- **put something into words** Fig. to form an idea into sentences that can be spoken or written. □ I find it hard to put my thoughts into words. □ She put it into words quite nicely.

- **put something off** to postpone something; to schedule something for a later time. □ I have to put off our meeting until a later time. □ I put off a visit to the dentist as long as I could.

- **put something on** to place clothing onto one’s body; to get into a piece of clothing. □ I put a heavy coat on to go outside in the cold. □ Please put on this one and see if it fits.

- **put something on hold** to postpone something; to stop the progress of something. (See also **put someone on hold**; **put something or someone on hold**.) □ They put the project on hold until they got enough money to finish it. □ Sorry, but we must put your plan on hold.

- **put something on its feet** Go to on its feet.

- **put something on paper** Fig. to write something down. □ You have a great idea for a novel. Now put it on paper. □ I’m sorry, I can’t discuss your offer until I see something in writing. Put it on paper, and then we’ll talk.

- **put something on someone or an animal** to clothe someone or an animal in something. □ The mother put a little jacket on her child. □ Alice puts a silly little coat on her poodle during the winter.

- **put something on someone or something** to place or set something on someone or something. □ She put sand on Tom as he lay napping on the beach. □ Please put the paper on the coffee table.

- **put something on someone’s shoulders** Go to on someone’s shoulders.

- **put something on the back burner** Go to on the back burner.

- **put something on the cuff** Fig. to buy something on credit; to add to one’s credit balance. □ I’ll take two of those, and please put them on the cuff. □ I’m sorry, Tom. We can’t put anything more on the cuff.

- **put something on the front burner** Go to on the front burner.

- **put something on the map** Fig. to make some place famous or popular. □ The good food you serve here will really put this place on the map. □ Nothing like a little scandal to put an otherwise sleepy town on the map.

- **put something on the market** Go to on the market.

- **put something on the street** Sl. to tell something openly; to spread news. □ There is no need to put all this gossip on the street. Keep it to yourself. □ Now, please don’t put this on the street, but I am going to get married.

- **put something out** 1. to emit something. □ The factory put a lot of fumes out. □ It put out nasty fumes. 2. to extinguish something on fire. □ He used flour to put the grease fire out. □ He put out the fire with flour. 3. to manufacture or produce something. □ That factory puts electrical supplies out. □ We put out very fine products. 4. to publish something. □ When was this book put out? □ We put out both books last year.

- **put something over** to accomplish something; to put something across. (See also **put someone or something over**.) □ This is a very hard thing to explain to a large audience. I hope I can put over the main points. □ This is a big request for money. I go before the board of directors this afternoon, and I hope I can put it over.

- **put something over on someone** and **put one over on someone** to play a trick on someone; to deceive someone with something. □ We really put one over on the teacher and boy, was he mad. □ I’m too observant. You can’t put anything over on me.

- **put something plainly** to state something firmly and explicitly. □ To put it plainly, I want you out of this house immediately. □ Thank you. I think you’ve put your feelings quite plainly.

- **put something right** Go to set something right.

- **put something straight** Go to set something straight.

- **put something through its paces** Go to put one through one’s paces.

- **put something to bed** Fig. to complete work on something and send it on to the next step in production, especially in publishing. (From **put someone to bed**.) □ This week’s edition is finished. Let’s put it to bed. □ Finish the editing of this book and put it to bed.

- **put something to (good) use** to apply a skill or ability; to use a skill or ability. □ The lawyer put her training to good use for the charity. □ The pianist put his talents to use at the party.
put something to rest and lay something to rest Fig. to put an end to a rumor; to finish dealing with something and forget about it. □ I’ve heard enough about Ann and her illness. I’d like to put the whole matter to rest. □ I’ll be happy to lay it to rest, but will Jane?

put something together 1. Lit. to assemble something. □ How long will it take to put dinner together? □ This model was put together incorrectly. 2. Fig. to consider some facts and arrive at a conclusion. □ I couldn’t put everything together to figure out the answer in time. □ When I put together all the facts, I found the answer.

put something under pressure Go to under pressure.

put something up 1. to build a building, a sign, a fence, a wall, etc. □ We’ll put a garage up next month. □ The city put up a fence next to our house. 2. to store and preserve food by canning or freezing. □ This year we’ll put some strawberries up. □ We put up a lot of tomatoes every year.

put something up for auction Go to up for auction.

put something up for sale Go to up for sale.

put teeth in(to) something Go to give teeth to something.

Put that in your pipe and smoke it! put the chill on someone (or something) and put the clamps on someone (or something) and put the clamps on1 Sl. to impede or block someone or something; to restrain or restrict someone. □ Fred had to put the clamps on Tony, who was rushing his work too much. □ Tony is getting a little anxious. Time to put on the clamps.

put the fear of God in(to) someone Fig. to frighten someone severely; [for something] to shock someone into contrite behavior. □ A near miss like that really puts the fear of God into you. □ Yes, it puts the fear of God in you.

put the feed bag on2 and the nose-bag on Fig. to eat a meal. (Both refer to a method of feeding a horse by attaching a bag of food at its nose and mouth.) □ It’s time to put the feed bag on! I’m starved! □ When do we put on the nose-bag?

put the finger on someone and lay the finger on someone Sl. to accuse someone; to identify someone as the one who did something. □ Tom put the finger on John, and John is really mad. □ He’d better not lay the finger on me. I didn’t do it.

put the freeze on someone Go to put the chill on someone.

put the hard word on someone Go to put the make on someone.

put the heat on1 1. to turn on central heating; to increase the amount of heat in a room or house. □ It’s going to get cold tonight. I’d better put the heat on. □ Let’s put on the heat to take off the chill. 2. Go to next.

put the heat on (someone) and put the screws on (someone); put the squeeze on (someone); put the heat on; put the screws on; put the squeeze on Sl. to put pressure on someone (to do something); to coerce someone. □ John wouldn’t talk, so the police were putting the heat on him to confess. □ When my boss puts the screws on, he can be very unpleasant. □ The police know how to put the squeeze on.

put the kibosh on someone or something Fig. to squelch someone or something; to veto someone or someone’s plans. □ I hate to put the kibosh on Randy, but he isn’t doing what he is supposed to. □ Your comments put the kibosh on the whole project.

put the make on someone and put the moves on someone; put the hard word on someone Sl. to attempt to seduce or proposition someone. □ I think he was beginning to put the make on me. I’m glad I left. □ James tried to put the hard word on Martha. □ Are you putting the moves on me?

put the moves on someone Go to previous.

put the nose-bag on4 Go to put the feed bag on4.

put the pedal to the metal Sl. to press a car’s accelerator to the floor; to drive very fast. □ Let’s go, man. Put the pedal to the metal. □ Put the pedal to the metal, and we’ll make up some lost time.

put (the) pressure on someone (to do something) to make demands on someone; to try to get someone to do something. □ Please don’t put pressure on me to go there! □ We put the pressure on him to get him to come, but he refused.

put the screws on (someone) Go to put the heat on (someone).
put the skids on (something)  Sl. to cause something to fail. □ They put the skids on the project when they refused to give us any more money. □ That's the end of our great idea! Somebody put the skids on.

put the skids under someone or something  Sl. to cause someone or something to fail. □ Her lateness put the skids under our presentation to the board of directors. □ He thought he could get promoted if he put the skids under the vice president.

put the squeeze on someone 1. Inf. to attempt to get money out of someone. □ The mob put the squeeze on all the merchants, threatening to break their windows if they didn't pay. □ Are you trying to put the squeeze on me for more money? 2. To go to the heat on (someone).

put the touch on someone  Go to put the bite on someone.

put to bed with a shovel 1. Sl. dead and buried. (Alludes to burying someone.) □ You wanna be put to bed with a shovel? Just keep talking that way. □ Poor old Jake. He was put to bed with a shovel last March. 2. Sl. intoxicated. □ He wasn't just tipsy. He was put to bed with a shovel! □ Dead drunk? Yes, he was put to bed with a shovel.

put to it strained or exhausted. □ Man, I'm really put to it! What a day! □ John was put to it to get there on time.

put too fine a point on something  Fig. to make too much out of something; to dwell overly long on a small detail of a complaint or argument. (Usually with not. Formal or stilted.) □ Not to put too fine a point on it, but did you really mean to say that Paul was the former secretary of the organization? Wasn't he the corresponding secretary? □ When he said that everyone was angry, he put too fine a point on it.

put two and two together to figure something out from the information available. □ Well, I put two and two together and came up with an idea of who did it. □ Don't worry. John won't figure it out. He can't put two and two together.

put up a (brave) front and put on a (brave) front Fig. to appear to be brave (even if one is not). □ Mary is frightened, but she's putting up a brave front. □ If she weren't putting on a front, I'd be more frightened than I am.

put up a fight and put up a struggle to make a struggle, a fight, etc. (Fixed order.) □ Did he put up a fight? □ No, he only put up a bit of a struggle.

put up a struggle Go to previous.

put up one's dukes Fig. to be prepared to fight. □ He's telling you to put up your dukes. □ Put up your dukes and be a man!

Put up or shut up! 1. Inf. a command to prove something or stop talking about it; to do something or stop promising to do it! □ I'm tired of your telling everyone how fast you can run. Now, do it! Put up or shut up! 2. Now's your chance to show us that you can run as fast as you can talk. Put up or shut up! 2. Inf. a command to bet money in support of what one advocates. □ If you think that your horse is faster than mine, then make a bet. Put up or shut up! □ You think you can beat me at cards? Twenty bucks says you're wrong. Put up or shut up!

put up with someone or something to tolerate or endure someone or something; to be able to stand someone or something. □ I cannot put up with your constant whining any longer! □ We can put up with John's living here until he finds a place of his own.

put upon by someone to be made use of to an unreasonable degree. (Typically passive.) □ My mother was always put upon by her neighbors. She was too nice to refuse their requests for help. □ Jane feels put upon by her live-in mother-in-law.

put wear (and tear) on something to cause deterioration in the state of something. (There can be various amounts of wear and tear. See the examples.) □ This road salt puts a lot of wear on cars. □ All this wave action puts too much wear and tear on the boat dock.

put weight on! Fig. to gain weight; to grow fat. □ The doctor says I need to put some weight on. □ I have to go on a diet because I've been putting on a little weight lately.

put weight on some part of the body subject an injured body part, as a foot or knee, to the weight of standing, to test its strength. □ My doctor told me I can put weight on my broken leg next week.

put words in(to) someone's mouth Fig. to interpret what someone said so that the words mean what you want and not what the speaker wanted. □ I didn't say that! You are putting words into my mouth. □ Stop putting words in my mouth!

Put your money where your mouth is! Inf. Stop just talking and stake your own money! (From gambling. Can also be said to someone giving investment advice.) □ You want me to bet on that horse? Did you? Why don't you put your money where your mouth is? □ If this is such a good stock, you buy it. Put your money where your mouth is!

Put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry. and Keep your powder dry. Prov. Have faith that God will make sure that you win a conflict, but be prepared to fight well and vigorously. (Supposed to have been said by Oliver Cromwell; powder means gunpowder.) □ Bill: Am I going to win my lawsuit? Alan: All you can do is put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.

put along to move along rapidly, usually in a motorized vehicle. (“Putt-putt” is the sound made to mimic engines, especially small engines.) □ The little car was putting along down the highway, when one of the tires went flat. □ We were putting along very smoothly all the way into town.

putter about Go to putter around.

putter around and put about to do little things of little consequence; to do small tasks as found around the house. □ I spent all of Saturday just puttering around, not really getting anything done. □ I stayed home and puttered about during my vacation.

putty in someone's hands Fig. of someone) easily influenced by someone else; excessively willing to do what someone else wishes. (Putty is soft and malleable. Typi- cally: be ~; seem like ~.) □ Bob's wife is putty in his hands. She never thinks for herself. □ Jane is putty in her mother's hands. She always does exactly what her mother says.

a put-up job Inf. a deception; a deceptive event. □ That's really phony; a put-up job if I ever saw one. □ No put-up job is clever enough to fool me.
**putz around** *Inf.* to fiddle around; to mess around. □ Stop putzing around and get to work. □ Those guys spend most of their time just putzing around.

**puzzle over someone or something** to consider or ponder someone or something. □ Anne is a bit strange. I’ve spent some time puzzling over her. □ While I was puzzling over why she had slapped me, she did it again.

**puzzle something out** to figure something out. □ It took me a while to puzzle it out. □ I can’t puzzle out the meaning of this argument.
quail at something to show fear at something; to shrink from something. "You quailed at the thought of what he had to do." The students quailed at the teacher who had been so hard on them in the past.

quail before something to cower before or at the threat of someone or something. "The students quailed before the angry principal." They quailed before the thought of punishment.

quake in one's boots Go to shake in one's boots.

quake with something to shake as with fear, terror, etc. "Todd quaked with terror when he saw the vicious dog at the door." Alice was quaking with fear as the door slowly opened.

qualify as something to fulfill the requirements to be something. "Tom qualified as a mechanic." I have been qualified as a mechanic since I was twenty.

qualify for something to meet the requirements for something. "I'm sorry, you do not qualify for this job." I don't qualify for it.

qualify someone as something to cause someone to fulfill the requirements for something. "Does this course qualify me as a stockbroker?" She qualified herself as a realtor.

qualify someone for something to enable someone to meet the requirements for something. "His years with the company qualified him for pension." Does this ticket qualify me for the drawing?

quality time time spent with someone allowing interaction and closeness. "He was able to spend a few minutes of quality time with his son, Buxton, at least once every two weeks."

*qualms (about something) an unease feeling of one's conscience about someone or something. (Typically: cause ~; have ~; have no ~; give someone ~.) Do you have any qualms about telling a little white lie to Mary about her not getting an invitation to the party?

quarrel with something to argue against something; to have a complaint about something. "I can't quarrel with that." Does anyone want to quarrel with that last remark?

The Queen's English "Official" British English. "He can't even speak The Queen's English! Despicable!"

quarrel as a three-dollar bill Go to phony as a three-dollar bill.

quarrel for something Inf. in the mood for something; desiring something. "I'm quarrering for a beer right now." She's quarrelling for him because of his money.

quest for someone or something to seek after someone or something. "Martin is off questing for a book on baroque organ building." She is questing for a better way to do it.

a question of something a matter of something; a problem of something. "It's not a matter of not wanting to go to the opera. It's a question of money.

question someone about something to ask someone about something or something. "The police questioned Roger about the crime." Then they questioned Claire about Roger.

question someone at great length Go to at great length.

queue up (for something) to line up for something. (Typically British.) "We had to queue up for tickets to the play." You must queue up here to get in.

quibble (about something or someone) and quibble (over something or something) to be argumentative or contentious with someone or something. "Let's not quibble about it." Please don't quibble with your sister. "No need to quibble over it."

quick and dirty Fig. [done] fast and carelessly; [done] fast and cheaply. "I am not interested in a quick and dirty job. I want it done right." The contractor made a lot of money on quick and dirty projects that would never last very long.

quick as a flash Go to next.

*quick as a wink and *quick as a flash; *quick as (greased) lightning; *swift as lightning very quickly. (Also: as ~.) As quick as a wink, the thief took the lady's purse. "I'll finish this work quick as a flash." Quick as grease lightning, the thief stole my wallet.

quick as (greased) lightning Go to previous.

quick like a bunny really quick. "Now's your chance. Do it! Quick like a bunny!"

quick off the mark quick starting or reacting. (Compare this with slow off the mark.) "Boy, you were quick off the mark there!" If you can be really quick off the mark, you can soon find the answer.

quick on the draw Go to next.

quick on the trigger and quick on the draw 1. Lit. quick to draw a gun and shoot. "Some of the old cowboys were known to be quick on the trigger." Wyatt Earp was particularly quick on the draw. 2. Fig. quick to respond to anything. "John gets the right answer before anyone else. He's really quick on the trigger." Sally will probably win the quiz game. She's really quick on the draw.
quick on the uptake quick to understand or learn something. □ Just because I’m not quick on the uptake, it doesn’t mean I’m stupid. □ Mary understands jokes before anyone else because she’s so quick on the uptake.

a quick study a person who is quick to learn things. (Compare this to a slow study.) □ Jane, who is a quick study, caught the joke immediately and laughed before everyone else.

a quick temper and a short temper; a short fuse a bad temper that can be easily aroused. □ Tyler has a quick temper and doesn’t mind letting everyone see it.

quicker than hell Inf. very fast. □ You got over here quicker than hell. □ Be careful in the stock market. You can lose all your money quicker than hell.

quicker than a person who is quick to learn things.

quicker than you can say Jack Robinson very fast. □ You got over here quicker than hell. □ Be careful in the stock market. You can lose all your money quicker than hell.

*quiet as a (church) mouse and *quiet as the grave very quiet. (*Also: as ~.) □ You’d better be as quiet as a mouse while Grandma takes her nap so you won’t wake her up. □ This town is quiet as the grave now that the factories have closed.

quiet as the grave Go to previous.

quiet down to become quiet; to become less noisy. □ Please quiet down. □ Ask them to quiet down.

quiet someone or an animal down1 to make someone or an animal more quiet. □ Please go and quiet the children down. □ Try to quiet down the children. □ Please quiet that dog down.

quip about someone or something to joke about someone or something. □ The kids were quipping about the principal’s hairpiece. □ It is rude to quip about an elderly person.

quit a place to leave a place. □ In the autumn, Melinda quit Paris and traveled south to warmer climes.

quit on someone 1. [for something] to quit while someone is using it. □ This stupid car quit on me. □ I hope this thing doesn’t quit on me. 2. [for one] to leave one’s job, usually suddenly or unannounced. □ Wally, the park supervisor, quit on us at the last minute. □ My assistant quit on me.

quit over someone or something to stop working or doing something because of someone or something; to quit because of a dispute over someone or something. □ Please don’t quit over a silly thing like that. □ She quit over one of her fellow workers.

quit while one is ahead to stop doing something while one is still successful. □ When will I learn to quit while I’m ahead? □ Get into the market. Make some money and get out. Quit while you’re ahead.

quite a bit Go to next.

quite a few and quite a lot; quite a bit; quite a number much or many. □ Do you need one? I have quite a few. □ I have quite a bit—enough to spare some. □ How many? Oh, quite a number.

quite a lot Go to previous.

quite a number Go to quite a few.

quite a something definitely something; a good example of something. □ The captain of the swim team is quite a swimmer. □ That’s quite a bruise you have there.

quite something something very good or remarkable. □ You should see their new house. It’s quite something. □ Meg’s mother has bought a new hat for the wedding and it’s quite something.

quiver with something 1. Lit. to shake or shiver from something, such as cold, fear, anticipation, etc. □ On seeing the bear, the dogs quivered with fear. □ Todd quivered with the cold. 2. Fig. to experience eagerness or joy. □ I quivered with delight when I saw the dessert. □ Tom quivered with eagerness as the door opened.

quiz out (of something) to earn permission to waive a college course by successful completion of a quiz or exam. □ Andrew was able to quiz out of calculus. □ After studying very hard, he quizzed out.

quiz someone about someone or something to ask someone many questions about someone or something. □ The general quizzed the soldier about the incident. □ The officer quizzed her about Randy.

quiz someone on someone or something to give someone a quiz or test over the subject of someone or something. □ The teacher quizzed the students on the chapter she had assigned for homework. □ I hope they quiz me on George Washington. I am prepared.

quote a price to name or state in advance the charge for doing or supplying something. □ The mechanic quoted a price of $100 to repair my car. □ The carpenter quoted a price for fixing the stairs.

quote someone or something out of context Go to out of context.

quote (something) from someone or something to recite something verbatim that someone else has said; to recite something verbatim from a printed source. □ May I quote from your letter of the tenth? □ Do you mind if I quote a line from Keats?

quote, unquote a parenthetical expression said before a word or short phrase indicating that the word or phrase would be in quotation marks if used in writing. □ So I said to her, quote, unquote, it’s time we had a little talk.
race against someone or something to attempt to win a trial of speed against someone or something. □ I don’t want to race against Kelly. She is too fast. □ I had to race against time to get there before the baby got worse.

race against time 1. a rush; a rush to beat a deadline. □ We were in a race against time to beat the deadline. □ It was a race against time, but we made it. 2. to hurry to beat a deadline. □ We had to race against time to finish before the deadline. □ You don’t need to race against time. Take all the time you want.

race around to run or move around in a great hurry. □ Stop racing around and calm down! □ I have been racing around all morning, trying to get some things done.

race around (after someone or something) to rush here and there to find or fetch someone or something. □ I had to race around after Tom. I couldn’t seem to catch up to him. □ I wish I could find the dog without having to race around all over the neighborhood.

race for something to run or drive fast to get to something in a hurry. □ I raced for the door to see who was there. □ The children raced for the best seats in front of the television set.

race into someone or something to bump or crash into someone or something. □ The boys raced into the side of the car, and one of them was hurt. □ We raced into Mary and knocked her over.

race into something to run into a place. □ The children raced into the room and headed straight for their presents. □ Please don’t race into the garden. You will trample the flowers.

race someone for something to compete against someone for a prize; to try to outrun someone to get to something first. □ I will race you for the grand prize. □ Ned raced his sister for the breakfast table every morning.

race someone to some place to compete against someone to see who gets to a place first. □ I will race you to the door. □ Tim wanted to race me to the corner.

race through someone or something to run or chase through a group of people or a place. □ The children raced through the group of ladies standing by the door. □ The dogs raced through the room, upsetting a lamp.

race through something to perform some task very rapidly. □ They raced through their prayers and jumped into bed.

The children raced through dinner, in a hurry to get outside to play.

race to someone or something to run to someone or something. □ The girls raced to the front room. □ We all raced to Mary, who had the candy.

race up to someone or something to run to someone or something. □ Molly raced up to Paul and kissed him on the cheek. □ We raced up to the door and opened it cautiously.

race with someone or something to enter a speed contest with someone or something. □ I refuse to race with Carla. She is much too fast for me. □ I can’t race with a horse!

rack one’s brain(s) Fig. to try very hard to think of something. □ I racked my brains all afternoon, but couldn’t remember where I put the book. □ Don’t waste any more time racking your brain. Go borrow the book from the library.

rack out Sl. to go to bed and to sleep. □ I’m really tired. I’ve got to go race out for a while. □ I racked out until nearly noon.

rack something up1. Lit. to place something onto or into its rack. □ You had better rack the billiard balls up when you finish this game. □ Please rack up the balls. 2. Fig. to accumulate something; to collect or acquire something. □ They all racked a lot of profits up. □ We racked up twenty points in the game last Saturday. 3. to wreck or damage something. □ Fred racked his new car up. □ He racked up his arm in the football game.

rack with pain suffering from severe pain. □ My body was racked with pain, and I nearly passed out. □ My head was racked with pain.

radiate from someone or something to spread out from someone or something, as with rays. □ Happiness radiated from Mary. She was so proud! □ The heat radiated from the wall next to the furnace room.

raffle something off1 to give something away by a drawing or raffle. □ They will raffle a television set off. □ They are going to raffle off a television set this weekend at the school.

rag on someone and rake on someone Sl. to bother someone; to irritate someone; to criticize and humiliate someone. □ I wish you would stop ragging on me. I don’t know why you are so annoyed at me. □ Stop raking on me!

rag out Sl. to dress up. □ I like to rag out and go to parties. □ I hate to rag out. I like comfortable clothes.

rag someone about someone or something 1. to complain to someone about someone or something. □ Why are you always ragging me about Mary? □ Stop ragging me about being late. 2. to tease someone about someone or something. □ I wish you would stop ragging me about my hat. □ Why do you always rag me about my funny walk? I can’t help it.

rage against someone or something to vent one’s anger about someone or something; to criticize someone or something severely. □ She exhausted herself raging against Judy. □ Mary is raging about the office politics again.

rage at someone or something to direct one’s anger at someone or something. □ Why are you raging at me? What on earth did I do? □ Nothing can be solved by raging at the police department.
rage out of control to become uncontrollable. □ The fire raged out of control and threatened the residential area. □ If we didn’t do something quickly, the fire would be raging out of control.

rage over someone or something to fight furiously over someone or something. □ The two managers both wanted to hire the same prospective employee. They raged over her for nearly an hour. □ The bears raged over that one fish for a long time.

rage through something 1. Lit. [for a fire] to burn rapidly through an area or a building. □ The fire raged through the unoccupied building. □ When the fire began to rage through the forest, we knew we had better head for the river. 2. Fig. [for someone] to move rapidly through some sequence or process, as if in a rage. □ Harry raged through the contract, looking for more errors. □ She raged through the book, angry with everything she read.

rail against someone or something to complain vehemently about someone or something. □ Why are you railing against me? What did I do? □ Leonard is railing against the tax increase again.

rail at someone (about something) to complain loudly or violently to someone about something. □ Jane railed at the payroll clerk about not having received her check. □ I am not responsible for your problems. Don’t rail at me!

railroad someone into something to force someone into doing something in great haste. □ The salesman tried to railroad me into signing the contract. □ You can’t railroad me into doing anything!

railroad something through (something) to force something through some legislative body without due consideration. □ The committee railroaded the new constitution through the ratification process. □ Mary felt she could railroad the legislation through.

rain cats and dogs Fig. to rain very hard. □ It’s raining cats and dogs. Look at it pour! □ I’m not going out in that storm. It’s raining cats and dogs.

a rain check (on something) 1. a piece of paper allowing one to see an event—which has been canceled—at a later time. (Originally said of sporting events that had to be canceled because of rain. *Typically: get ~; have ~; take ~; give someone ~.) □ The game was canceled because of the storm, but we all got rain checks on it. □ I can’t use a rain check because I’m leaving town for a month. 2. a reissuance of an invitation at a later date. (Said to someone who has invited you to something that you cannot attend now, but would like to attend at a later time. *Typically: get ~; have ~; take ~; give someone ~.) □ We would love to come to your house, but we are busy next Saturday. Could we take a rain check on your kind invitation? □ Oh, yes. You have a rain check that’s good anytime you can come by and visit. 3. a piece of paper that allows one to purchase an item on sale at a later date. (Stores issue these pieces of paper when they run out of specially priced sale merchandise. *Typically: get ~; have ~; take ~; give someone ~.) □ The store was all out of the shampoo they advertised, but I got a rain check. □ Yes, you should always take a rain check so you can get it at the sale price later when they have more.

rain down on someone or something to fall or drop down on someone or something like rain. □ The ashes from the incinerator rained down on us, getting our clothes dirty. □ The hail rained down on us—some of it quite large.

rain in on someone or something [for rain] to enter a window or other opening and get someone or something wet. □ Carol left the window open, and it rained in on her in the night. □ The storm rained in on my carpet!

rain on someone’s parade and rain on someone or something Fig. to spoil something for someone. □ I hate to rain on your parade, but your plans are all wrong. □ She really rained on our plans.

rain or shine no matter whether it rains or the sun shines. (See also come rain or shine.) □ Don’t worry. I’ll be there rain or shine. □ We’ll hold the picnic—rain or shine.

rain something down¹ (on someone or something) to pour something, such as criticism or praise, onto someone or something. (Based on rain down on someone or something.) □ The employees rained criticism down on the personnel manager for the new policy on sick leave. □ The audience rained down compliments on the performers.

rain something out¹ (for the weather) to spoil something by raining. □ Oh, the weather looks awful. I hope it doesn’t rain the picnic out. □ It’s starting to sprinkle now. Do you think it will rain out the ball game?

rain (up) on someone or something [for rain, or something similar] to fall on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The ashes from the erupting volcano rained on all the people fleeing the village. □ It rained on the fields until they were flooded.

raise a (big) stink (about someone or something) Go to make a (big) stink (about someone or something).

raise a few eyebrows Go to raise some eyebrows.

raise a hand (against someone or something) Go to lift a hand (against someone or something).

raise a hue and cry (about something) Fig. to make an issue about something; to alert people to a problem or difficulty. (See also hue and cry.) □ The city council raised a hue and cry about the mayor’s proposed budget.

raise a stink (about something) Go to create a stink (about something).

raise (an) objection (to someone or something) to mention an objection about someone or something. □ I hope your family won’t raise an objection to my staying for dinner. □ I’m certain no one will raise an objection. We are delighted to have you.

raise Cain to make a lot of trouble; to raise hell. (A Biblical reference, from Genesis 4.) □ Fred was really raising Cain about the whole matter. □ Let’s stop raising Cain.

raise havoc with someone or something and play havoc with someone or something to create confusion or disruption for or among someone or something. □ Your announcement raised havoc with the students. □ I didn’t mean to play havoc with them.

raise hell (with something) Go to raise the devil (with something).

raise hob with someone or something and play hob with someone or something to do something devilish to someone or something; to cause trouble for someone or something. (A hob is a hobgoblin, a wicked little elf.) □ Your sudden
raise money for someone or something

to do something
do something

to work to earn money or encourage donations for the benefit of someone, something, or doing something. I worked hard to raise money for college, and then decided not to go.

raise one's glass
to someone or something

to propose a drinking toast in salute to someone or something. Let us all raise our glasses to George Wilson!

raise one's sights

Fig. to set higher goals for oneself. (Alludes to someone lifting the sights of a gun in order to fire farther.) When you're young, you tend to raise your sights too high.

raise one's voice against

to someone or something

Fig. to speak out loudly or angrily against someone or something. Tony was very polite and did not raise his voice against Roger.

raise one's voice (to someone)

Fig. to speak loudly or angrily against someone or something; to complain about someone or something.

raise some eyebrows

do something

and raise a few eyebrows

Fig. to shock or surprise people mildly (by doing or saying something). What you just said may raise some eyebrows, and it shouldn't make anyone really angry.

raise someone from

to something

to help someone up from a lowly state.

raise someone from the dead

Fig. to bring a dead person back to life. (When used figuratively, usually refers to bring up something very bad or offensive.) How great are your magic powers? Can you raise people from the dead?

raise someone or an animal from

something

Fig. to bring up someone or an animal from a young state. My grandmother raised me from a baby.

raise someone or something to something
to promote or advance something to a higher rank.

raise someone or something to the surface

to bring someone or something up to the surface of a body of water.

raise someone or something up

to lift someone or something up. The aides raised the patient up while the nurse spread clean linen beneath him.

raise someone's spirits

Go to someone's spirits.

raise something with

someone to bring up a matter with someone. I will raise that question with Mary when she comes in.

raise the ante

Go to up the ante.

raise the bar

Fig. to make a task a little more difficult. Just as I was getting accustomed to my job, the manager raised the bar and I had to perform even better.

raise the devil (with someone)
to severely chastise someone or a group. The coach came in and raised the devil with Sally for her error in the first quarter of the game.

raise the devil (with something)

do something

and raise hell (with something)

to cause trouble with something. That idea raises hell with my plan.

raise the dickens (with someone or something)
to act in some extreme manner; to make trouble; to behave wildly; to be very angry.

raise the bar

and I had to perform even better.

raise the bar

in high jumping or pole vaulting.

raise the devil

with someone or something

to severely chastise someone or a group. The coach came in and raised the devil with Sally for her error in the first quarter of the game.

raise the devil

with something

and raise hell (with something)

to cause trouble with something. That idea raises hell with my plan.

raise the dickens

with someone or something

to act in some extreme manner; to make trouble; to behave wildly; to be very angry.

raise the bar

in high jumping or pole vaulting.

raise the devil

with someone or something

to severely chastise someone or a group. The coach came in and raised the devil with Sally for her error in the first quarter of the game.

raise the devil

with something

and raise hell (with something)

to cause trouble with something. That idea raises hell with my plan.

raise the dickens

with someone or something

to act in some extreme manner; to make trouble; to behave wildly; to be very angry.

raise the bar

in high jumping or pole vaulting.

raise the devil

with someone or something

to severely chastise someone or a group. The coach came in and raised the devil with Sally for her error in the first quarter of the game.

raise the devil

with something

and raise hell (with something)

to cause trouble with something. That idea raises hell with my plan.

raise the dickens

with someone or something

to act in some extreme manner; to make trouble; to behave wildly; to be very angry.

raise the bar

in high jumping or pole vaulting.

raise the devil

with someone or something

to severely chastise someone or a group. The coach came in and raised the devil with Sally for her error in the first quarter of the game.

raise the devil

with something

and raise hell (with something)

to cause trouble with something. That idea raises hell with my plan.

raise the dickens

with someone or something

to act in some extreme manner; to make trouble; to behave wildly; to be very angry.

raise the bar

in high jumping or pole vaulting.

raise the devil

with someone or something

to severely chastise someone or a group. The coach came in and raised the devil with Sally for her error in the first quarter of the game.

raise the devil

with something

and raise hell (with something)

to cause trouble with something. That idea raises hell with my plan.
something up by raking. □ Would you rake the yard up? □ I will rake up the yard. 3. Fig. to find some unpleasant information. □ His opposition raked an old scandal up and made it public. □ That is ancient history. Why did you have to rake up that old story?

rake through something Fig. [for someone] to rummage through something, as if with a rake. □ She quickly raked through the mass of loose papers, looking for the right one. □ I will have to rake through everything in this drawer to find a red pencil.

rally around someone or something Fig. to unite or assemble in support of someone or something. □ All the other workers rallied around Fred in his fight with management. □ They rallied around the principle that Fred stood for.

rally to someone or something to unite in support of someone or something. □ The students rallied to Betty, their elected president. □ We all rallied to the cause.

ralph something up1 Sl. to vomit something. (Teens and collegiate.) □ The doctor gave him some stuff that made him ralph it up. □ He ralphed up his dinner.

ram into someone or something to crash into someone or something. □ Mary accidentally rammed into a fence as she rode along. □ The car rammed into the tree and was totally wrecked.

ram someone or something down someone's throat Go to shove someone or something down someone's throat.

ram something down1 to pack something down by pounding, as with a ram. □ The worker used a pole to ram the earth down and pack it tight. □ The worker rammed down the earth.

ram something into someone or something and ram something in1 to pound something into someone or something. □ He rammed his fist into Bill's side and shouted something angry at him. □ He rammed in his fist.

ram something through (something) 1. to force something through something. □ He rammed his fist through the window, cutting himself in the process. □ Harry put the brick up to the window glass and rammed it through. Next time he would remember his key. 2. to force something through a deliberative body, usually not allowing due consideration. □ They rammed the bill through the city council. □ The President was unable to ram the measure through Congress.

ram through something to crash or pound through something. □ The car rammed through the back of the garage. □ I was afraid that the truck would ram through the fence.

ramble on 1. to wander about aimlessly. (As with a traveler or a winding path.) □ The road rambled on through mile after mile of wilderness. 2. [for a structure] to spread out over a large area, perhaps in a random way. □ This old house rambles on, way back into the woods.

ramble on (about someone or something) Fig. [for someone] to talk endlessly and aimlessly about someone or something. (Based on ramble on.) □ I wish you wouldn't ramble on about your first husband all the time. □ Must you ramble on so?

range from something to something to vary from one thing to another. □ The winter weather ranges from bad to terrible in this part of the north. □ The appraisals of the property ranged from high to low.

range over something to cover an area; to travel about in one area. □ The buffalo ranged over vast areas of prairie, grazing and breeding. □ These animals range over a very large territory.

rank above someone to outrank someone; to rank higher than someone. □ I think that I rank above you, so I will sit by the window. □ The boss ranks above everyone and demands that everyone recognize the fact.

rank among something to be included in a particular group. □ In my opinion, Kelly ranks among the very best. □ Tom ranks among the most widely known of the contemporary writers.

rank as something to have a particular rank; to serve in a particular rank. □ She ranks as a fine pianist in my book. □ Don ranks as the top economist of the day.

rank on someone Sl. to attack someone verbally; to gossip about someone. □ Please stop ranking on my family! □ Tom keeps ranking on Jennifer, and she is really mad about it.

rank someone among something to judge someone to be essentially equal to a specific group of people. □ I don't rank Kelly among the best drivers in the world. □ Our committee ranked Fred among the best of the current applicants.

rank someone or something as something to assign a particular rank to someone or something. □ I have to rank Sally as number one. She's the best. □ Mary ranked the chocolate as the best she had ever eaten.

rank someone (out1) 1. Sl. to annoy someone. □ He really ranks me out. What a pest! 2. Sl. to chastise someone. □ She ranked him out for being a coward. □ I ranked out the whole gang, but good!

rank someone with someone to judge someone to be equal with someone. □ Would you rank Tom with Donna? □ Fred ranked himself with Tom when it came to diving.

rank with someone or something to be equal to someone or something. □ Do you think Sarah ranks with Albert? □ No one ranks with Albert. □ The food at that restaurant ranks with that of the best places in New York.

rant against someone or something to rave and yell against someone or something. □ She spent most of the morning ranting against her mother-in-law. □ Leonard spent the entire morning ranting against the government.

rant and rave (about someone or something) to shout angrily and wildly about someone or something. □ Barbara rants and raves when her children don't obey her. □ Bob rants and raves about anything that displeases him.

rant (at someone) about someone or something to talk in a loud, violent way, about someone or something. □ Anne ranted about the bad service she had received at the store.
rant at someone or something

rant at someone or something to rave and yell at someone or something. □ Stop ranting at me! □ The boss would never rant at the office staff.

rap at something and rap on something to tap on something to attract someone’s attention. □ Who is that rapping at my door? □ Someone is rapping at the window, trying to get my attention. □ I will rap on her window and try to wake her.

rap on something Go to previous.

rap someone across the knuckles and rap someone on the knuckles; rap someone’s knuckles to strike someone on the knuckles. □ As punishment, she rapped him across the knuckles. □ The teacher rapped the student on the knuckles.

rap something out† (on something) to tap out the rhythm of something on something. □ Try to rap the rhythm out on the table. □ He rapped out the rhythm on the table.

rap with someone SL. to have a chat with someone or a group of people. (Old.) □ Come in, sit down, and rap with me for a while. □ Let’s get together and rap with one another sometime.

rarin’ to go extremely keen to act or do something. □ Jane can’t wait to start her job. She’s rarin’ to go. □ Mary is rarin’ to go and can’t wait for her university term to start.

rasp something out† to carve or smooth something out with a rasp. □ You should use this tool to rasp the inside of the bowl out. Use sandpaper to make the inside smoother. □ Rasp out the inside carefully.

rat around SL. to waste time loafing around; to kick around. (Collegiate.) □ I didn’t do anything but rat around all summer. □ If kids don’t have jobs, they just rat around.

rat on someone INF. to report someone’s bad behavior to someone in authority; to tattle on someone. □ John ratted on me, and I got in trouble. □ If he rats on me, I’ll hit him!

rat out SL. to quit; to fink out (on someone or something). □ It’s too late to rat out. □ He tried to rat out at the last minute.

rat race Fig. a fierce struggle for success, especially in one’s career or business. □ Bob got tired of the rat race. He’s retired and gone to the country. □ The money market is a rat race, and many people who work in it get out quickly because of the stress.

rate someone or something above someone or something else to judge someone to rank higher than someone else; to judge something to rank higher than something else. □ Do you rate Alice above Valerie? □ I rate chocolate ice cream above vanilla.

rate someone or something among something to judge someone or something to be essentially equal to something. □ I rate Polly among the best of this year’s class. □ We rate these contestants among the best ever.

rate someone or something as something to assign a particular rating to someone or something. □ I rate her as a number four. □ The judge rated my cake as second place.

rate someone or something below someone or something else to judge someone to rank lower than someone else; to judge something to rank lower than something else. □ I have to rate Carol below Donna in this regard. □ We all rate plain chocolate ice cream below rocky road ice cream.

rate someone or something with someone or something else to judge someone or something to be equal to someone or something else. □ I rate Fred with Don. They are equally good. □ Vanilla is very nice, but I don’t rate it with chocolate ice cream.

rate something at something to assign a particular level of rating to something. □ I rate this brand at about a B-. □ The broker rated this stock at a buy.

rate something below something else Go to rate someone or something below someone or something else.

rate with someone to be in someone’s favor; to be thought of highly by someone. □ Ann is great. She really rates with me. □ She doesn’t rate with me at all.

ration something out† (among someone) to give people limited shares of something, attempting to make it last as long as possible. □ The captain rationed the water out among all the crew, trying to make it last as long as possible. □ Jane rationed out the cookies among the kids.

Rats abandon a sinking ship. and like rats abandoning a sinking ship Prov. You can tell when something is about to fail because large numbers of people begin to leave it. (Can imply that the people who leave are “rats,” that is, selfish and disloyal.) □ Jill: The company next door must be going bankrupt. Jane: How do you know? Jill: All its employees are resigning. Rats abandon a sinking ship.

rattle around in something 1. Lit. to make a rattling noise inside something. □ What is rattling around in this package? □ There is something rattling around in my glove compartment. 2. Fig. to ride about in a vehicle with a rattle. □ I am perfectly happy to rattle around in my ten-year-old car. □ Todd rattles around in his grandfather’s old car. 3. Fig. to live in a place that is much too big. □ We have been rattling around in this big old house for long enough. Let’s move to a smaller place. □ I can’t afford to rattle around in a three-story house any longer.

rattle away to chatter endlessly and aimlessly. □ The two old men sat there and rattled away at one another. □ Tom rattled away at Jane for a few minutes and then left the house.

rattle its saber Go to rattle one’s saber.

rattle on (about someone or something) Fig. to talk endlessly about someone or something. □ Martin talked incessantly. He would rattle on about any topic whenever he could trap an unfortunate listener.

rattle one’s saber and rattle its saber Fig. to make threatening statements or actions. □ The president is just rattling his saber. He would never attack such a small country!

rattle something off† and reel something off† to recite something quickly and accurately. □ She can really reel song lyrics off. □ Listen to Mary rattle off those numbers.
raunch someone out! Sl. to disgust someone. \( \square \) These dirty socks absolutely raunch me out! \( \square \) Sam and Beavis enjoy raunching out everyone in the room.

rave about someone or something 1. to rage in anger about someone or something. \( \square \) Gale was raving about Sarah and what she did. \( \square \) Sarah raved and raved about Gale’s insufferable rudeness. 2. to sing the praises of someone or something. \( \square \) Even the harshest critic raved about Larry’s stage success. \( \square \) Everyone was raving about your excellent performance.

rave over someone or something to recite praises for someone or something. \( \square \) The students were just raving over the new professor. \( \square \) Donald raved over the cake I baked. But he’ll eat anything.

ravished with delight Fig. happy or delighted; overcome with happiness or delight. \( \square \) Mary was ravished with delight by the dozen roses. \( \square \) My parents were ravished with delight when I graduated from college.

*a raw deal* an instance of unfair or bad treatment. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~;*) \( \square \) Mary got a raw deal on her traffic ticket. She was innocent, but she had to pay a big fine. \( \square \) I bought a used TV that worked for two days and then quit. I sure got a raw deal. \( \square \) You sure had a raw deal.

raw recruit a new, inexperienced, or fresh recruit, such as someone just entering the army, navy, police, etc. \( \square \) These boys are nothing but raw recruits. They’ve never seen a gun up close!

raze something to the ground to tear down something, usually to ground level. \( \square \) The council decided to raze the old city hall to the ground. \( \square \) This building is to be razed to the ground.

reach a compromise to achieve a compromise; to negotiate an agreement. \( \square \) After many hours of discussion, we finally reached a compromise. \( \square \) We were unable to reach a compromise and quit trying.

reach a conclusion to complete discussion and decide an issue. \( \square \) It took three days of talks to reach a conclusion. \( \square \) When we reach a conclusion, we will notify you of the results.

reach a dead end Go to a dead end.

reach a decision Go to arrive at a decision.

reach a turning point Go to a turning point.

reach an accord (with someone) and reach an agreement (with someone) to come to an agreement with someone. \( \square \) I hope that we can reach an accord with the union so work can start again. \( \square \) We will try one more time to reach an agreement with you. \( \square \) We reached an agreement and signed a contract.

reach an agreement (with someone) Go to previous.

reach an impasse to progress to the point that a barrier stops further progress. \( \square \) When negotiations with management reached an impasse, the union went on strike. \( \square \) The discussion reached an impasse and no one was able to propose a compromise.

reach an understanding with someone and come to an understanding (with someone) to achieve a settlement or an agreement with someone. \( \square \) I hope we are able to reach an understanding with the commissioners. \( \square \) We were able to reach an understanding with Tony.

reach back (in)to something to extend back into a particular period in time. \( \square \) This policy reaches back into the last century. \( \square \) Our way of making fine candies reaches back to the recipes used by the founder of the company.

reach down to extend downward. \( \square \) The stems of the plant reached down almost to the floor. \( \square \) The drapes don’t quite reach down to the floor.

reach first base (with someone or something) Go to get to first base (with someone or something).

reach for someone or something to extend one’s grasp to someone or something. \( \square \) I reached for my father, but he wasn’t there. \( \square \) I reached for a pen, but I only had a pencil.

reach for the sky 1. and aim for the sky; shoot for the sky Fig. to set one’s sights high. \( \square \) Reach for the sky! Go for it! \( \square \) You should always reach for the sky, but be prepared for not attaining your goals every time. 2. Fig. Inf. to put one’s hands up, as in a burglary. \( \square \) The gunman told the bank teller to reach for the sky. \( \square \) Reach for the sky and give me all your money!

Reach for the stars! Go to Aim for the stars!

reach in(to something) to stick one’s hand into something to grasp something. \( \square \) Bob reached into the cookie jar and found it empty. \( \square \) Bob went to the cookie jar and reached in.

reach one’s stride and hit one’s stride to do something at one’s best level of ability. \( \square \) When I reach my stride, things will go faster, and I’ll be more efficient. \( \square \) Now that I’ve hit my stride, I can work more efficiently.

reach out 1. Lit. to extend one’s grasp outward. \( \square \) He reached out, but there was no one to take hold of. \( \square \) I reached out and grabbed onto the first thing I could get hold of. 2. Fig. to enlarge one’s circle of friends and experiences. \( \square \) If you are that lonely, you ought to reach out. Get to know some new friends. \( \square \) I need to reach out more and meet people.

reach out (after someone or something) and reach out (for something) to extend one’s grasp to someone or something. \( \square \) Don reached out after Doris, but she slipped away before he could get a good hold on her. \( \square \) Doris reached out for the door, but it slammed closed.

reach out into something to extend one’s grasp out into something, such as the darkness. \( \square \) Laura reached out into the darkness, looking for the light switch. \( \square \) Jane reached out into the unit room, hoping to find a lamp or even a candle.

reach out to someone 1. Fig. to offer someone a helping hand. \( \square \) You reached out to me just when I needed help the most. \( \square \) I reach out to other people in trouble because I would want someone to do that for me. 2. Fig. to seek someone’s help and support. \( \square \) When I reached out to Don for help, he turned me down. \( \square \) Jane reached out to her friends for the help and support that she needed.

reach (rock) bottom Go to (rock) bottom.

reach someone 1. Lit. to travel up to or as far as someone. \( \square \) I ran until I reached her just in time to save her from going over the cliff. 2. Fig. to manage to be understood by someone; to have one’s message appreciated by someone. \( \square \) If
reach some place in a body  Fig. to get to a place that is some distance from you.

read of someone or something (somewhere)  to get news of someone or something (somewhere).  "...I have read of you in the papers."  "Mary read of the job opening in the newspaper."
read something off 1 to read aloud from a list. □ Nick read the list of the names off, and I wasn't on the list. □ Jane read off the names.

read something out 1 to read something aloud. □ Please read it out so everyone can hear you. □ Read out the names loudly.

read something over 1 to read something. □ When you have a chance, read this over. □ Also, read over this report.

read something through 1 to read all of something. □ Take this home and read it through. □ Read through this report and see if you can find any errors.

read (something) to someone 1 to read something aloud to someone. □ Please read a story to me. □ Grandpa read to Timmy all afternoon.

read the handwriting on the wall Fig. to anticipate what is going to happen by observing small hints and clues. (See also see the (hand)writing on the wall.) □ I know I am going to be fired. I can read the handwriting on the wall. □ Can't you read the handwriting on the wall? Can't you see what they are planning?

read up (on someone or something) to find and read some information about someone or something. □ Please go to the library and read up on George Washington. □ I don't know anything about that. I guess I need to read up.

readjust to someone or something 1 to make a new adjustment to someone or something. □ Please make an attempt to readjust your work schedule for the next two weeks. □ I don't think I can readjust to this climate.

ready, set, go Go to your mark, get set, go.

*ready (to do something) prepared to do something. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Get ready to jump! □ It's time to get ready to go to work.

ready, willing, and able Cliché eager or at least willing [to do something]. □ If you need someone to help you move furniture, I'm ready, willing, and able. □ Fred is ready, willing, and able to do anything you ask him.

a (real) go-getter an active, energetic, and aggressive person. □ Mary is very aggressive in business. A real go-getter.

the real McCoy an authentic thing or person. □ Of course it's authentic. It's the real McCoy.

the real thing something that is genuine and not an imitation. □ I don't want frozen yogurt, I want the real thing! Yes, ice cream! □ She hates plastic that looks like wood. She wants the real thing.

the reality of the situation the truth or actuality of the situation; the way the situation really is. □ The reality of the situation is that we must act right now. □ Let's face the reality of the situation and go out and get jobs so we can pay our bills.

realize one's potential to fulfill one's potential; to do as well as one possibly can. □ I hope I can get a good education so I can realize my potential.

realize something from something 1. to perceive something from some kind of evidence. □ I just now realized something from what you've been saying. □ Tom realized how wrong he had been from what Mary told him. 2. to reap a profit by selling an asset that has increased in value. □ He realized a large profit from the sale of the house. □ We hoped to realize a lot of money from the sale of stock.

ream someone out 1 Sl. to scold someone severely. □ The teacher really reamed him out. □ The coach reamed out the whole team.

ream something out 1 to widen or clean an interior cavity or channel by scraping, grinding, or drilling. □ We had to ream out the pipes so the fuel would flow to the engine.

reap something from something 1. Lit. to harvest something from something. □ We reaped a fine harvest from our cornfields this year. □ They will reap nothing from their flooded fields. 2. Fig. to gain something from something. □ The students reaped a lot of information from their interview with the police chief. □ I hope to reap some good advice from the discussion.

reappoint someone as something to select or appoint someone to serve again in the same office. □ Are they going to reappoint Alan as the chairman again? □ Alan was reappointed as the head of the committee.

rear back 1. Lit. [for a horse] to pull back and up onto its hind legs in an effort to move backwards rapidly or throw a rider. (See also rear up.) □ The animal reared back in terror. □ The horse reared back and almost threw its rider. 2. Fig. [for a person] to pull back and stand up or sit up straighter. □ He reared back in his chair and looked perturbed. □ Tom reared back in his chair, waiting for something else to happen.

rear its ugly head Fig. [for something unpleasant] to appear or become obvious after lying hidden. □ Jealousy reared its ugly head and destroyed their marriage. □ The question of money always rears its ugly head in matters of business.

rear up 1. Lit. [for a horse] to lean back on its hind legs and raise its front legs, assuming a threatening posture or avoiding something on the ground such as a snake. (See also rear back.) □ The horse reared up suddenly, throwing the rider onto the ground. □ When the horse reared up, I almost fell off. 2. Fig. [for something, especially a problem] to raise up suddenly. □ A new problem reared up and cost us a lot of time. □ A lot of new costs reared up toward the end of the month.

reason against something to argue against something, using reason. □ I can hardly be expected to reason against a silly argument like that! □ I reasoned against it, but they paid no attention to me.

reason something out 1 to figure something out; to plan a reasonable course of action. □ Now let's be calm and try to reason this out. □ Let us reason out our difficulties.

reason with someone to discuss something with someone, seeking a reasonable solution to a problem. □ Try to reason with Jill. If she won't listen, forget her. □ You cannot reason with someone who is so narrow-minded.

reassign someone to something to change someone's assignment to something else. □ I will reassign Jill to a different department. □ I was reassigned to the accounting department.

reassure someone about something to give someone confidence about something. □ Nancy reassured Betty about her promotion. □ Betty was reassured about her promotion.
reassure someone of something to promise or guarantee someone something. Kelly reassured her friend of her support in the election. Please reassure Tom of our continued support.

rebel against someone or something to resist and revolt against someone or something. Barbara rebelled against the teachers at the school. Most young people have to rebel against authority for a while.

rebound from something 1. Lit. to bounce back from something. The ball rebounded from the wall and hit Randy hard on the elbow. When the ball rebounded from the backboard, it bounced onto the court and Tom tripped on it. 2. Fig. to recover quickly from something. Barbara rebounded from her illness in less than a week. I hope I can rebound from this cold quickly.

rebuke someone for something to reprimand someone for something. There is no need to rebuke me for a simple mistake like that. Sally was rebuked for overspending her budget.

recall someone from something to call someone back from something or some place. The president recalled our ambassador from the war-torn country. I was recalled from retirement to help out at the office.

recall someone or something from something to remember someone or something from some event or some place. I recall someone by that name from my days at the university. Mary recalled the appropriate fact from her history studies.

recall something to mind to cause [someone] to remember something. The events of the day recall similar days in the past to mind. This book recalls a similar book published some years ago to mind.

recall something to someone to bring something to the mind of someone. Your comments recall another event to me—something that happened years ago. What you just said recalled an old saying to me.

recast something in something to rebuild or redevelop something in a different form. She recast the sentence in the negative, hoping to make it less blunt. I will recast my request in different language.

recede from something to pull back from something. The river receded from its banks during the dry season. I think that my hair is receding from my forehead.

receive someone as someone or something to welcome and accept someone as someone or something. The king received the ambassador as an honored guest. They said they would receive their former guest as a welcome visitor.

receive someone into something to welcome someone into something, some place, or some organization. Everyone received the new member into the club with eager congratulations. We received them into our homes and fed them well.

receive someone or something back to get someone or something back. Martha received her husband back after his escapade. I sent a letter off with the wrong postage and received it back two weeks later.
could recognize Max for a common thief. 2. to show appreciation to someone or something for something.  The organization recognized Laura for her excellent contributions to the philanthropy committee.  The officers recognized the committee for its outstanding efforts.

recognize something for what it is and recognize one for what one is to see and understand exactly what someone or something is or represents.  The disease represented a serious threat to all peoples, and Dr. Smith recognized it for what it was.  I recognize you for what you are, you scoundrel!

recoil at the sight (of someone or something) and recoil at the thought (of someone or something) Fig. to flinch or cringe at the sight or thought of someone or something.  Sally recoiled at the sight of Gerry, who had said something unspeakable.  Mary recoiled at the very thought.

recoil at the thought (of someone or something) Go to previous.

recoil from someone or something to draw back from someone or something.  I recoiled from Sally when she told me what she had done.  I recoiled from the horror and slammed the door.

recommend someone as something to suggest someone as something.  Could you recommend Frank as a good carpenter?  I can recommend Jane Smith as a good artist.

recommend someone for something to suggest someone for something.  I would be very glad to recommend you for promotion.  She recommended herself as the best choice.

recommend someone or something to someone to suggest that someone choose someone or something.  I would like to recommend Sally to you as a good prospect for membership on the committee.  Could you recommend a good mechanic to me?

recompense someone for something to (re)pay someone for something.  I am required to recompense Mrs. Wilson for her broken window.  Can I recompense you for your expenses?

reconcile oneself to something to grow to feel comfortable with an undesirable or challenging situation.  John reconciled himself to living alone.  Anne reconciled herself to having to wear glasses.

reconcile something with something to bring something into harmony, accord, or balance with something.  The accountants were not able to reconcile the expense claims with the receipts that had been turned in.  I can't reconcile your story with those of the other witnesses.

reconstruct something from something 1. to rebuild something from something.  I was not able to reconstruct the puzzle from the pieces that were left on the floor.  Can you reconstruct the damaged part of the house from these materials?  2. to recall and restate a story or the details of an event from something.  Can you reconstruct the story from the fragments you have just heard?  I cannot reconstruct the chain of events from memory.

record something from something to make an audio or video recording of something from some source.  Listen to this. I recorded it from a radio broadcast.  From what TV show did you record this?

record something in something to enter a record of something into something.  I will record your appointment in my notebook.  Jane recorded the memo in her computer.

record something on something to make a record of something on the surface of something.  Nancy recorded the appointment on the calendar that served as a blotter on the top of her desk.  Please record this on your calendar.

recount something to someone to tell something to someone; to narrate a series of events, in order.  Carl recounted the events of the day to his wife.  The strange events were recounted by a number of people.

recoup something from someone or something to salvage something from someone or something.  I hope I can recoup my expenses from the company this week.  Mary intended to recoup her money from the investment.

recover from someone or something to get over an experience with someone or something.  My great-uncle just left, and it will take a day or two to recover from him.  I hope I recover from his visit soon.

recover from something to recuperate from a disease.  I hope I recover from this cough soon.  She recovered from her cold soon enough to go on the trip.

recover something from someone or something to retrieve or salvage something from someone, something, or some place.  The police recovered my purse from the thief who had taken it.  Mary recovered her deposit from the failed bank.

recruit someone for something to seek and engage someone for something.  Harry had to recruit a few people for the new jobs that opened up.  We recruited three more people for the project.

recruit someone from something to convince someone to leave something and join one's own group.  Phyllis recruited a new work team from the company she used to work for.  We recruited a number of people from private industry.

recruit someone into something to seek out and induct someone into something.  The recruitment office tried to recruit ten people a week into the army.  The army recruited almost no one during the month of December.

re recuperate from something to recover from something; to be cured or to heal after something.  I hope that you recuperate from your illness soon.  Has she recuperated from her surgery yet?

red as a cherry and *red as a poppy; *red as a rose; *red as a ruby; *red as blood bright red. (*Also: as ~.) When she came in from ice-skating, Clara's nose was as red as a cherry.  When her boss praised her in front of the whole office, Emily turned red as a poppy.  I would like to make a dress out of that beautiful velvet that is red as a rose.  Jane painted her fingernails with polish as red as a ruby.  I want to have my car painted red as blood.

red as a poppy Go to previous.
red as a rose Go to red as a cherry.
red as a ruby Go to red as a cherry.
red as blood Go to red as a cherry.
a **red herring** a piece of information or suggestion introduced to draw attention away from the real facts of a situation. (A red herring is a type of strong-smelling smoked fish that was once drawn across the trail of a scent to mislead hunting dogs and put them off the scent.) □ The detectives were following a red herring, but they’re on the right track now. □ The mystery novel has a couple of red herrings that keep readers off guard.

**red in the face** Fig. embarrassed. □ After we found Ann hiding in the closet, she became red in the face. □ The speaker kept making errors and became red in the face.

**red ink** Fig. debt; indebtedness as shown in red ink on a financial statement. □ There is too much red ink in my financial statement. □ Too much red ink and the company will collapse.

**red tape** Fig. over-strict attention to the wording and details of rules and regulations, especially by government workers. (From the color of the tape used by government departments in England to tie up bundles of documents.) □ Because of red tape, Frank took weeks to get a visa. □ Red tape prevented Jack’s wife from joining him abroad.

*the **red-carpet treatment** Fig. very special treatment; royal treatment. (‘Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I love to go to fancy stores where I get the red-carpet treatment. □ The queen expects to get the red-carpet treatment wherever she goes.

**rededicate oneself or something to someone or something** to reaffirm the dedication of oneself or something to our high purposes. □ They rededicated their church to God.

a **red-letter day** Fig. an important or significant day. (From the practice of printing holidays in red on the calendar.) □ Today was a red-letter day in our history. □ It was a red-letter day for our club.

**rebound on someone** to have an effect on someone. □ The hot weather has rebounded on all of us in a bad way. □ The problems created by your mistake have rebounded on the entire company.

**reduce someone to silence** to cause someone to be silent. □ The rebuke reduced him to silence—at last. □ Mary was reduced to silence by Jane’s comments.

**reduce someone to tears** to cause a person to cry through insults, frustration, and belittling. □ He scolded her so much that she was reduced to tears by the end of the meeting.

**reduce something by something** to diminish something by a certain amount. □ I have to reduce your allowance by two dollars per week until you pay me back for the broken window. □ I will reduce the bill by a few dollars.

**reduce something from something to something** to diminish something from one degree to a lower degree. □ I will reduce the fine from two hundred dollars to one hundred dollars. □ Mary reduced her demands from a large sum to a smaller one.

**reduced to doing something** brought into a certain humble condition or state. □ The poor man was reduced to begging for food.

A **reed before the wind lives on, while mighty oaks do fall.** Prov. An insignificant, flexible person is more likely not to get hurt in a crisis than a prominent or rigid person. □ Our office has new managers now; I plan to be as inconspicuous as possible while they reorganize everyone. A reed before the wind lives on, while mighty oaks do fall.

**reef a sail in** to reduce the area of a ship’s sail, by folding the sail. □ The first mate ordered the sailors to reef the sails in. □ They had to reef in the sails.

**reek of something** 1. Lit. to have the stench or smell of something. □ This whole house reeks of onions! What did you cook? □ She reeks of a very strong perfume. She must have spilled it on herself. 2. Fig. to give a strong impression of something. □ The neighborhood reeks of poverty. □ The deal reeked of dishonesty.

**reek with something** to stink with some smell. □ This place reeks with some horrible odor. □ Jane reeks with too much perfume.

**reel back (from something)** to fall or stagger backwards, as from a blow. □ The boxer reeled back from the blow, stunned. □ Another blow to the midsection and he reeled back and fell.

**reel something in** to bring in something, such as a fish, by winding up the line on a reel. □ With great effort, she reeled the huge fish in. □ Hurry and reel in the fish!

**reel something off** Go to rattle something off.

**reel under something** 1. Lit. to stagger under the weight of something. □ Tony reeled under the weight of the books. □ She knew she would reel under the heavy load. 2. Fig. to stagger because of a blow. □ The boxer reeled under the blow to his chin. □ Fred reeled under the beating that Mike gave him. 3. Fig. to suffer because of a burden. □ Gary reeled under the responsibilities he had been given. □ I was just reeling under the burdens of my new job.

**refer someone back to someone or something** to suggest that someone go back to someone or something, such as the source. □ I referred the client back to the lawyer she had originally consulted. □ Tom referred the customer back to the manufacturer who had made the shoddy product.

**refer someone to someone or something** to direct someone to someone or something; to send someone to someone or something. □ The front office referred me to you, and you are now referring me to someone else! □ They should have referred you to the personnel department.

**refer something back to someone or something and refer something back** to send something back to someone or a group for action. □ Dr. Smith knows more about this kind of case, so I referred it back to him. □ They referred back all the bills.

**refer to someone or something** to mention someone or something. □ Are you referring to me when you speak about a kind and helpful person? □ I was referring to the personnel department.

**refill a prescription** sell a second or subsequent set of doses of a medicine upon a doctor’s orders. □ The pharmacy refused to refill my prescription because it has expired. □ If you want the drugstore to refill your prescription, just give them the prescription number over the telephone.
reflect (back) (up)on someone or something to remember or think about someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ When I reflect back on the years I spent with my parents, I think I had a good childhood. □ I like to reflect on my great-grandmother.

reflect credit (upon) someone or something [for some act] to bring credit to someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Your efforts really reflect credit upon you. □ Mary's success really reflected credit on the quality of her education.

reflected in something 1. Lit. [of something] mirrored in something, such as a mirror, water, etc. □ His image was reflected in the mirror, giving him a good view of his sunburn. □ When the hermit's image was reflected in the pool, he was amazed. 2. Fig. [of something] shown in a result. □ The extra charges will be reflected in next month's bill. □ I do not understand all the charges that are reflected in my statement.

refrain from something to hold back from doing something; to choose not to do something as planned. □ I wish you would refrain from shouting. □ Please refrain from hol- lering.

refresh someone with something to renew or revive someone with something. □ Here, let me refresh you with a cool glass of lemonade. □ After the game, Wally will probably refresh himself with a bottle of iced tea.

refresh something with something to restore or brighten up something. □ I think we can refresh this drab old room with a coat of fresh paint. □ The old house was refreshed with new siding and some landscaping.

refund something to someone to return payment for something to someone. □ I insist that you refund the money to me at once. □ Her money was refunded to her by the store as soon as she asked for it.

refuse something to someone to deny someone permission to receive or use something. □ You wouldn't refuse water to me, would you? □ Nothing at all was refused to the new employee.

refuse to do something to reject doing something; to reject a request to do something. □ I absolutely refuse to go there! □ We all refused to break the law.

regain one's composure Cliché to become calm and composed after being angry or agitated. □ I found it difficult to regain my composure after the argument. □ Here, sit down and relax so that you can regain your composure.

regain one's feet 1. Lit. to stand up again after falling or stumbling. □ I fell on the ice and almost couldn't regain my feet. □ I helped my uncle regain his feet as he tried to get up from the floor. 2. Fig. to become independent after financial difficulties. □ I lent Bill $400 to help him regain his feet. □ I'll be able to pay my bills when I regain my feet.

regain something from someone or something to take back possession of one's property or right from someone or something. □ I intend to regain my money from Herb. □ The finance company regained the car from the delinquent buyer.

regale someone with something to present a great deal of something, such as lavish entertainment or fine food, to someone. □ They regaled their guests with food and music well into the night. □ The committee was regaled with tales of wrongdoing by the government.

regard someone or something as someone or something to look upon someone or something as someone or something; to consider someone or something to be someone or something. □ I have always regarded you as my friend. □ The cult members regarded the stone idol as their dead leader.

regard someone or something with something to look upon someone or something with a certain attitude or with certain expectations. □ The child regarded the teacher with a questioning expression. □ The kitten regarded the fishbowl with great curiosity.

regardless of something without considering something; at any rate; whatever is done; whatever option is chosen. □ Regardless of what you say, I'm still going to the club tonight. □ I still have to pay the bill, regardless of the facts.

register for something to sign up to participate in something. □ Have you registered for the class yet? □ She is registered for the same classes as I am.

register in something to enter one's name on a list for something; to sign oneself up to belong to something. □ Are you going to register in the pie-eating contest? □ We registered in the drawing for a new car.

register on something [for an effect] to show on something, such as someone's face. □ Recognition registered on her face when she saw the photograph of Walter. □ The total of the votes registered on the large scoreboard at the front of the hall.

register someone as something to record someone's name on a list of a category of people. □ I will register you as an independent voter. □ I am registered as a qualified financial advisor.

register someone for something to sign someone up to participate in something. □ Would you please register me for the workshop when you sign up? □ Excuse me. I have to go register myself for the contest.

register someone in something 1. to enter someone's name on a list in something. □ I will register you in the competition. 2. to sign someone up to belong to something. □ I registered my cousin in the club.

register something with someone or something to record the existence of something with someone or something. □ Did you register your new stereo with the manufacturer? □ If you bring any packages into this store, please register them with the manager.

register with someone 1. Lit. to sign up with someone. □ You will have to register with the lady at the front desk. □ I registered with the attendant when I came in. 2. Fig. [for something] to be realized or understood by someone. □ Suddenly, the import of what she had said registered with me. □ My name did not register with her, and I had to explain who I was.

regress to something to go back to an earlier, probably simpler, state; to go back to a more primitive state. □ Bob claimed that Gerald's behavior was regressing to that of a three-year-old. □ I tend to regress to my college ways when I am out with the guys.
regular as clockwork

Cliché very regular; completely predictable. (→ Also: as ~.) □ George goes down to the bus stop at 7:45 every morning, as regular as clockwork. □ You can always depend on Nancy to complain about the office for fifteen minutes every afternoon, as regular as clockwork.

a regular fixture someone who is found so frequently in a place as to be considered a fixture of, or part of the place. □ The manager attached himself to the luncheon club and became a regular fixture there.

a regular guy a normal and dependable guy. □ Don’t worry about Tom. He’s a regular guy. He won’t give you any trouble.

rehearse for something to practice for something. □ We will rehearse for the graduation exercises on Saturday morning. □ We rehearsed for the play all weekend.

rein over someone or something to rule over someone or something. □ The king reigned over his subjects for over thirty years. □ The queen reigned over the country for a long time.

reimburse someone for something to repay someone for making a purchase, such as a business expense. □ I will reimburse you for whatever it cost you. □ The treasurer reimbursed himself for his expenses.

reimburse something to someone to repay money to someone, such as a business expense. □ I will reimburse the money to you. Don’t worry. □ The full cost was reimbursted to me.

rein back on someone or something to control or diminish the intensity of someone or something. □ The manager was urged to rein back on her assigning overtime. □ She reined back on expenses and demanded that others do likewise.

rein someone or something in† to bring someone or something under control; to slow down someone or something. □ Fred is getting out of hand. The boss undertook to rein him in a bit. □ The boss is trying to rein in Jane’s enthusiasm.

rein something up† to bring something, usually a horse, to a stop. □ She reined her horse up and stopped for a chat. □ Rein up your horse and stop for a while.

rein up [for a horse rider] to stop. □ The equestrian reined up and dismounted. □ We all reined up and waited for the cars to pass by.

reinforce someone or something with something to strengthen someone or something with something. □ The general reinforced his troops with volunteers fresh from basic training. □ I had to reinforce the garage roof with new boards.

reinstate someone as something to put someone back as a certain officeholder. □ The city council agreed to reinstate Mr. Wilson as alderman. □ Fred was reinstated as the court clerk.

reinstate someone in something to put someone back into a certain office or position. □ If you will pay your dues, we will reinstate you in the organization. □ Fred was reinstated in office.

reinvent the wheel Fig. to make unnecessary or redundant preparations. □ You don’t need to reinvent the wheel.

Read up on what others have done. □ I don’t have to reinvent the wheel, but I will be cautious before I act.

reissue something to someone to release or distribute to someone something that has been distributed before. □ I plan to reissue the check to you next week. □ The check was reissused to Mary the very next day.

reject someone or something out of hand to reject someone or something without any thought or study. □ Fred is so contrary that they rejected him out of hand when his name came up for a committee position.

rejoice at something to celebrate or revel about something. □ Everyone rejoiced at the lucky events that had saved them. □ We all rejoiced at the outcome of the election.

rejoice in someone or something to take great joy at someone or something. □ I am in love and I rejoice in my beloved! □ Roger rejoices in a good night’s sleep.

rejoice over something to celebrate because of something. □ Everyone rejoiced over their good fortune. □ What happened to us next was nothing to rejoice over.

relapse into something to experience a return to a worse condition. □ Valerie relapsed into a coma in the afternoon. □ Mary relapsed into her depression after a brief period of normalcy.

relate something to someone to tell something to someone; to narrate something to someone. □ Very slowly, she related the events of the past week to her parents. □ I have an interesting story to relate to you.

relate something to something to associate something to something. □ I relate this particular problem to the failure of the company to provide proper training. □ This point is related to what I just told you.

relate to someone or something to understand, accept, or feel kinship with someone or something. □ He relates to people well. □ I really don’t relate to your thinking at all.

related to someone or something connected through blood kinship or through marriage to someone. (→ Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ I wonder if he is related to you, because he looks a little like you. □ I am not related to anyone here.

relative to someone or something 1. concerning someone or something. □ I have something to say relative to Bill. □ Do you have any information relative to the situation in South America? 2. in proportion to someone or something. □ My happiness is relative to yours. □ I can spend an amount of money relative to the amount of money I earn.

relax into something 1. to sit or lie down in something, relaxing. □ I want to go home and relax into my easy chair. □ I relaxed into the reclining chair and was asleep in a few moments. 2. [for something that is tense] to assume a more relaxed shape or condition. □ His cramped muscle finally relaxed into a soft mass of tissue. □ As her tight neck relaxed into softness, her face brightened.

relax one’s hold on someone or something to lessen one’s grasp on someone or something. □ When she relaxed her hold on me, I got away. □ Never relax your hold on an alligator.

relay something to someone to pass something on to someone. □ Can you relay this to Frank, who is way down the line? □ The message was relayed to Frank, who was at the end of the line.
release someone or something from something to liberate or let someone or something go from something.  The police officer released George from the handcuffs.  I released all the dogs from the city dog pound.

release someone to someone to discharge or distribute someone to someone.  The judge released the defendant to his mother.  Don was released by the police to his father, who was more than a little bit angry.

relegate someone to someone or something to assign someone to someone or something. (Often refers to something unimportant or demeaning.)  They relegate the old man to a bed in the corner.  The former vice president was relegated to the position of manager of special projects.

reliance on someone or something trust and dependence on someone or something.  John's reliance on his family is holding him back.  Reliance on sleeping pills is dangerous.

relieve one of one's duties to fire someone; to dismiss someone from employment.  I am afraid I must relieve you of your duties.  After the scandal, she was relieved of her duties at the embassy.

relive oneself to urinate or defecate.  He stopped by the side of the road to relieve himself.  She needed badly to relieve herself, but there was no bathroom in sight.

relieve someone of something 1. Lit. to unburden someone of something.  Here, let me relieve you of that heavy box.  At last, he could relieve himself of the problem.  2. Fig. to lessen someone's responsibilities.  I will relieve you of some of the responsibility you have carried for so long.  Let me relieve you of that job. You have enough to do.

religious about doing something Fig. strict about something; conscientious about something.  Bob is religious about paying his bills on time.  Max tries to be religious about being polite to everyone.

relinquish something over someone to release the hold on or control of someone.  She refused to relinquish control over the operations of the front office.  Mary was ordered to relinquish her hold over the children for a month each year.

relinquish something to someone or something to surrender something to someone or something.  Todd refused to relinquish his authority to anyone.  I finally relinquished the car to the bank.

relocate someone or something in something to reposition or move someone or something in or at something.  I will have to relocate you in a different office.  Can I relocate the copy machine in the other room?

reluctant to do something unwilling to do something; not wanting to do something.  David was reluctant to admit his mistakes.  Although reluctant to appear in court, the witness was ordered to by subpoena.

rely (up)on someone or something to depend on someone or something; to trust in someone or something.  (Up on is formal and less commonly used than on.)  I know I can rely upon you to do a good job.  Can we rely on this old car to get us there?

remain ahead (of someone or something) Go to ahead (of someone or something).

remain ahead of something Go to ahead of something.
remain within (something) to stay inside something or some place. □ Please try to remain within the boundaries of the campus. □ Everyone else went out, but I decided to remain within.

remand someone (in)to the custody of someone and remand someone over to someone to order someone placed into the custody of someone. □ The court remanded the prisoner into the custody of the sheriff. □ The judge remanded Mary to the custody of the sheriff. □ The judge remanded Gerald over to his father.

remand someone over to someone Go to previous.

remark (upon) someone or something to comment on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ She remarked upon his tardiness and then continued the lesson. □ There is no need to remark on me or anything I do or don’t do.

Remember me to someone. Please carry my good wishes to someone. (The someone can be a person’s name or a pronoun.) □ Tom: My brother says hello. Bill: Oh, good. Please remember me to him. Tom: I will. □ Fred: Bye. John: Good-bye, Fred. Remember me to your Uncle Tom.

remember someone as something to recall someone as being a particular type of person. □ I remember Terri as a rather cheerful girl, always willing to help out. □ William will be remembered as a grumpy person.

remember someone in one’s will to bequeath something to someone in one’s will. □ My uncle always said he would remember me in his will. □ He failed to remember me in his will.

remember someone to someone to carry the greetings of someone to someone else. □ Please remember all of us to your uncle. □ I will remember you to my brother, who asks of you often.

Remember to write. and Don’t forget to write.


remind someone about something or someone to cause someone to remember someone or something. □ Will you please remind me about Fred? He’s coming to visit next week. □ I will remind you about your appointments for today.

remind someone of someone or something to bring a memory of someone or something into someone’s mind. □ You remind me of my brother. □ The happy song reminded us of our cabin on the lake.

reminisce about someone or something to think about one’s memories of someone or something; to discuss or share memories of someone or something. □ They were reminiscing about their old friends. □ The old men sat and reminisced about the good old days.

reminisce with someone to share memories with someone. □ I love to reminisce with my sister about old times. □ Todd was reminiscing with Alice about the good old days.

reminiscent of someone or something reminding someone about someone or something; seeming like or suggesting someone or something. □ This fragrance is reminiscent of fresh flowers. □ Jane’s dress seems reminiscent of the style worn in the 1920s.

remit something to someone or something to send something, especially money, to someone or a group. □ Please remit your rent to your landlady immediately. □ You are requested to remit your loan payment to the bank on time this month.

remonstrate (with someone) (about something or something) to protest to someone about someone or something, □ After remonstrating with the manager about the price for a while, Vernon left quietly. □ I spent an hour remonstrating about Ted with Alice.

remove someone from something to take someone out of an office or position. □ The county board removed the sheriff from office. □ She removed herself from office voluntarily.

remove someone or something from someone or something to take someone or something away from someone or something. □ The authorities removed the child from his mother. □ They removed the dog from the kennel.

remunerate someone for something 1. to pay someone for something. □ Of course, I will remunerate you for your time. □ She was promptly remunerated for the hours she spent working on the project. 2. to repay someone for money spent. □ I will remunerate you for the cost of the book if you will give me the receipt. □ Please remunerate me for the charges as soon as possible.

rend something from someone or something to tear something from someone or something. (The past tense and past participle are rent.) □ Harry rent the burning clothing from the man who had just fled from the burning building. □ I will rend these dirty old clothes from my body and shower.

rend something into something to rip or tear something into something. (The past tense and past participle are rent.) □ The tailor rent the garment into shreds in his anger. □ The garment was rent into bits and pieces by the machine.

render something down† 1. Lit. to cook the fat out of something. □ Polly rendered the chicken fat down to a bit of golden grease that she would use in cooking a special dish. □ Jane rendered down the fat for use later. □ The cook rendered it down. 2. Fig. to reduce or simplify something to its essentials. □ Let’s render this problem down to the considerations that are important to us. □ Can’t we render down this matter into its essentials? □ Not all of this is important. Let’s render it down.

render something in(to) something to translate something into something. □ Now, see if you can render this passage in French. □ Are you able to render this into German? 1

render something to someone or something and render something up (to someone or something) to give something to someone or a group. □ You must render your taxes to the government. □ I will render my money to the tax collector. □ I had to render up all my earnings.

reneg on something to go back on one’s promise or commitment. □ I am mad at you because you reneged on your promise! □ I did not reneg on what I promised.
renounce someone for something to repudiate someone for doing something. [We renounced our brother for his political orientation.]

rent something from someone to pay someone for the use of something. [We rented a small car from one of the rental agencies.]

rent something (out)1 (to someone) to sell temporary rights for the use of something to someone. [I rented the back room out to a nice young student.]

repatriate someone to some place to restore one to one’s country of origin. [He asked that they repatriate him to the land of his birth.]

repay someone by something to recompense someone by doing something; to settle a debt with someone by doing something. [I will repay you by cutting your lawn free for a year. How’s that?] [Can I repay you by taking you to dinner?]

repay someone for something to remunerate someone for doing something. [I refused to repay him for his excessive expenses.]

repay someone with something to remunerate someone with something. [The farmer's wife repaid the plumbers with fresh eggs from the farm.]

repel someone from something to push someone back from something; to fight someone off from something. [The army repelled the attackers from the entrance to the city.]

replace someone or something by someone or something and replace someone or something with someone or something to remove someone or something and add someone or something in place of the first. [The manager replaced two workers by a machine.]

replenish something with something to rebuild the supply of something with more of it. [I will replenish the checking account with more money at the end of the month.]

reply to someone or something to give a response to someone or something. [I replied to her already. There is no reason to do it again.]

report about someone or something to deliver information about someone or something. [Isn't it time to report about Frank and how well he is doing?] [I want to report about the accident.]

report back on someone or something to return with information or an explanation from someone or something. [I need you to report back on Walter by noon.]

represent someone in something to act as one’s advocate or agent in business or legal proceedings. [My lawyer represented me in court.] [His attorney will represent him in all his dealings with the publishing company.]

represent someone or something as something to depict or portray someone or something as something; to think of someone or something as something. [I don't think you...]

report back to someone or something 1. to go back to someone or something and present oneself. [Report back to me at once!]

report for something to present oneself to make one’s presence known. [Please report in when you get back in town.] [He reported in and his name was taken off the absentee list.]

report in to present oneself; to make one’s presence known. [Please report in when you get back in town.]

report to someone or something 1. to present oneself to someone or an office. [You must report to me for duty at noon.] [They told me to report to this office at this time.]

report (up)on someone or something to present an explanation on someone or something. [I want to report on the events of the day. Do you have time to listen?]

repose in something to lie stretched out in something, such as a bed. [I think I would like to repose in my own bed for an hour or two before I begin my journey.]

repound in something to lie stretched out in a particular state, such as death or slumber. [She lay on the cot, reposed in slumber, waiting for Prince Charming to arrive.] [The ruler reposed in death on public view for two days.] [Much of our cultural heritage reposes in our literature.]

repous (up)on something to lie on something. [Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.] [Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.] [The detective visited Mrs. Jones to report upon Mrs. Jones.]

represent someone on something to present oneself to someone or an office. [Please report to me when you have the results.]

report (up)on something to present an explanation on someone or something. [I want to report on the events of the day. Do you have time to listen?]

repound in something to lie stretched out in something, such as a bed. [I think I would like to repose in my own bed for an hour or two before I begin my journey.]

repound in something to lie stretched out in a particular state, such as death or slumber. [She lay on the cot, reposed in slumber, waiting for Prince Charming to arrive.] [The ruler reposed in death on public view for two days.] [Much of our cultural heritage reposes in our literature.]

repound (up)on something to lie on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) [I will repose upon these cushions until my bathwater has been drawn.]

report (up)on something to present an explanation on someone or something. [I want to report on the events of the day. Do you have time to listen?]

repound (up)on something to lie on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) [I will repose upon these cushions until my bathwater has been drawn.]

report (up)on something to present an explanation on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) [I will repose upon these cushions until my bathwater has been drawn.]

report (up)on something to present an explanation on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) [I will repose upon these cushions until my bathwater has been drawn.]

represent someone in something to act as one’s advocate or agent in business or legal proceedings. [My lawyer represented me in court.] [His attorney will represent him in all his dealings with the publishing company.]

represent someone or something as something to depict or portray someone or something as something; to think of someone or something as something. [I don't think you...]

report back on someone or something 1. to go back to someone or something and present oneself. [Report back to me at once!]

report for something to present oneself to make one’s presence known. [Please report in when you get back in town.]

report in to present oneself; to make one’s presence known. [Please report in when you get back in town.]
should represent me as so perfect. After all, I’m human. □ The artist represented my puppy as a playful animal.

**represent something to someone** 1. to exemplify something to someone. □ What does this behavior represent to you? □ This represents a lapse in manners to me. 2. to explain a matter to someone. □ He represented the matter to me in a much more charitable light. □ I did not represent it properly to you.

**reprimand someone for something** to scold someone for something; to admonish someone for something. □ There is no need to reprimand me for a simple accident! □ Mary was reprimanded for being late.

**reproach someone for something** to rebuke or censure someone for something. □ She reproached Jerry for gambling away all their money. □ She reproached herself mercilessly for her failure.

**reproach someone with something** to rebuke someone with reference to something. □ I wish you wouldn’t continue to reproach me with things that happened long ago. □ She was reproached with something out of the past.

**reproduce something from something** to make a copy of something from something else. □ I think we can reproduce the picture from the copy that you have there. We don’t need the negative. □ Can you reproduce a good copy from this old print?

**reprove someone for something** to criticize or censure someone for something. □ The boss reproved all the employees for their use of the telephones for personal calls. □ We were all reproved for being late too often.

**repulse someone or something from something** to resist or repel someone or something from something. □ The royal guard repulsed the rebels from the palace grounds. □ Only the use of guns could repulse the starving wolves from the area around the cabin.

*a reputation (as a something)* a state of having a particular kind of reputation for being something. (Can be a good or a bad reputation. *Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ She once had a reputation as a singer. □ Unfortunately, Tom’s got a reputation as a cheat.

*a reputation (for doing something)* a state of having a particular kind of reputation for doing something. (Often a bad reputation, as in the examples. *Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ You’ll get a reputation for cheating. □ I don’t want to get a reputation for being late.

**reputed to** thought to do, be, or have someone or something. □ My boss is reputed to have cancer. □ My neighbor was reputed to have been a spy during the war.

**request someone to do something** to ask someone to do something. □ I am going to request you to turn your radio down. □ Mary was requested to arrive a few minutes early.

**request something from someone** to call for something from someone. □ I will request an explanation from the employee in question. □ A full report was requested from each person present.

**request something of someone** to call for someone to give or do something. □ I have to request a favor of you. □ Can I request anything more of him?

**require a leap of faith** Go to a leap of faith.

**require something from someone** to demand something from someone. □ The telephone company required a deposit from John and Martha before they would install a telephone. □ They required some help from us.

**require something of someone** to expect or demand someone to give or do something. □ I require absolute loyalty of my employees. □ What is required of me in this job?

**requisition something for someone or something** to present an order or formal request for something for someone or some purpose. □ I will have to requisition a desk for you. You can’t work an eight-hour day at a table. □ We will requisition catering for the office party.

**requisition something from someone or something** to send an order or formal request to someone or something for something. □ The general requisitioned food and bedding from the supply depot. □ We requisitioned a new bookcase from central supply.

**rescue someone or something from someone or something to save or liberate someone or something from someone or something. □ I hoped that someone would come and rescue me from this boring person. □ Nothing can rescue us from the ravages of time.

**research into someone or something** to study about someone or something thoroughly. □ I decided that I would research into Queen Elizabeth. □ We researched into the period in which she lived.

**resemble someone or something in something** to look or seem like someone or something. □ You resemble my Uncle Herman in the way you walk. □ This resembles vanilla ice cream in flavor, but not in consistency.

**reserve something for someone or something** to save or set aside something for someone or something. □ I am reserving this seat for Claire. □ We are reserving some of the cake for tomorrow.

**reside in someplace** to dwell in someplace. □ I reside in a small apartment in the center of town. □ The Wilsons resided in a large house on a hill.

**reside in someone or something** to be a property or characteristic of someone or something. □ I never knew such anger could reside in such a calm person. □ The finest acoustics that can be found in the world reside in this hall.

**resign from something** to make a written statement that removes one from an office or position of employment. □ Andy resigned from the fraternity. □ I will not resign from my job. You will have to fire me.

**resign oneself to something** to accept something reluctantly. □ I finally resigned myself to going to Mexico even though I didn’t want to. □ Mary resigned herself to her fate.

**resign under fire** Go to under fire.

**resonate with someone** Fig. [for an idea, issue, or concept] to appeal to someone or cause someone to relate to it. □ The concept of wearing worn-looking clothing seems to resonate with young people. □ Your notion just doesn’t resonate with the public in general.

**resort to something** to turn to something that is not the first choice. □ I hope they don’t resort to a lawsuit to accomplish their goals. □ She will resort to anything to get her way.

**resound through(out) something** to roar, noisily, through a space or an enclosed area. □ An explosion...
resounded through the busy train station. □ An explosion resounded throughout the busy train station.

resound with something [for something, such as the air or a place] to be filled with sound or sounds. □ The hall resounded with the sounds of the orchestra. □ The house resounded with the laughter of children.

respect someone as something to admire someone as something. □ I respect you as a friend and supervisor. □ We respected them all as colleagues and coworkers.

respect someone for something to admire someone for something. □ I really respect George for his courage. □ Mary respected the company for its fine products.

respond to someone or something 1. to answer someone or something. □ Would you please respond to me? □ When are you going to respond to my letter? 2. to react to someone or something. □ You have heard his presentation. How would you respond to him? □ I need you to respond to the points in the report by the end of the day. □ The police responded right away to the riot call.

the responsible party the person or organization responsible or liable for something. □ I intend to find the responsible party and get some answers to my questions. □ Mary sued the responsible party in the car crash.

rest against someone or something to lean against someone or something; to take a rest period positioned against someone or something. □ The child rested against his father until it was time to board the train. □ A fishing pole rested against the side of the garage, ready to go to work.

rest assured to be assured; to be certain. □ Rest assured that you'll receive the best of care. □ Please rest assured that we will do everything possible to help.

rest from something to take it easy and recover from something. □ I need a few minutes and rest from all that exertion. □ When you have rested from your running, please come in here and help me.

rest in peace to lie dead peacefully for eternity. (A solemn entreaty used in funeral prayers, eulogies, etc.) □ We prayed that the deceased would rest in peace. □ The bodies of the soldiers will rest in peace.

rest in something 1. to be comfortable in something, such as a chair or a bed. □ I rested in the chair for a while and then got up and made supper. □ I will rest in bed until I feel better. 2. to be at ease in a particular condition or status, such as comfort or comfortable surroundings. □ I hope that you can rest in comfort for the rest of the night. □ We rested in the plush surroundings and then went back out into the hot sun to work. 3. [for something] to have its source in something. □ The source of her magnetism rests in the way she uses her eyes. □ His skill rests in his thorough training.

rest on one's laurels Fig. to stop trying because one is satisfied with one's past achievements. □ Despite our success, this is no time to rest on our laurels. □ We rested on our laurels too long. Our competitors took away a lot of our business.

rest something against something to lean or position something against something, allowing it to bear part of the weight of the thing being rested. □ Rest the heavy end of the box against the wall and we'll slide it down the stairs. □ Please rest the board against something solid while you paint it.

rest something in someone or something to place or vest something in someone or something. □ The board of directors saw fit to rest the power to hire and fire in the office of the vice president. □ The president rested the power to hire and fire in the hands of his son, who promptly fired all the top managers.

rest up (for something) to take it easy in advance of something tiring. □ Excuse me, but I have to go rest up for the concert tonight. □ I really need to rest up a while.

rest up (from something) to recover or recuperate from something tiring. □ I need about a week to rest up from my long travels. □ I'll need a few days to rest up.

rest (up)on something to lie on something; to take it easy on something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Here, rest upon this mat. □ I'll just rest on this chair, thanks.

rest with someone or something to remain with someone or something; to be vested with someone or something. □ The final decision rests with you. □ The power rests with the board of directors.

restore someone's trust in something and restore someone's belief in something; restore someone's faith in something to reinstate someone's belief, faith, trust, etc., in something. □ I knew that a good performance on the test would restore my parents' belief in me. □ Her faith was restored in the government.

restore something to someone to give something back to someone; to cause something to be returned to someone. □ I will restore the man's wallet to him after we lock the thief up. □ His wallet was restored to him by a police officer.

restore something to something to bring something to its original state. □ The state restored the park to its original condition. □ The government forced the mining company to restore the area to its original state.

restrain someone from something to prevent someone from doing something. □ I had to restrain her from hurting herself. □ I was unable to restrain myself from giggling at the wisecrack.

restrict someone or something to someone or something to limit someone or something to someone or something; to confine someone or something to someone or something. (The first something may typically refer to a choice or selection.) □ When choosing team members, we are restricting them to people they already know. □ We restricted the choices to Bill, Bob, or Ted.

result from something to emerge from something; to be the outcome of something. □ It will be interesting to see
result in something

what results from your efforts. □ Nothing resulted from all that work.

result in something to achieve something; to bring about something; to cause something to happen. □ I hope that this will result in the police finding your car. □ All my effort resulted in nothing at all.

resurrect someone or something from something to restore someone or something from some state to its formal state. □ We decided to resurrect Toby from the ranks of the retired. □ I resurrected my old uniform from its tattered and wrinkled state.

retail at something to sell at a retail price of something. □ This model normally retails at a much higher price. □ What does a product like this usually retail at?

retail for something to sell for a retail price of an amount of money. □ This item retails for less than ten dollars. □ How much does this retail for?

retail something to someone to sell something to someone at a retail price. □ I can retail this merchandise at ninety percent of the price of my competitor. □ We are not allowed to retail this to anyone in the state of Maine.

retain something over someone or something to keep or maintain something, such as power or control, over someone or something. □ Tony found a way to retain control over Fred. □ I wish to retain veto power over the committee.

retaliate against someone or something to take revenge against someone or something. □ The striking workers will retaliate against the company with a protest march. □ The students retaliated against the administration.

retire from something to withdraw from something. (Usually to terminate a working career permanently.) □ I retired from the company early. □ When do you intend to retire from your job?

retire (in) to something to quit working and move into something or some place. □ Sam and Ella retired into a Florida condo. □ Joe did not want to retire to Florida.

retire on something to quit working and live on something or a particular amount of money. □ I already have enough money to retire on. □ I cannot retire on a sum like that!

retire someone or something from something to take someone or something out of service permanently. □ The company retired the vice president from the job and gave it to someone else. □ It is time to retire my automobile from service.

retire to some place to quit working permanently and move to a particular location. □ When I quit working, I want to retire to Florida. □ We will retire to our place in the country.

retool for something 1. Lit. to set up with new or altered tools for a different kind of production. □ The factory was closed down so they could retool for next year’s model. □ How soon can we retool for this new line of products? 2. Fig. to prepare oneself for a different kind of work. □ He decided to retool for a new job in the computer industry. □ I am too old to retool for a job like this.

retool something for something to set up a factory with new or altered tools for a different kind of production. □ The manager decided to retool the factory for greater efficiency. □ We will retool the plant for next year’s models.

retreat (from something) (to some place) to withdraw from something to some place. □ The army retreated from the battlefield to the safety of the forest. □ They retreated to the other side of the river.

retrieve someone or something from some place to recover and bring back someone or something from some place. □ The mother hurried to the school and retrieved her child from the classroom. □ I retrieved my cat from the well into which she had fallen.

retrieve something from someone to get something back from someone. □ I hope I can retrieve my book from the person who borrowed it. □ We were not able to retrieve the lawn mower from Fred before he moved away and took it with him.

return from some place to come back from some place. □ I just returned from a research trip in the Amazon basin. □ When will they return from their vacation?

return someone or something to someone to give someone or something back to someone. □ Please return my tools to me. □ Would you return my book to me soon?

return someone’s compliment Go to return the compliment.

return something for something to give or pay back something for something. □ The clerk returned the correct change for a twenty-dollar bill. □ I hope that the product returns good value for my money.

return the compliment and return someone’s compliment to pay a compliment to someone who has paid you a compliment. □ Mary told me that my hair looked nice, so I returned her compliment and told her that her hair was lovely. □ When someone says something nice, it is polite to return the compliment.

return the favor to do a good deed for someone who has done a good deed for you. □ You helped me last week, so I’ll return the favor and help you this week. □ There is no point in helping Bill. He’ll never return the favor.

return to haunt one Go to come back to haunt one.

return to some place to go or come back to some place. □ When do you plan to return to your home? □ I will return there when I have finished here.

return with something to come back with something. □ He went to town and returned with the doctor just in time. □ She returned with the material they had requested.

reunite someone or something with someone or something to bring someone or something together with someone or something. □ Mary was pleased to reunite Sally with her sister. □ I reunited the lost cat with its owner.

rev something up† to make an idling engine run very fast, in short bursts of power. □ Hey! Stop revving it up! □ I wish that Tom wouldn’t sit out in front of our house in his car and rev up his engine.

rev up to increase in amount or activity. □ Production revved up after the strike. □ We’re hoping business will rev up soon.

reveal someone or something to someone to show or disclose someone or something to someone. □ The magician
reverberate through something [for sound] to roll through or pass through a space. \( \square \) The thunder reverberated through the valley. \( \square \) The sound of the organ reverberated through the church.

reverberate throughout something [for sound] to roll about and fill a space. \( \square \) The thunder reverberated throughout the valley. \( \square \) The noise of chairs scraping the floor reverberated throughout the room.

reverberate with something to echo or resound with something. \( \square \) The hall reverberated with the rich basso voice of Walter Rogers. \( \square \) The church reverberated with the roar of the pipe organ.

everse someone or something for something to admire or venerate someone or something for something. \( \square \) I will always revere my dear aunt for her devotion to all of us. \( \square \) We have always revered his lovely gift for our little kindness.

revert to someone or something 1. to return to some type of person or a former state. \( \square \) After he was out of prison, he reverted to a life of crime. \( \square \) She quickly reverted to her childhood dialect after a few weeks at home. 2. to become the property of someone, a group, or an institution. \( \square \) At the end of ten years, this house and the land it sits on reverts to the youngest living child. \( \square \) Then the property reverts to the state.

review for something to study material again for something, such as an examination. \( \square \) I need some time to review for the examination. \( \square \) Have you had enough time to review for your speech?

revolt against someone or something to rebel or rise against someone or something. \( \square \) The citizens were gathering arms, preparing to revolt against the government.

revolted at someone or something sickened by someone or something. \( \square \) I was revolted at Frank and his behavior. \( \square \) We were all revolted at the scene of the bloody highway accident.

revolt about someone or something and revolve about someone or something 1. lit. to spin or move around someone or something. \( \square \) Do you think that the whole world revolves around you? \( \square \) The moon revolves about the earth. 2. fig. [for people or things] to center upon someone or something or to be primarily concerned with someone or something. \( \square \) The way all of this is going to turn out revolves around Bob. \( \square \) The success of the picnic revolves around the weather.

reward someone for something to give someone a prize or a bonus for doing something. \( \square \) I would like to reward you for your honesty. \( \square \) She wanted to reward herself for her hard work, so she treated herself to a massage.

reward someone with something to honor someone with a gift of something. \( \square \) She rewarded the helpful child with a chocolate chip cookie. \( \square \) He rewarded himself with a night on the town.

rhapsodize over someone or something to go on and on about the virtues of someone or something. \( \square \) Young Thomas likes to rhapsodize over Francine, his girlfriend. \( \square \) Please do not rhapsodize over this poem anymore.

rhyme something with something [for someone] to make one word rhyme with another word. \( \square \) I need to rhyme tree with some other word. Any suggestions? \( \square \) Can I rhyme good with food?

rhyme with something [for a word] to rhyme with another word. \( \square \) You can’t use house in that line of the poem, because it doesn’t rhyme with mice. \( \square \) The last word in your poem doesn’t rhyme with any other word in the poem!

rich in something having valuable resources, characteristics, traditions, or history. \( \square \) The entire region is rich in historical churches. \( \square \) Our soil is rich in important nutrients.

A rich man’s joke is always funny. Prov. Everyone wants to curry favor with rich people and so will always laugh at their jokes. (From a poem by Thomas Edward Brown.) \( \square \) We all thought that Mr. Lisle was a narrow-minded, unpleasant old man, but we were careful to act otherwise, because he was wealthy. A rich man’s joke is always funny.

rich with something having a lot of something; abundant in something. \( \square \) The beautiful book was rich with color illustrations. \( \square \) The old town was rich with elegant Victorian houses.

ricochet off something [for some rapidly moving object, such as a bullet] to bounce off something at an angle. \( \square \) The bullet ricocheted off the wall and struck the gunman. \( \square \) Bullets were ricocheting off the walls from all angles.

*rid of someone or something free of someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) \( \square \) I’m trying to get rid of Mr. Smith. He’s bothering me. \( \square \) I’ll be happy when I get rid of my old car.

rid oneself or something of someone or something to free oneself or something of someone or something; to deliver oneself or something from someone or something. \( \square \) The boys were not clever enough to rid themselves of Tom’s little sister. \( \square \) Will we ever be able to rid this house of spiders?

riddle someone or something with something to fill someone or something with small holes, such as bullet holes.

riddle someone or something with something to fill someone or something with small holes, such as bullet holes.

riddle someone or something with something to fill someone or something with small holes, such as bullet holes.
ride away to depart, riding a bike or a horse or similar animal. □ She got on her horse and rode away. □ They rode away without even saying good-bye.

ride by someone or something to pass by someone or something, riding. (As on a horse or bicycle, or as a passenger in a car.) □ She rode by me without saying anything. □ I rode by the store and forget to stop and go on.

ride herd on someone or something Fig. to supervise someone or something. (Alludes to a cowboy supervising cattle.) □ I'm too tired of having to ride herd on my kids all the time. □ My job is to ride herd on this project and make sure everything is done right.

ride off to depart, riding something such as a horse or a bicycle. □ Betty said good-bye and rode off. □ We rode off, each one in a different direction.

ride off in all directions 1. Fig. [for people] to scatter, riding something, such as a horse or a bicycle. (See also run off in all directions.) □ The boys hopped on their bikes and rode off in all directions. □ The sheriff got the posse together and they rode off in all directions, looking for the bank robber. 2. Fig. to behave in a totally confused manner; to try to do everything at once. □ Bill has a tendency to ride off in all directions. He's not organized enough. □ Now, calm down. There is no sense in riding off in all directions.

ride on to continue to ride, traveling onward. □ We rode on for at least an hour before finding a rest stop. □ They rode on for a while.

ride on someone's coattails and hang on someone's coattails Fig. to make one's good fortune or success on the strength of someone else's. (Also with else, as in the examples.) □ Bill isn't very creative, so he rides on John's coattails. □ Some people just have to hang on somebody else's coattails.

ride on something 1. Lit. to travel on something. □ Do you like to ride on the train? □ I have never ridden on a horse. 2. Fig. to be borne on something and carried along. (On something other than a means of transportation.) □ She rode on a wave of popularity to reelection. □ He rode on his past laurels as long as he could.

ride out (of some place) to travel out of a place on something such as a horse or bicycle. □ All the racers rode out of the starting area and began the bicycle marathon. □ At the sound of the starting gun, all the contestants rode out.

ride over someone or something to pass over someone or something, riding something such as a horse or a bicycle. □ Bobby fell down and Susan rode over him with her bicycle, but he wasn't hurt at all. □ Tom almost rode over my toe!

ride roughshod over someone or something and run roughshod over someone or something Fig. to treat someone or something with disdain or scorn. □ Tom seems to ride roughshod over his friends. □ You shouldn't have come into our town to ride roughshod over our laws and our traditions.

ride someone about something to continue to bother someone about something. □ Stop riding me about my weight! This is how I'm supposed to be! □ It's not fair to ride someone about being bald.

ride someone or an animal down¹ to chase down someone or an animal while riding on horseback. □ The mounted policeman rode the mugger down and captured him. □ The rider rode down the thief. □ We had to ride down the runaway horse.

ride something down to ride on something that is going down, such as an elevator. □ You take the stairs, and I will ride the elevator down. □ I don't want to ride the cable car down. I will walk.

ride something out¹ to endure something unpleasant. (Originally referred to ships lasting out a storm.) □ It was a nasty situation, but the mayor tried to ride it out. □ The mayor decided to ride out the scandal.

ride the gravy train Fig. to live in ease or luxury. □ If I had a million dollars, I sure could ride the gravy train. □ I wouldn't like loafing if I were rich. I don't want to ride the gravy train.

ride to some place to travel to a place, riding something such as a horse or a bicycle, or a vehicle one does not drive. □ I will ride to town and get the doctor. □ Tom will ride to the store on his bike to get a loaf of bread.

ride up (on someone) 1. Lit. [for someone on a horse] to approach someone, riding. □ I rode up on him and frightened him. □ I guess I was in the house when you rode up. 2. Fig. [for clothing, especially underpants] to keep moving higher on one's body. □ I don't like it when my pants ride up on me. □ I hate it when my underpants ride up.

ride (up)on someone or something to use someone or something as a beast of burden. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ As a game, the children used to ride on their father. □ We rode upon burros along the narrow mountain trails.

ride with someone to travel with someone on or in a vehicle or a beast of burden. □ I'm going to the store for some milk. Do you want to ride with me? □ Can I ride with you to the store?

riding for a fall Fig. risking failure or an accident, usually due to overconfidence. □ Tom drives too fast, and he seems too sure of himself. He's riding for a fall. □ Bill needs to eat better and get more sleep. He's riding for a fall.

rifle through something to ransack something; to search quickly or roughly through something looking for something. □ The teenager quickly rifled through the cabinets, looking for something worth eating. □ The soldiers rifled through every house they could break into.

rig someone or something out¹ (in something) to outfit someone or something in something; to decorate or dress someone or something in something. (Alludes to the rigging of a sailing ship.) □ Joan rigged her daughter out in a witch's costume for the Halloween party. □ He rigged out his car with lights for the parade.

rig something up¹ to prepare something, perhaps on short notice or without the proper materials. □ We don't have what's needed to make the kind of circuit you have described, but I think we can rig something up anyway. □ We will rig up whatever you need.
right and left and left and right to both sides; on all sides; everywhere. □ I dropped the tennis balls, and they rolled right and left. □ There were children everywhere—running right and left.

*right as rain Cliché perfectly fine; all right. (Based on the alliteration with r. *Also: as ~.) □ Lily has sprained her ankle, but after a few weeks of rest she should be as right as rain. □ All we need to do is tidy the house up; then it will be right as rain.

right at a certain time exactly or precisely at a specific place or time. □ Meet me at this corner right at 3:00 p.m. □ The restaurant is right at First and Main Streets.

right away and right now immediately. □ John: Take this over to Sue. Bill: Right away. □ John: How soon can you do this? Sue: Right away.

right down someone's alley and right up someone's alley Fig. ideally suited to one's interests or abilities. (*Typically: to do something well. □ He did excellent time.

right in the kisser Fig. right up John's alley. □ Wilbur poked the cop right in the kisser.

right in the mouth or face. □ There were children everywhere—right up the noses of the security guards.

right up someone's alley Go to right down someone's alley. *the right-of-way the legal right to occupy a particular space on a public roadway. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~; yield ~.) □ I had a traffic accident yesterday, but it wasn't my fault. I had the right-of-way. □ Don't pull out onto a highway if you haven't yielded the right-of-way.

right up to get someone excited and angry. □ He yelled at them and riled them up. They left quite angry. □ He riles up everyone he talks to.

ing a bell Fig. [for something] to cause someone to remember something or for it to seem familiar. □ I've never met John Franklin, but his name rings a bell. □ Whenever I see a bee, it rings a bell. I remember when I was stung by one.

ring around something to circle something. □ The children ringed around the maypole, dancing and singing. □ The mourners had ringed around the coffin for the final ceremony.

ring back to call back on the telephone. □ No, there's no message. I'll ring back later. □ She's not here now. I suggest you ring back after dinner.

ring in someone's ears and ring in someone's mind Fig. [for words or a sound] to linger in one's consciousness. □ Her words rang in my ears for days. □ The sound of the choir rang in their minds long after they had finished their anthem.

ring in someone's mind Go to previous.

ring in the new year Fig. to celebrate the beginning of the new year at midnight on December 31. □ We are planning a big party to ring in the new year. □ How did you ring in the new year?

ring off the hook Fig. [for a telephone] to ring incessantly and repeatedly. □ What a busy day! The telephone has been ringing off the hook all day long. □ The telephone has been ringing off the hook ever since the ad appeared in the paper.

ring out [for a loud sound] to go out. □ The bells rang out at the end of the wedding ceremony. □ Loud cheers rang out at the end of the game. □ A shot rang out and started all the dogs barking.

ring out the old Fig. to celebrate the end of a year while celebrating the beginning of a new one. (See also ring in the new year.) □ I don't plan to ring out the old this year. I'm just going to go to bed. □ We never ring out the old because it's too dismal.

ring someone back* to call someone back on the telephone. □ I will have to ring back the store at a later time. □ Please ring me back when you have a moment.

ring someone up* to call someone on the telephone. □ I will ring her up when I get a chance. □ I have to ring up a whole list of people.
ring something up^1 to record the cost of an item on a cash register. □ Please ring this chewing gum up first, and I’ll put it in my purse. □ The cashier rang up each item and told me how much money I owed.

ring the bell Inf. to be just what is needed; to hit the spot. □ This cold water really rings the bell. □ A good hot bowl of soup would ring the bell about now.

ring the curtain down^1 (on something) and bring the curtain down^1 (on something) 1. Fig. to lower a theater curtain, usually at the end of an act or a play. (More literal than 2.) □ After one hundred performances, it’s time to ring the curtain down on our show for the last time. □ As we bring down the curtain on another successful performance, let’s be thankful nothing serious went wrong. 2. Fig. to bring something to an end; to declare something to be at an end. □ It’s time to ring the curtain down on our relationship. We have nothing in common anymore. □ We’ve tried our best to make this company a success, but it’s time to ring down the curtain.

ring the curtain up^1 1. Fig. to raise the curtain in a theater. (Alludes to sending the signal to raise the curtain.) □ The stagehand rang the curtain up precisely on time. □ Let’s ring up the curtain. It’s time to start the show. 2. Fig. to start a series of activities or events. □ I am set to ring up the curtain on a new lifestyle. □ It’s a little late to ring up the curtain for a new career.

ring true Fig. to sound or seem true or likely. (From testing the quality of metal or glass by striking it and evaluating the sound made.) □ The student’s excuse for being late doesn’t ring true. □ Do you think that Mary’s explanation for her absence rang true?

ring with something 1. Lit. to resound with something. □ The morning air rang with the sound of church bells. □ The curtain rang with the sound of gunfire. 2. [for a bell] to ring in some characteristic way. □ The bell seemed to ring with unusual clarity on this fine Sunday morning. □ The doorbell rang with an urgency that could not be ignored.

ring someone or something down^1 to wash or clean someone or something with water or other fluid. □ I rinsed him down for an hour and still didn’t get the smell of skunk off him. □ I had to rinse down the driveway.

ring someone or something off^1 to wash or clean someone or something by flushing with water or other fluid. □ Mother rinsed the baby off and dried him with a soft towel. □ She rinsed off the baby.

ring someone’s mouth out^1 (with soap) and wash someone’s mouth out^1 (with soap) Fig. to punish one by washing one’s mouth out with soap, especially for using foul language. (Usually a jocular threat.) □ If you say that again, I’ll rinse your mouth out with soap. □ I will wash out your mouth if you swear.

ring something down^1 (with something) to wash something down one’s throat with a liquid; to follow something that one has eaten with a drink to aid its going down. □ Alice rinsed the cheeseburger down with a milkshake. □ She rinsed down the sandwich with a drink.

ring something out^1 1. to clean cloth or clothing partially by immersing it in water and squeezing it out. □ Can you please rinse this rag out? It’s all dirty. □ Please rinse out your clothes to make sure there is no soap left in them. 2. to launch something delicate, such as feminine underwear, using a mild soap. □ I have to go rinse a few things out. □ After I rinse out some things, I will be right with you. 3. to clean the inside of a container partially by flushing it out with water. □ Rinse the bottle out and throw it away. □ Rinse out the bottle and throw it away.

ring something out of something to remove something from something by flushing it with water. □ See if you can rinse the dirt out of this jacket. □ I can’t rinse out the dirt.

ring something with something to flush something with some fluid. □ You should rinse your clothes in milk or tomato juice to remove the smell of the skunk. □ Please rinse the stain with cold water.

ripeness of color Cliché a selection of many bright colors. □ The landscape was a riot of color each autumn.

rip into someone or something 1. Lit. to attack someone or something by ripping. □ The raccoons ripped into the trash bags, scattering papers and stuff all over the street. □ The horrid murderer ripped into the helpless victim. 2. Fig. to criticize or censure someone or something severely. □ The drama critic ripped into Larry. □ The critics really ripped into Larry’s poor performance.

rip off [for something] to tear or peel off. □ My pocket ripped off, and my money is gone now! □ A piece of the bumper ripped off my car.

rip on someone Sl. to give someone a hard time; to hassle someone. □ Stop ripping on me! What did I do to you? □ Tim is ripping on Mary and she is getting really mad.

ripsnorter Rur. a remarkable person or thing; a hilarious joke. □ Old Fred is a real ripsnorter. □ Her new car is a ripsnorter, I tell you. □ Let me tell you a ripsnorter about a farmer and his cow.

rip someone off^1 Inf. to steal [something] from someone; to cheat someone. □ That merchant ripped me off! □ She rips off everyone.

rip someone or something apart^1 to tear someone or something apart into pieces. □ The automobile accident ripped the car apart. □ Don’t rip apart the newspaper!

rip someone or something to something 1. Lit. to tear someone or something into small pieces, expressed as bits, pieces, shreds, etc. □ If you fall into that lawn mower, it will rip you to pieces. □ The lawn mower ripped the newspaper to tiny bits. 2. Fig. to criticize someone or something mercilessly. □ The critics ripped Gerald to pieces even though the audience just loved his show. □ They ripped the whole production to pieces.

rip someone or something up^1 to tear someone or something into bits; to mutilate someone or something. □ Careful! That machine will rip you up if you fall in. □ I ripped up the contract and threw the pieces in the trash.

rip something away^1 (from someone) to grab or snatch something away from someone. □ Betty ripped the box away from Frank and walked away with it. □ She ripped away the box and opened it.

rip something away^1 (from something) to tear or strip something away. □ Billy ripped the wrapping paper away from the box. □ He ripped away the paper.

rip something down^1 to tear something down. (Alludes to something that has been posted or mounted.) □ The cus-
ripe old age

rise above

ripple through


todian ripped all the posters down at the end of the day. ■ He ripped down the posters.

ripped something in half and ripped something in two to tear something into two parts. ■ Did you know that Ed can rip a telephone book in half? ■ I can rip a newspaper in two.

ripped something in two Go to previous.

ripped something off Inf. to steal something [from someone]. ■ The mugger ripped my purse off of me. ■ Jane ripped off a lot of money. ■ Somebody ripped my wallet off.

ripped something off (of) someone or something and ripped something off to tear something away from someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) ■ I ripped the cover off of the book accidentally. ■ I ripped off the book cover.

ripped something out of someone or something and ripped something out to tear something out of someone or something. ■ The high priest ripped the beating heart out of the sacrificial victim. ■ The priest ripped out the victim's heart.

ripped something up to take something up by force and remove it. (Usually refers to something on the floor or ground, such as carpeting or pavement.) ■ They are going to rip all the broken sidewalk up. ■ The workers ripped up the pavement and loaded the pieces into a truck.

ripped a telephone book in half? something into two parts.

dodian ripped all the posters down at the end of the day.

rise from someone or something to emanate from someone or something in the manner of a cloud of dust or a cheer.

rise from the ashes Fig. [for a structure] to be rebuilt after destruction. ■ The entire west section of the city was destroyed and a group of new buildings rose from the ashes in only a few months. ■ Will the city rise again from the ashes? No one knows.

rise from the dead and rise from the grave Fig. to come back to life after being dead. ■ Albert didn't rise from the dead. He wasn't dead in the first place. ■ The movie was about a teenager who rose from the grave and haunted his high school friends.

rise from the grave Go to previous.

rise from the ranks Fig. to achieve position or office, having worked up from the masses. ■ He rose from the ranks to become president of the company. ■ Most of the officers of the company have risen from the ranks.

rise in something to increase in something. ■ I hope that this land rises in value over the next few years. ■ Her expensive antique car actually rose in value during the first year.

rise to one's feet to stand up. ■ The entire audience rose to its feet, applauding wildly. ■ We rose to our feet when the bride came down the aisle.

rise to the bait Fig. to respond to an allurement; to fall for an enticement or fall into a trap. (Alludes to a fish coming up from deep water to seize bait.) ■ You can get him here easily. Tell him that there will be lots of food and he will rise to the bait. ■ He rose to the bait and did just as he was expected to do.

rise to the challenge Fig. to accept a challenge. (Usually in reference to success with the challenge.) ■ You can depend on Kelly to rise to the challenge. ■ We were not able to rise to the challenge and we lost the contract.

rise to the occasion Fig. to meet the challenge of an event; to try extra hard to do a task. ■ John was able to rise to the occasion and make the conference a success. ■ It was a big challenge, but he rose to the occasion.

rise to the top to move or float to something, such as the top, surface, etc. ■ The cream will rise to the top. ■ The lighter oil rose to the top and we scooped it up and saved it.

risk of rain and risk of showers; risk of thunderstorms a chance of precipitation. (Used only in
risk of showers Go to previous.

risk of thunderstorms Go to risk of rain.

risk one’s neck (to do something) Fig. to accept the risk of physical harm in order to accomplish something. □ Look at that traffic! I refuse to risk my neck just to cross the street to buy a paper. □ I refuse to risk my neck at all.

risk something on someone or something to chance losing something on someone or something. □ I wouldn’t risk any money on him. He’s a poor credit risk. □ Don’t risk your life on his being there to help you.

rival someone in something to have a quality or status that is comparable to that of someone else. □ I would say that Jane rivals Dave in the ability to find the essential elements of a problem and deal with them swiftly. □ No one rivals Ted in pitching a baseball.

rivet one’s gaze on someone or something and rivet one’s glare on someone or something Fig. to fasten one’s gaze onto someone or something. (As if it were attached by rivets. ) □ He riveted his gaze on the surly young man. □ Walter riveted his hateful glare on the last page of the contract.

rivet one’s glare on someone or something Go to previous.

rivet someone’s attention Fig. to keep someone’s attention fixed on something. □ The movie riveted the audience’s attention. □ Professor Jones’s lecture riveted the students’ attention.

rivet something on(to) something and rivet something on† to attach something to something with rivets. □ The pockets of these jeans are riveted onto the body of the pants. □ You should rivet on this part of the frame to the wall.

riveted to the ground Fig. [of someone or someone’s feet] unable to move. □ I was riveted to the ground out of fear. □ My feet were riveted to the ground and I could not move an inch.

road hog Fig. someone who drives carelessly and selfishly. □ Look at that road hog driving in the middle of the road and stepping other drivers from passing him. □ That road hog nearly knocked the children over. He was driving too fast.

The road to hell is paved with good intentions. Prov. People often mean well but do bad things. (Can be a strong rebuke, implying that the person you are addressing did something bad and his or her good intentions do not matter.) □ Jane: I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to hurt your feelings; I only wanted to help you. Jane: Oh, yeah? The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

roam about and roam around to wander or range about freely. □ Stay where you are and don’t roam about. □ I’m too tired to roam around very much.

roar at someone or something 1. Lit. to bellow or bawl at someone or something. □ Don’t roar at me! Control your temper. □ The lion roared at the hyena, who ran off. 2. Fig. to laugh very hard at someone or something. □ The audience roared at the clown. □ The children roared at Dad’s jokes.

roar away to speed away, making a loud clamor. □ The car roared away into the night with tires screeching. □ The train roared away, carrying Andy to Canada.

roar something out† to bellow something out loudly. □ Walter roared his protest out so everyone knew how he felt. □ Jane roared out her criticism.

rob Peter to pay Paul Fig. to take or borrow from one in order to give or pay something owed to another. □ Why borrow money to pay your bills? That’s just robbing Peter to pay Paul. □ There’s no point in robbing Peter to pay Paul. You will still be in debt.

rob someone blind 1. Fig. to steal freely from someone. □ Her maid was robbing her blind. □ I don’t want them to rob me blind. Keep an eye on them. 2. Fig. to overcharge someone. □ You are trying to rob me blind. I won’t pay it! □ Those auto repair shops can rob you blind if you don’t watch out.

rob someone of something to deprive someone of something, not necessarily by theft. □ What you have done has robbed me of my dignity! □ If you do that, you will rob yourself of your future.

rob the cradle Fig. to marry or date someone who is much younger than oneself. □ I hear that Bill is dating Ann. Isn’t that sort of robbing the cradle? He’s much younger than he is. □ Uncle Bill—who is nearly eighty—married a thirty-year-old woman. That is really robbing the cradle.

rock around to tilt or totter about. □ The boat rocked around, tossing the passengers to and fro. □ The road was bumpy and the huge car rocked around.

*(rock) bottom the lowest point or level. (Typically: be at; hit; reach.) □ The value of the goods is at rock bottom right now. □ Prices have reached rock bottom. □ When my life hit bottom, I gradually began to feel much better.

rock someone to something to help someone, usually an infant, get to sleep by rocking in a rocking chair, cradle, or carriage. □ It is best to rock the baby to sleep after you feed her. □ Somehow she learned to rock herself to sleep.

rock the boat 1. Lit. to do something to move a boat from side to side, causing it to rock. (Often in a negative sense.) □ Sit down and stop rocking the boat. You’ll turn it over! 2. Fig. to cause trouble where none is welcome; to disturb a situation that is otherwise stable and satisfactory. (Often negative.) □ Look, Tom, everything is going fine here. Don’t rock the boat! □ You can depend on Tom to mess things up by rocking the boat.

rocket (in)to something 1. Lit. [for a projectile] to ascend into the sky or into space; [for something] to shoot rapidly into something. □ The space shuttle rocketed into space. □ The locomotive rocketed into the darkness. 2. Fig. [for someone] to ascend rapidly into something, such as fame or prominence. □ Jill rocketed into prominence after her spectacular performance on the guitar. □ She will undoubtedly rocket to success.

rocket something into something to send something somewhere—usually into space—by rocket. □ The government rocketed the satellite into space. □ Someone suggested rocketing our waste into space.

a rocky road a difficult period of time. □ Bob’s been going down quite a rocky road since his divorce.
**roll something back**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>roll around</td>
<td>to move about, rotating, turning over, turning, or moving on wheels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll away</td>
<td>to move away, rotating, turning over, turning, or moving on wheels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll back</td>
<td>[for something] to return, rotating or turning or moving on wheels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll by</td>
<td>1. Lit. to pass by, rotating, as a wheel or a ball; to move past, rolling on wheels. 2. The wheel of a car rolled by, all by itself. It must have come off a car somewhere down the road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll down</td>
<td>to move downward, rotating, as a wheel or a ball, or to move downward on wheels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll down something</td>
<td>to move downward, along something, rotating, as a wheel or a ball, or moving downward on wheels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll in</td>
<td>Fig. to come in large numbers or amounts, easily, as if rolling. (Alludes to the arrival of many wheeled conveyances.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll in something</td>
<td>1. Lit. to rotate about in something. 2. What is that dog rolling in? 3. We had fun rolling in the leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll off</td>
<td>(someone or something) to flow or fall off someone or something.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**roll on 1.** Lit. [for something] to continue rolling. 2. Lit. [for someone] to be applied by rolling. 3. This kind of deodorant just rolls on. 4. She rolled on too much paint and it dripped from the ceiling. 5. Fig. [for something, such as time] to move on slowly and evenly, as if rolling. 6. The years rolled on, one by one. |

**roll one's sleeves up** 1. Lit. to turn one's sleeves upward, exposing the arms. 2. He rolled his sleeves up and began to wash the dishes. 3. Don rolled up his sleeves so he would be cooler. 4. Fig. to prepare to get to work. |

**roll out the red carpet (for someone)** 1. Lit. to unwind a roll of red carpet for someone important to walk on. 2. The city council decided to roll out the red carpet for the visit of the foreign prince. 3. Fig. to give someone treatment befitting royalty. 4. The citizens of the small community enjoyed rolling out the red carpet for important visitors. |

**roll over** 1. To turn over; to rotate one half turn. 2. The old man rolled over and started snoring again. 3. Fig. to pass over someone or something. |

**roll over and play dead** Fig. to just give up and be unable to cope with life or a problem. Why can't I complain about this? Am I supposed to roll over and play dead? |

**roll over something** [for something that rolls] to pass over something. (See also roll something over.) 1. The wheelchair rolled over the hose, making the water squirt off and on. 2. After all the traffic had rolled over Timmy's ball, there was very little left to it. |

**roll prices back** Fig. to reduce prices. 1. The store rolled all its prices back for the sale. 2. The protesters demanded that the big oil companies roll back their prices. |

**roll someone or something over** to turn someone or something over. 1. Bobby rolled Billy over and began tickling him ruthlessly in the tummy. 2. Mary rolled the stone over, hoping to find a snake underneath. |

**roll someone or something (up) in something** to turn or wrap someone or something so as to contain someone or something in something. 1. Bobby rolled Billy in a sheet of heavy wrapping paper. 2. They rolled the burning man up in a blanket to put out the flames. |

**roll something away** to cause something to move away, rotating, turning over, turning, or moving on wheels. 1. Jane rolled the ball away and it was lost. 2. Jane rolled away the ball. |

**roll something back** to return something to someone by rotating it, as with a wheel or a ball, or moving it back on wheels. 1. I intercepted the ball and rolled it back. 2. Jane rolled back the ball.
roll something **down** 1. to move something down, making it rotate like a wheel or a ball, or moving it on wheels. □ Don’t carry the ball down; roll it down! □ I rolled down the ball as you asked. 2. to crank down something, such as a car window. □ Please roll the window down and get some air in this car. □ Please roll down the car window.

roll something **down** something to cause something to move down along something, rotating it like a wheel or a ball. □ Claire rolled the bowling ball down the alley for a strike. □ Roll the barrel down the ramp carefully. It is heavy.

roll something **in** to bring something in by rotating it like a wheel or a ball or by moving it on wheels. □ Tony rolled each of the meatballs in flour and pepped them into the hot oil. □ Roll each of these cookies in powdered sugar.

roll something **off** (of) someone or something and roll something **off** something (of) to cause something to roll away, off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The other workers quickly rolled the wheel off of the injured man. □ Please roll off the wheel quickly!

roll something **onto** something and roll something **on** something to apply something or a coat of a substance by rolling something saturated with the substance on the thing to be coated. □ You should roll another coat of paint onto this wall over here. □ Roll on another coat.

roll something **out** 1. to bring or take something out by rolling it; to push something out on wheels. □ Jane rolled her bike out to show it off. □ Alice rolled out her bicycle for us to see. 2. to flatten something by rolling it. □ You should roll the pastry out first. □ They rolled out the steel in a huge mill.

roll something **over** Fig. to renew a financial instrument as it expires. (See also roll over something.) □ Do you plan to roll this certificate of deposit over? □ Are you going to roll over your certificates of deposit?

roll something **to** someone or something to send something revolving toward someone or something or moving toward someone or something on wheels. □ I rolled the ball to the baby, who just sat and looked at it. □ The blow with the mallet rolled the croquet ball to the wicket.

roll something **up** to coil or rotate something into a coil or roll of something. □ I rolled the poster up and put it back in its mailing tube. □ I have to roll up this paper.

roll something **up** (into something) 1. to include something into something that is being rotated into a coil. □ I guess I accidentally rolled the letter up into the poster that was lying on my desk. □ I rolled up the letter into the poster. 2. to make something into a round shape by rolling it. □ He rolled the gum up into a ball and tossed it away. □ Jane rolled up the dough into a ball.

roll with the punches Fig. to absorb the force of a blow, as in boxing. □ You have to learn to roll with the punches. Accept what is dealt to you. □ Paul could never roll with the punches. He always had to get even.

rolling in money Go to next.

rolling in something and rolling in it Fig. having large amounts of something, usually money. □ That family is rolling in money. □ Bob doesn’t need to earn money. He’s rolling in it.

*rolling in the aisles Fig. [of an audience] wild with laughter. (“Typically: get them ~; have them ~; leave them ~.) □ I have the best jokes you’ve ever heard. I’ll have them rolling in the aisles. □ What a great performance. We had them rolling in the aisles.

A rolling stone gathers no moss, Prov. A person who does not settle down is not attached to anything or anyone. (Can be said in admiration or in censure, depending on whether or not the speaker feels it is good to be attached to something or someone.) □ I worry about Tom. He’s never lived in the same place for two years in a row, and he keeps changing jobs. A rolling stone gathers no moss.

Rome was not built in a day, Prov. It takes a lot of time to achieve something important. □ Professor: When will you finish your research project? Student: It’ll take me a while. Rome wasn’t built in a day, you know.

romp all over someone Go to romp on someone.

romp around to run and bounce around playfully. □ The horses were in the meadow, romping around in the crisp autumn air. □ The children need to get out and romp around.

romp on someone and romp all over someone 1. Fig. Inf. to beat or win over, as in a sports contest. □ Our team romped on our opponents and beat them 10 to 1. □ We romped all over them. 2. Fig. Inf. to scold someone. □ The teacher romped on the students for their behavior. □ He romped all over all of them.

romp through something to run through something fast and playfully. □ The conductor romped through the slow movement of the symphony as if it were a march. □ The cast romped through the last act, knowing that the play would be closed that very night.

roof something **over** to build a roof over something; to provide something with a roof. □ After the destructive storm they had to roof the shed over so that the cow would have some shelter. □ We will roof over the patio and turn the area into a porch.

room and board food to eat and a place to live; the cost of food and lodging. □ That college charges too much for room and board. □ How much is your room and board?

room together [for two or more people] to share a room, as in a college dormitory. □ Sarah and I roomed together in college. □ We don’t want to room together anymore.

room with someone to share a room with someone, as in college. □ I need someone to room with me next year. □ No one wants to room with Kelly.

root around (for something) to dig or shuffle in or through something, looking for something. □ Alice rooted around in her desk drawer for a pen. □ I’ll root around here and see if I can find it.

root for someone or something to cheer and encourage someone or something. □ Are you rooting for anyone in particular, or are you just shouting because you’re excited? □ I’m rooting for the home team.
the root of the matter Go to the crux of the matter.

the root of the problem an understanding of the causes or basis of a problem. (*Typically: determine ~; figure out ~; find ~; get to ~; get at ~.) It will take a little more study to get to the root of the problem. Let’s stop avoiding the issue and get at the root of the problem.

root someone or something out of something and root someone or something out† to seek and remove someone or something from something or some place; to seek to discover or bring something to light. The committee wanted to root all the lazy people out of the club. The manager rooted out all the deadwood.

root something in something to start a plant growing roots in something. I tried to root the plants in sand, but they died. You have to root this kind of tree in very rich soil.

root something out† to get rid of something completely; to destroy something to its roots or core. No government will ever root out crime completely. The principal wants to root out troublemakers at the local school.

root something up† [for a pig] to find something in the ground by digging with its nose. The pigs will root your plants up if they get out of their pen. The pigs will root up your plants if they get out of their pen.

rooted in something based on something; connected to a source or cause. The civil war was rooted in old cultural hatred. This fictional book was rooted in actual events.

rooted to something [of someone] firmly attached to something. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) She is firmly rooted to her homeland and has no intention of emigrating. The farmer is rooted to the land and will not leave.

rooted to the spot Fig. unable to move because of fear or surprise. (*Typically: appear to be ~; be ~; become ~.) Jane stood rooted to the spot when she saw the ghastly figure. Mary stood rooted to the spot when the thief snatched her bag.

rope someone in† Go to rope someone into something.

rope someone into doing something Fig. to persuade or trick someone into doing something. I don’t know who roped me into doing this, but I don’t want to do it. See if you can rope somebody into taking this to the post office.

rope someone into something and rope someone in† Fig. to cause someone to get involved in some project. She’s always trying to rope me into her club. Let’s rope in someone to help with cleaning up.

rope someone or an animal up† to tie someone or an animal up with a rope. Rope this guy up tight so he won’t get away. The cowboy roped up the steer.

rope something off† to isolate something with a rope barrier. The police roped the scene of the accident off. The police roped off the scene of the accident.

rope something together† to tie or bind up a thing or things with rope. Rope this carton together and put it in the trunk of the car. Rope together these two packages and take them to the truck.

the ropes Fig. knowledge of how to do something; how to work something. (*Typically: know ~; learn ~; show someone ~; teach someone ~.) I’ll be able to do my job very well when I know the ropes. John is very slow to learn the ropes.

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Prov. The nature of a thing is more important than what it is called. (From Shakespeare’s play, Romeo and Juliet.) Bob was upset when his job title was changed from “administrative assistant” to “secretary.” We tried to convince him that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

rot away to decompose; to decompose and fall away. The fallen trees rotted away and surrendered their nutrients to the soil. As the wood rotted away, it became rich humus.

rot off to decompose. If you don’t clean and repaint that old windowsill, it will rot off. A few old branches finally rotted off, but the ancient tree looked as if it would survive the wet spell.

rot out to decompose and fall out. If you don’t clean your teeth regularly, they’ll rot out! Some of the rafters in the shed rotted out, but we replaced them easily.

rotate on something to spin on something; to pivot on something. This wheel rotates on this little red jewel on the main frame of the watch. The record rotates on this device, which is called a turntable.

a rotten apple a single bad person or thing. There always is a rotten apple to spoil it for the rest of us. Tom sure has turned out to be the rotten apple.

The rotten apple spoils the barrel. Prov. A bad person influences everyone he or she comes into contact with, making them bad too. Helen is the rotten apple that spoils the barrel in our office. Everyone sees her come in late to work and take long coffee breaks, and they think, “Why can’t I do the same?”

a rotten egg and a bad egg a bad or despised person; an evil influence. That guy is a real rotten egg. She sure has turned out to be a rotten egg.

rotten luck Fig. bad luck. Of all the rotten luck! I’ve had nothing but rotten luck all day.

rotten to the core Fig. really bad; corrupt. That lousy punk is rotten to the core. The entire administration is rotten to the core.

* * rough idea (about something) and * a rough idea (of something) a general idea; an estimate. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) I need to get a rough idea of how many people will be there. I’ll manage to get a rough idea. That’s good enough.

rough it to live without luxury; to live simply; to camp out. During the blackout, we roughed it without electricity. The campers roughed it in the remote cabin for a week.

rough someone up† to beat someone up; to maltreat someone. Am I going to have to rough you up, or will you cooperate? The crooks roughed up the old lady before taking her purse.

rough something in† to construct or draw something initially, temporarily, or crudely. The carpenter roughed the doorways in without consulting the plans. The carpenter roughed in the doorways without consulting the plans.
round something out to make a rough sketch of something. □ I will rough it out and have one of the staff artists attend to the details. □ Jane roughed out a picture of the proposed building.

rough something up to scrape or rub something in a way that makes it rough. □ All you have to do is rough up the ground, sow the seeds, and then water them. □ Rough up the surface a little before you paint it.

rough stuff unnecessary roughness; physical violence or threats of violence. □ Okay, let's cut out the rough stuff! □ There was too much rough stuff in the football game.

a rough time Go to a hard time.

rough-and-ready 1. strong, active, and ready for anything. □ John is not exactly rough-and-ready, but he is a moderately good athlete. □ Ralph is very rough-and-ready, but his table manners are very bad. 2. Go to rough-and-tumble.

rough-and-tumble and rough-and-ready disorderly; aggressive. □ That was a rough-and-tumble football game. □ George is too rough-and-ready for me. He doesn't know how to act around civilized people.

round off to something and round up to something; round down to something to express a number in the nearest whole amount or nearest group of 1, 10, 100, 1,000, 1/10, 1/100, 1/1,000, etc. □ When doing taxes, Anne rounded her figures off to the nearest dollar. □ These census population figures are rounded up to the nearest million.

round someone or something up to locate and gather someone or something. □ Please round the suspects up for questioning. □ The police rounded up the two possible suspects.

round something down to reduce a fractional part of a number to the next lowest whole number. (See also round off to something.) □ You can round this figure down if you want. It won't affect the total all that much. □ Please round down all figures having fractions less than one-half.

round something off to change a number to the next higher or lower whole number. (See also round off to something.) □ You should round 8.122 off. □ I rounded off 8.789 to 9.

round something off† (with something) to finish something with something; to complement something with something. (See also round something off.) □ We rounded the meal off with a fine cognac. □ We rounded off the meal with a sinful dessert.

round something out† to complete or enhance something. □ We will round the evening out with dessert at a nice restaurant. □ They rounded out the meal with dessert.

round something up† 1. to collect a group of people or things; to organize people or things into a group. □ The cowboys rounded up the cattle for market. □ See if you can round some helpers up. 2. to change a number to the next higher whole number. (See also round off to something.) □ I rounded up 8.789 to 9. □ You should round $65.99 up to $66.

round up to something Go to round off to something.

a rounding error a large amount of money that is relatively small in comparison to a much larger sum. □ To a large company like Smith & Co., a few thousand dollars is just a rounding error. It's not a lot at all.

round-trip ticket a ticket (for a plane, train, bus, etc.) that allows one to go to a destination and return. □ A round-trip ticket is usually cheaper than two one-way tickets. □ How much is a round-trip ticket to San Francisco?

rouse someone from something to awaken someone from something; to cause someone to come out of something. □ I roused Tom from his nap and sent him on his way. □ We could not rouse her from her deep sleep.

rouse someone out of something to awaken someone out of a state, such as sleep. □ It was almost impossible to rouse George out of his sleep. □ They could not rouse us out of our drowsy state.

rouse someone to something to stir someone to something. □ I will rouse the workers to action. They will work or have to find other jobs. □ The speech by the president roused the citizens to action.

roust someone out of something and rout someone out† to force someone out of something. □ Bob's brother rousted him out of bed just in time for the school bus. □ He rousted out his brother.

rout someone or something out of some place and rout someone or something out† to remove someone or something from some place by force. □ The soldiers routed the snipers out of the deserted buildings. □ They rousted out the snipers.

route someone or something around something to send someone or something on a path that avoids something. □ The travel agent routed us around the congestion of the big city. □ Due to the storm, they routed the trains around the fallen bridge.

route something to someone to send something along a particular path to someone. □ Try to route this to Walter, who is on a ship at sea. I'll get the name of the ship for you. □ I will route a copy of the invoice to you.

row (someone or something) out† to carry someone or something in a rowboat from the shore out to something. □ Will you row me out to the island? □ I rowed out all the visitors to the little island.

a royal pain a great annoyance. □ This guy's a royal pain, but we have to put up with him because he's the boss.

the royal treatment very good treatment; very good and thoughtful care of a person. □ I was well cared for. They gave me the royal treatment. □ I got the royal treatment when I stayed at that expensive hotel.

rub (away) at something to chafe or scrape something, repeatedly. □ The side of his shoe rubbed away at the side of his desk until the paint wore off. □ Don't rub at your sore. It will get worse.

rub elbows (with someone) and rub shoulders with someone Fig. to associate with someone; to work closely with someone. (No physical contact is involved.) □ I don't care to rub elbows with someone who acts like that! □ I rub shoulders with John at work. We are good friends.

rub off ((of) something) [for something] to become detached from something because of incidental rubbing or scraping. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □
The label rubbed off this can. What do you think it is? □ I can’t tell what it is. The label rubbed off.

rub off (on someone) [for a characteristic of one person] to seem to transfer to someone else. □ I’ll sit by Ann. She has been lucky all evening. Maybe it’ll rub off on me. □ Sorry. I don’t think that luck rubs off.

rub off (on to) someone or something [for something, such as a coating] to become transferred to someone or something through the contact of rubbing. □ Look what rubbed off on me! □ The wet paint rubbed off onto my pants leg.

rub salt in a wound Fig. to deliberately make someone’s unhappiness, shame, or misfortune worse. □ Don’t rub salt in the wound by telling me how enjoyable the party was. □ Bill is feeling miserable about losing his job and Bob is rubbing salt into the wound by saying how good his replacement is.

rub shoulders with someone Go to rub elbows (with someone).

rub someone or an animal down† to stroke or massage someone or an animal, for muscular well-being. □ Sam rubbed his horse down after his ride. □ He rubbed down his horse.

rub someone or something with something to wipe someone or something with something. □ The mother rubbed the baby gently with a soft cloth. □ Todd rubbed the surface of the car with a rag to polish it.

rub someone out† to kill someone. (Underworld.)

rub someone out† to deliberately make someone’s life miserable. □ Sam rubbed his fingers together, indicating that he needed some money before he could continue. □ Mary rubbed her hands together to get them warmed up.

rub someone up† to raise something, such as the nap of a rug, by rubbing. □ When you run the vacuum cleaner across the floor, you rub the nap of the rug up and get the dirt out. □ Don’t rub up the nap.

rub (up) against someone or something to bump or scrape against someone or something. □ The cat rubbed up against me and seemed friendly. □ The side of the car rubbed against the fence.

ruffle its feathers [for a bird] to point its feathers outward. □ The bird ruffled its feathers when it was annoyed. □ My parrot ruffles its feathers whenever it is ready to preen itself.

ruffle someone’s feathers Fig. to irritate or annoy someone. □ I didn’t mean to ruffle his feathers. I just thought that I would remind him of what he promised us.

ruffle something up† to raise something, such as feathers, up or outward. □ The bird ruffled its feathers up and started to preen. □ It ruffled up its feathers.

rug rat Sl. a small child, especially an infant or toddler. (Also a term of address.) □ You got any rug rats at your house? □ Hey, you cute little rug rat, come on over here.

the ruin of someone or something the cause of destruction; a failure. □ Your bad judgment will be the ruin of this company! □ The greedy politicians were the ruin of the old empire.

rule against someone or something to give a judgment against someone or something. □ The judge ruled against the prosecutor. □ The judge ruled against my motion.

rule in favor of someone or something and rule for someone or something [for a judge or deliberating body] to award a decision to someone or something or to render a decision favoring someone or something. □ The judge ruled for the defendant. □ The examining board ruled in favor of dismissing George.

a rule of thumb a general principle developed through experiential rather than scientific means. □ As a rule of thumb, I move my houseplants outside in May. □ Going by a rule of thumb, we stop for gas every 200 miles when we are traveling.

rule on something to give a decision or judgment about something. □ How long will it be before the court rules on your petition? □ The boss will rule on your request tomorrow.
rule over someone or something to serve as the boss or chief over someone or something. □ I guess you could say that the boss rules over me. □ The president of a democracy doesn’t really rule over the country.

rule someone or something out to prevent, disqualify, over-rule, or cancel someone or something. □ John’s bad temper rules him out for the job. □ The rainy weather ruled out a picnic for the weekend.

rule the roost Fig. to be the boss or manager, especially at home. □ Who rules the roost at your house? □ Our new office manager really rules the roost.

rule with a velvet glove Fig. to rule in a very gentle way. □ She rules with a velvet glove, but she gets things done, nonetheless. □ He may appear to rule with a velvet glove, but he is really quite cruel.

rule with an iron fist Fig. to rule in a very stern manner. □ The dictator ruled with an iron fist and terrified the citizens. □ My boss rules with an iron fist. I’m looking for a new job.

ruminate about something and ruminate on something to ponder and think about something. (Alludes to a cow, relaxing and chewing its cud, as if it is thinking.) □ He sat, ruminating about the events of the day, humming and eating peanuts. □ Let me ruminate on this a little bit.

ruminate on something Go to previous.

rummage around (somewhere) (for something) to move things about haphazardly while looking for something somewhere. □ Alice rummaged around in the drawer for a candy bar she had been saving. □ After she rummaged around for the candy bar, she found it. □ She rummaged around in the old trunk.

rummage through something to move things about haphazardly while searching through something. □ I rummaged through my top drawer, looking for any two socks that matched. □ Mary spent some time rummaging through the toolbox before she found what she was looking for.

rumor has it that... there is a rumor that... □ Rumor has it that Fred is seeing Mary and that they are engaged.

rump session a meeting held after a larger meeting. □ A rump session continued after the meeting was adjourned. □ A lot of business was conducted in the rump session.

rumple someone or something up to bring disorder to someone’s clothing or something; to wrinkle someone or something. □ One of the little boys knocked another boy down and rumpled him up. □ He rumpled up Dan’s shirt.

run a comb through something to comb one’s hair quickly. □ Run a comb through your hair after you come back in the house. □ She ran a comb through Timmy’s hair, and tried to make him look presentable.

run a fever and run a temperature to have a body temperature higher than normal; to have a fever. □ I ran a fever when I had the flu. □ The baby is running a temperature and is grouchy.

run a make on someone to perform an identity check on someone. □ The cops ran a make on Lefty and learned about his prison record. □ We tried to run a make on him and came up with nothing.

run a red light to pass through an intersection having a red traffic light without stopping. □ Sam got a ticket for running a red light.

run a risk (of something) and run the risk (of something) to take a chance that something (bad) will happen. □ I don’t want to run the risk of losing my job. □ Don’t worry. You won’t have to run a risk.

run a tab to accumulate charges on a bill at a bar or tavern. □ They won’t let me run a tab here. I have to pay for each drink as I order it.

run a taut ship Go to run a tight ship.

run a temperature Go to run a fever.

run a tight ship and run a taut ship to run a ship or an organization in an orderly and disciplined manner. (Taut and tight mean the same thing. Taut is correct nautical use.) □ The new office manager really runs a tight ship. □ Captain Jones is known for running a taut ship.

run across someone or something Go to come across someone or something.

run across something to cross something while running. □ The joggers all ran across the bridge together. □ The mice ran across the floor, not knowing that a cat was watching them.

run (a)foul of someone or something Go to fall (a)foul of someone or something.

run after someone to chase someone of the opposite sex hoping for a date or some attention. □ Is John still running after Ann? □ No, Ann is running after John.

run after someone or something Go to after someone or something.

run against someone to compete against someone for elective office. □ Eisenhower ran against Adlai Stevenson in 1952. □ Not many people run against an incumbent.

run against someone or something Go to against someone or something.

run against the grain Go to against the grain.

run aground (on something) [for a ship] to ram its hull into something beneath the water and get stuck. □ The ship ran aground on a reef and had to wait for high tide to get free. □ I was afraid we would run aground in the storm.

run along to leave. □ Please run along and leave me alone. □ I have to run along now. Good-bye.

run amok and run amuck to go awry; to go bad; to turn bad; to go into a frenzy. (From a Malay word meaning to run wild in a violent frenzy.) □ Our plan ran amok. □ He ran amuck early in the school year and never quite got back on the track.

run amuck Go to previous.

run an errand and do an errand; go on an errand to take a short trip to do a specific thing; to complete an errand. □ I’ve got to run an errand. I’ll be back in a minute. □ John has gone on an errand. He’ll be back shortly.

run around 1. to run here and there. □ Why are you running around? Sit down and be quiet. □ Please stop running around. You are making me nervous. 2. to go here and there having meetings or doing errands. □ I’ve been running
around all day, shopping for the party tonight. ☐ I am so tired of running around, carting children to various places.

run around after someone or something to chase after someone or something; to seek after someone or something. ☐ Where have you been? I’ve run around after you all over town! ☐ I have been running around after the right-sized shoes all morning.

run around like a chicken with its head cut off and run (around) in circles Fig. to run around frantically and aimlessly; to be in a state of chaos. (Alludes to a chicken that continues to run around aimlessly after its head has been chopped off.) ☐ I spent all afternoon running around like a chicken with its head cut off. ☐ If you run around in circles, you’ll never get anything done.

run around with someone to be friends with someone; to go places with regular friends. ☐ John and I were great friends. We used to run around with each other all the time. ☐ Mary ran around with Jane for about a year.

run as something to run for office in a certain party. ☐ Do you suppose I can run as an independent? ☐ Fred ran as a Democrat and won a seat in the legislature.

run at a fast clip Go to at a fast clip.

run at a good clip Go to at a good clip.

run at full blast Go to at full blast.

run at someone or something to run toward someone or something; to charge someone or something. ☐ The bull started to run at us, but changed its mind—thank heavens. ☐ The huge crocodile ran at the goat, but the goat leapt away.

run away (from someone or something) to flee someone or something. ☐ Please don’t run away from me. I mean you no harm. ☐ Our dog ran away from the lawn mower.

run away with someone 1. to flee in the company of someone. ☐ Frank arrived on the scene, saw what had happened, and ran away with the other boys. ☐ Tom ran away with Bill to a place where they could hide. 2. [for two people] to elope. ☐ Jill ran away with Jack, much to her father’s relief. ☐ Jill and Jack ran away with each other.

run away with something 1. to flee with something in one’s possession. ☐ The crook ran away with the watch. ☐ Someone ran away with that lady’s purse. 2. to capture or steal a performance by being the best performer. ☐ Henry ran away with the show, and everyone loved him. ☐ The dog ran away with the whole performance.

run back to come back, running. ☐ She ran to the barn and then ran back. ☐ Tom ran back, very much afraid.

run back over something to review something. ☐ Would you please run back over that last part again? ☐ Let me run back over the hard part for you.

run back to someone or something to return to someone or something in a hurry. ☐ The child ran back to her mother. ☐ We all ran back to the house.

run behind to be late; to run late. ☐ We are running behind. You had better hurry. ☐ Things are running behind, and we will not finish on time.

run behind someone or something to travel along behind someone or something, running. ☐ I will run behind you in the race. ☐ Mary ran behind the bicycle until she could not run anymore.

run between something and something else 1. to travel between someone or something, running. ☐ I spent all afternoon running between my office and the conference room. ☐ We ran between the two quarreling people all day long, trying to settle the argument. 2. to pass between someone or something, running. ☐ The child ran between the two ladies, giving them quite a start. ☐ Please don’t run between the bushes. You will wear a path there.

run circles around someone and run rings around someone Fig. to outrun or outdo someone. (Alludes to someone who runs fast enough to run in circles around a competitor and still win the race.) ☐ John is a much better racer than Mary. He can run circles around her. ☐ Mary can run rings around Sally.

run counter to something to be in opposition to something; to run against something. (This has nothing to do with running.) ☐ Your proposal runs counter to what is required by the manager. ☐ His idea runs counter to good sense.

run down 1. to come down, running or very quickly; to go down, running or very quickly. ☐ I need to talk to you down here. Can you run down? ☐ I will run down and talk to you. 2. [for something] to lose power and stop working. ☐ The crook ran down because no one was there to wind it. ☐ The toy ran down and wouldn’t go again until it had been wound. 3. to become worn or dilapidated. ☐ The property was allowed to run down, and it took a lot of money to fix it up. ☐ The old neighborhood has certainly run down since we moved away.

run down some lines 1. Sl. to converse with (someone). ☐ I was running down some lines with Fred when the bell rang. ☐ Hey, man, let’s run down some lines. 2. Sl. to try to seduce someone; to go through a talk leading to seduction. ☐ Go run down some lines with someone else. ☐ I was just standing there running down some lines with Mary when those guys broke in.

run down to some place to travel to a place. (By running or any other means.) ☐ I have to run down to the store and get some bread. ☐ I want to run down to the bank, but my car is out of gas.

run down to someone or something to come or go down to someone or something, rapidly. ☐ Sally ran down the slope to Bob, who stood waiting for her with outstretched arms. ☐ I ran down to the well to get some water for Ed, who had the hiccups.

run for it to escape by running. (See also swim for it.) ☐ The dogs were coming after me fast. There was nothing I could do but run for it. ☐ I ran for it when I saw the police coming.

run for one’s life to run away to save one’s life. ☐ The dam has burst! Run for your life! ☐ The captain told us all to run for our lives.

* run for one’s money 1. Fig. the results or rewards one deserves, expects, or wants. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) ☐ I get a run for my money at the club tennis tournament. ☐ I had a run for my money in the stock market. 2. Fig. a challenge. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) ☐ Bob got a run for his money when he
run for something 1. to travel quickly by running to a place of safety. 2. The picnickers ran for the shelter when the rain started to fall. 2. Tom and Jane ran for the house as soon as they heard your call. 2. to try to be elected to a particular office. 2. Who’s going to run for president? 2. I am running for mayor.

run for the hills Go to head for the hills.

run from someone or something 1. to flee someone or something, usually on foot. 2. She ran from the mugger who had accosted her. 2. Mary ran from the dog and jumped over a fence to safety.

run from something to something 1. to travel on foot from one thing or place to another, running. 2. Do you think you can run from the bank downtown to the post office on Maple Street? 2. I run from door to door, telling people what had happened.

run in circles 1. Lit. to run in a circular path. 2. The horses ran in circles around the corral for their daily exercise. 2. The children ran in circles around the tree. 2. and run around in circles Fig. to waste one’s time in aimless activity. 2. Stop running in circles and try to organize yourself so that you are more productive. 2. I have been running around in circles over this matter for days.

run in something to compete in something, such as a race or an election. 1. I will run in the one-hundred-yard dash. 2. I will not run in a race this time. 2. Who will run in this year’s election?

run in the family [for a characteristic] to appear in many (or all) members of a family. 2. My grandparents lived well into their nineties, and it runs in the family. 2. My brothers and I have red hair. It runs in the family.

run into a stone wall Fig. to come to a barrier against further progress. 2. We’ve run into a stone wall in our investigation. 2. Algebra was hard for Tom, but he really ran into a stone wall with geometry.

run into someone Go to bump into someone.

run into someone or something 1. to bump into someone or something. 2. I didn’t mean to run into you. I’m sorry. 2. Mary ran into the fence and scraped her elbow.

run into(to something) 1. [for a liquid] to flow into something or a place. 2. The water is running into the basement! 2. It’s running in very fast. 2. to enter something or a place on foot, running. 2. The boys ran into the room and out again. 2. They ran in and knocked over a lamp. 3. to stop by a place for a quick visit or to make a purchase quickly. 3. I have to run in the drugstore for a minute. 3. I ran into the store for a loaf of bread. 3. I want to visit Mrs. Potter. I can’t stay long. I can only run in for a minute.

Run it by (me) again. Go to Run that by (me) again.

run it down Sl. to tell the whole story; to tell the truth. 1. Come on! What happened? Run it down for me! 1. I don’t care what happened. Run it down. I can take it.

run its course [for something] to continue through its cycle of existence, especially a disease. 2. Sorry. There is no medicine for it. It will just have to run its course.

run like clockwork to run very well; to progress very well. 2. I want this office to run like clockwork—with everything on time and everything done right. 2. The plans for the party were made and we knew that we could depend on Alice to make sure that everything ran like clockwork.

run like stink Go to like stink.

run like the wind Go to like the wind.

run low (on something) to near the end of a supply of something. 2. We are running low on salt. It’s time to buy more. 2. The car is running low on gas.

run off 1. to flee. 2. The children rang our doorbell and then ran off. 2. They ran off as fast as they could. 2. to have diarrhea. 2. He said he was running off all night. 2. One of the children was running off and had to stay home from school. 3. [for a fluid] to drain away from a flat area. 3. By noon, all the rainwater had run off the playground.

run off at the mouth Sl. to talk too much. 2. I wish you would stop running off at the mouth. 2. Tom runs off at the mouth too much. I wish he would temper his remarks.

run off in all directions Fig. [for people] to set out to do something or go somewhere in an aimless and disorganized fashion. (Can also apply to one person. See also ride off in all directions.) 2. The people in the marketing department need some organization. They are always running off in all directions. 2. Stop running off in all directions and focus your energy.

run off something to drive or travel off something, such as rails, tracks, a road, etc. 2. The train ran off its rails and piled up in a cornfield. 2. We almost ran off the road during the storm.

run off (with someone) to run away with someone, as in an elopement. 2. Tom ran off with Ann. 2. Tom and Ann ran off and got married.

run off with someone or something 1. to take someone or something away, possibly running. (See also run off (with someone).) 2. Fred ran off with Ken. They’ll be back in a minute. 2. Who ran off with my dictionary? 2. to capture and take away someone or something; to steal someone or something. 2. The kidnappers ran off with little Valerie. 2. The kids ran off with a whole box of candy, and the storekeeper is going to press charges.

run on 1. to continue running. 2. I wanted to stop her and ask her something, but she just ran on. 2. The joggers had a chance to stop and rest, but they just ran on. 2. to continue on for a long time. 2. The lecture ran on and bored everyone to tears. 2. How long is this symphony likely to run on?

run on all cylinders 1. Lit. [for an engine] to run well and smoothly. 2. This car is now running on all cylinders, thanks to the tune-up. 2. You can hear if an engine is not running on all cylinders. 2. Fig. to function well or energetically. 2. Our department seems to be running on all cylinders. Congratulations. 2. I am back at my desk after my illness—running on all cylinders.

a run on something Go to a rush on something.

run one’s eye over something Fig. to gaze at the whole of something; to glance at all of something. 2. She ran her eyes over the lines of the automobile and nodded her approval. 2. He ran his eyes over the drawing and decided that he had to have it.
run one's feet off Fig. to run very hard and fast. □ I ran my feet off and I'm really tired now that the race is over. □ I almost ran my feet off getting over here to see you!

run one's fingers through one's hair and run one's hand through one's hair to comb one's hair with one's fingers. □ I came in out of the wind and ran my fingers through my hair to straighten it out a bit. □ He ran his hand through his hair and tried to make himself presentable.

run one's head against a brick wall Fig. to be frustrated by coming up against an insurmountable obstacle. □ There is no point in running your head against a brick wall. If you can't succeed in this case, don't even try. □ I have been running my head against a brick wall about this problem long enough.

run one's rhymes Sl. to say what you have to say; to give one's speech or make one's plea. □ Go run your rhymes with somebody else! □ I told him to run his rhymes elsewhere.

run out at someone or something to come out of a place and charge or attack someone or something. □ The badger ran out at us and then went back to its den. □ The dogs ran out at the speeding car.

run out of gas Go to out of gas.

run out of patience Go to out of patience.

run out of some place to leave a place quickly, on foot; to flee a place. □ He ran out of the room as fast as he could. □ We ran out of the building as soon as we felt the first signs of the earthquake.

run out of something Go to out of something.

run out of steam Fig. to lose momentum and fail. □ Toward the end of the lecture, he seemed to run out of steam, leaving us with no summary or conclusion.

run out of time to have used up most of the allotted time; to have no time left. □ You have just about run out of time. □ I ran out of time before I could finish the test.

run out on someone to depart and leave someone behind. □ My date ran out on me at the restaurant, and I had to pay the bill. □ Her boyfriend ran out when she needed him the most.

run over 1. to come by for a quick visit. □ Can you run over for a minute after work? □ I will run over for a minute as soon as I can. 2. to overflow. □ The bathtub ran over and there was water all over the floor. □ She poured the coffee until the cup ran over.

run over someone or something to drive, steer, or travel so as to pass over someone or something. □ The bus ran over the fallen man. □ That car almost ran over my toe.

run over something to exceed a limit. □ The lecture ran over the allotted time. □ Bob ran over the amount he was budgeted to spend.

run over something with someone to review something with someone. □ I would like to run over this with you one more time. □ I want to run over the proposal with Carl again.

run over to something to go to something or some place, running or by any independent mode of transportation. □ Would you run over to the store and get me some eggs? □ I have to run over to the bank to cash a check.

run over with something to drop over for a visit, bringing something. □ Do you mind if I run over with the cup of sugar I borrowed last week? □ Mary ran over with the papers you requested.

run rampant to run, develop, or grow out of control. □ The children ran rampant through the house. □ Weeds have run rampant around the abandoned house.

run rings around someone Go to run circles around someone.

run riot and run wild Fig. to get out of control. □ The dandelions have run riot in our lawn. □ The children ran wild at the birthday party and had to be taken home.

run roughshod over someone or something to ride roughshod over someone or something.

run scared to behave as if one were going to fail. □ The mayor was running scared, but won anyway. □ When we lost that big contract, everyone in the office was running scared. We thought we'd be fired.

run short of something to begin to run out of something. □ We are running short of eggs. □ I always keep enough so I will never run short.

run someone in to arrest one and take one to the police station. □ The cop ran George in so they could question him extensively. □ They ran in George to protect him from the rioters.

run someone or something down 1. to collide with and knock down someone or something. □ The drunken driver ran three pedestrians down. □ Mary ran down a stop sign. 2. to criticize or deride someone or something. □ Please stop running me down all the time. I can't be that bad! □ You run down everybody who takes your old job! 3. to hunt for and locate someone or something. □ Could you run some information down for me? □ I was finally able to run down my old friend.

run someone or something into something and run someone or something into something 1. to take or drive someone or something into something or some place. □ Let me run you into the city this morning. I need the car today. □ Do you want to go to town? I have to run in George and you can come along.

run someone or something off of something and run someone or something off of something 1. to drive someone or something off of something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Go out and run those dogs off the lawn. □ Go run off the dogs from the lawn.

run someone or something out of something and run someone or something out of something 1. to chase someone or something out of something or some place. □ The old man ran the kids out of his orchard. □ He ran out the kids.

run someone or something to earth to find something after a search. □ Lisa finally ran her long-lost cousin to earth in Paris. □ After months of searching, I ran a copy of Jim's book to earth.

run someone or something to something 1. to run someone or something to some extreme extent, such as death. □ The villain's idea was to run his victim to death by chasing him. □ He nearly ran his horse to death. 2. to drive some-
one or something to some place. □ Could you run me to the store? □ Please run these clothes to the cleaners.

**run** someone **ragged** Fig. to keep someone or something very busy. □ This busy season is running us all ragged at the store. □ What a busy day. I ran myself ragged.

**run** someone **through** something 1. to make or guide someone though an area while running. □ They ran us through a maze as part of our training. □ We let the little boys through the park so they could get some exercise. 2. to guide a person through a process. □ Let me run you through the process so you will know what is happening to you. □ Can I run you through this procedure again? 3. to rehearse someone. □ The director ran the cast through the last act three times. □ She ran herself through the part at home between rehearsals.

**run** someone **through** (with something) to stab a person all the way through with something, such as a sword. □ The knight ran the attacker through with his own sword. □ He ran him through and stole his horse.

**run** something **at full blast** Go to at full blast.

**run** something **back** to wind something back to the beginning. □ Run the tape back and listen to it again. □ Run back the tape and listen again.

**run** something **by (someone) (again)** to explain something to someone again; to say something to someone again. □ I didn't hear you. Please run that by me again. □ Please run it by so we can all hear it.

**run** something **by the book** Go to by the book.

**run** something **down** to use something having batteries, a motor, or an engine until it has no more power and it stops. □ Who ran my electric toothbrush down? □ Someone ran my batteries.

**run** something **in**! Go to run something into something.

**run** something **in** (for something) to bring or drive something quickly into a place for some purpose. □ I have to run my car in for an oil change. □ I will run in the truck for the mechanic to take a look at it.

**run** something **into** something and **run** something **in**! 1. to guide or route something, such as a wire or a pipe, into something or a place. □ The worker ran the circuit into each room. □ He ran in the circuit as specified. 2. to guide something into something; to drive or steer something into something else. □ Bobby ran his bicycle into the wall, bending the front wheel. □ Please don't run your car into the wall!

**run** something **into the ground** and **drive** something **into the ground** 1. Lit. to pound or force something into the ground. □ Use a heavy mallet to drive the stakes into the ground. □ Run this post into the ground and nail this sign to it. 2. Fig. to carry something too far. □ It was a good joke at first, Tom, but you've run it into the ground. □ Just because everyone laughed once, you don't have to drive it into the ground.

**run** something **off**! 1. to get rid of something, such as fat or energy, by running. □ The little boys are very excited. Send them outside to run it off. □ They need to run off their energy. 2. to duplicate something, using a mechanical duplicating machine. □ If the master copy is ready, I will run some other copies off. □ I'll run off some more copies.

**run** something **onto** something to drive or guide something onto the surface of something. □ He ran the car onto the grass and washed it. □ Please run your bicycle onto the porch and I will try to fix it for you.

**run** something **out** of something and **run** something **out**† to drive or steer something out of something or some place. □ The cowboys ran the cattle out of the corral. □ They ran out the cattle.

**run** something **over** to someone or something and **run** something **over**† to carry something to someone or something. □ Would you please run this package over to Mrs. Franklin? □ Do you know where Bill lives? Please run over this package.

**run** something **through** something 1. to drive or propel something through the midst of something or a group. □ The cowboys ran the cattle right through the crowd of people standing at the station. □ He ran his truck through the bushes at the end of the driveway. 2. to process something by going through a procedure, a deliberative body, or a department. □ I will have to run this through the board of directors. □ She ran the invoice through the accounting department.

**run** something **up**! 1. Lit. to raise or hoist something, such as a flag. □ Harry ran the flag up the flagpole each morning. □ Will you please run up the flag today? 2. Fig. to cause something to go higher, such as the price of stocks or commodities. □ A rumor about higher earnings ran the price of the computer stocks up early in the afternoon. □ They ran up the price too high. 3. Fig. to accumulate indebtedness. □ I ran up a huge phone bill last month. □ Walter ran up a bar bill at the hotel that made his boss angry. 4. to stitch something together quickly. □ She's very clever. I'm sure she can run up a costume for you. □ The seamstress ran up a party dress in one afternoon.

**Run that by (me) again.** and **Run it by (me) again.** Inf. Please repeat what you just said.; Please go over that one more time. □ Alice: Do you understand? Sue: No. I really didn't understand what you said. Run that by me again, if you don't mind. □ John: Put this piece into the longer slot and the remaining piece into the slot on the bottom. Sue: Run that by again. I got lost just after put. □ Mary: Keep to the right, past the fork in the road, then turn right at the crossroads. Do you follow? Jane: No. Run it by me again.

**run** the **gamut** to cover a wide range [from one thing to another]. □ She wants to buy the house, but her requests run the gamut from expensive new carpeting to completely new landscaping. □ His hobbies run the gamut from piano repair to portrait painting.

**run** the **gauntlet** 1. Lit. to race, as a punishment, between parallel lines of men who thrash one as one runs. □ The knight was forced to doff his clothes and run the gauntlet. 2. and **run** the **gauntlet** of something Fig. to endure a series of problems, threats, or criticism. □ After the play, the director found himself running the gauntlet of questions and doubts about his ability.

**run** the **good race** to do the best that one could; to live life as well and as fully as possible. □ He didn't get what he wanted, but he ran the good race. □ Joan ran the good race, and she will be remembered by all of us.
run the risk (of something) Go to run a risk (of something).

run the show to be in charge; to be in command. □ Who’s running this show? □ No, I don’t want to have to run the show again.

run through something 1. to pass through an area, running. □ Stop running through the living room! □ We ran through the park as part of our exercise. 2. to go through a procedure or sequence; to rehearse a procedure or sequence. □ I want to run through act two again before we end this rehearsal. 3. to read or examine something quickly. □ I ran through your report this afternoon. □ Sally ran through the list, checking off the names of the people who had already paid for tickets. 4. to spend or use a supply of something wastefully and rapidly. □ He ran through his inheritance in two years. □ Have we run through all the peanut butter already?

run to seed Go to run to seed.

run to someone or something to travel quickly on foot to someone or something; to stay in the company of someone or something; to travel to a place quickly or for a rush on something and a run on something a large demand for something. □ There was a rush on bottled water during the drought. □ During the hot summer, there was a run on air conditioners.

run up to someone or something to travel quickly on foot to someone or something; to hurry someone into doing something; to hurry away from some place. □ Let’s run up to the lake for the weekend.

run wild Go to run wild.

run with someone or something 1. Lit. to run, showing a particular characteristic. □ Sally runs with speed and grace. □ Fred runs with tremendous speed. 2. Fig. to take over something and handle it aggressively and independently. □ I know that Alice can handle the job. She will take it on and run with it. □ I hope she runs with this next project.

run with the hare and hunt with the hounds Fig. to support both sides of a dispute. □ In our office politics, Sally always tries to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, telling both the clerical workers and the management that she thinks they should prevail.

run the runaround a series of excuses, delays, and referrals. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ You’ll get the runaround if you ask to see the manager. □ I hate it when they give me the runaround.

running high [for feelings] to be in a state of excitement or anger. □ Feelings were running high as the general election approached. □ The mood of the crowd was running high when they saw the mother slap her child.

run-of-the-mill common or average; typical. □ The restaurant we went to was nothing special—just run-of-the-

the runt of the litter 1. Lit. the smallest animal born in a litter; the animal in a litter least likely to survive. □ No one wanted to buy the runt of the litter, so we kept it. 2. and the runt of the family Fig. the smallest child in the family. □ I was the runt of the litter and the butt of all the jokes.

rush at someone or something to run at or charge toward someone or something. □ The dog rushed at us and scared us to death. □ Mary rushed at the door, but it slammed shut before she got there.

rush for something to hurry to something. □ All the people rushed for the exits when the game was over. □ We rushed for the picnic tables as soon as they said that lunch was ready.

rush hour the period of time when heavy traffic is moving into or out of a city. □ This is the slowest rush hour I have ever been in. Traffic is almost in gridlock.

rush in(to something) 1. to run or hurry into a thing or a place. □ Everyone rushed into the shelter when the rain started. □ They all rushed in at once. 2. to begin doing something without the proper preparation. □ Don’t rush into this job without thinking it through. □ Mary rushed in without thinking.

rush off (from some place) to hurry away from some place. □ I’m sorry, but I will have to rush off from this meeting before it’s over. □ Mary had to rush off before the party was over.

a rush on something and a run on something a large demand for something.

rush out (of something) to exit in a hurry. □ Everyone rushed out of the room at the same time. □ They rushed out because they smelled smoke.

rush someone into something to hurry someone into doing something. □ We rushed Harry into taking the job. □ Sally has always hated that dress. Sam rushed her into buying it.

rush someone or something into something and rush someone or something in* to lead or carry someone or something into something or some place hurriedly. □ I rushed her into the hospital emergency room, and everything was soon all right. □ The nurse rushed in the emergency medical equipment.

rush someone or something out of something and rush someone or something out* to lead or guide someone or something out of something or some place hurriedly. □ The ushers rushed everyone out of the church so they could clean the place before the next wedding. □ They rushed out another edition of the newspaper that afternoon.

rush someone to the hospital to take someone to the hospital very quickly. □ They had to rush her to the hospital because she had stopped breathing. □ We rushed Uncle Harry to the hospital after he complained of chest pains.

rush something into print to print up something hastily. □ The story was so timely that the newspaper editor rushed it into print without checking all the details. □ We will rush the book into print as soon as the author finishes.
**rush something off (to someone or something)**

*to send something quickly to someone or something.*

I will rush your order off to you immediately.  I need to rush off this package to Walter.

---

**rush something through (something)**

1. *Lit.* to pass something through a physical area rapidly.

   He rushed the ambulance through the gate to the stadium.  Strong blowers rushed many cubic feet of air through the ductwork into all the rooms.

2. *Fig.* to move something through some process or office in a hurry.

   He was in a hurry so we rushed his order through the shipping department.  He asked us to rush it through.

---

**rush through something**

to hurry to get something finished; to race through something.

Please don’t rush through this business. Get it right.  Timmy rushed through dinner so he could go out and play.

---

**rush to conclusions**

to try to reach a conclusion too fast, probably with insufficient evidence; to jump to conclusions.

I hope that you don’t rush to any conclusions.  I can explain this.  I’m afraid you are rushing to conclusions when you speak of canceling the performance.

**rush to someone or something**

to hurry to get to someone, something, or some event.

I rushed to the injured man to try to help him.  We all rushed to the office to see what had happened.

---

**rust away**

to dissolve away into rust.

In a few years, this car will rust away if you don’t take care of it.  The bridge is rusting away, little by little.

---

**rust belt**

*Fig.* the industrial north of the United States. *(Patterned on sun belt.)*

The economy in the rust belt is slowing down.  The salt they put on the roads in the winter made my car all rusty.  I guess that’s why they call this area the rust belt.

---

**rust out**

to develop holes or weak places owing to rust.

Our hot water heater rusted out and flooded the basement.

---

**rustle something up**

*Rur.* to manage to prepare a meal, perhaps on short notice.

I think I can rustle something up for dinner.  Please rustle up something to eat.
the sack and the ax dismissal from one’s employment. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ Poor Tom got the sack today. He’s always late. □ I was afraid that Sally was going to get the ax.

sack out to go to bed or go to sleep. □ It’s time for me to sack out. □ Let’s sack out early tonight.

sack something up† to put something into bags or sacks. □ Please sack the groceries up and put them in the cart. □ I will sack up your groceries.

sacked out asleep. □ Mary is sacked out in her room. □ Here it is ten o’clock, and you are still sacked out!

sacred cow Fig. something that is regarded by some people with such respect and veneration that they do not like it being criticized by anyone in any way. (From the fact that the cow is regarded as sacred in India and is not eaten or mistreated.) □ A university education is a sacred cow in the Smith family. Fred is regarded as a failure because he quit school at 16. □ Don’t talk about eating meat to Pam. Vegetarianism is one of her sacred cows.

sacrifice someone or something for someone or something to forfeit someone or something for the sake of someone or something. □ Surely you won’t sacrifice your dear wife for a silly twit like Francine! □ Would you sacrifice your bank account for a chance to go to Europe?

sacrifice someone or something to someone or something to make an offering of or give up someone or something to someone or some power. □ The high priest prepared to sacrifice the prisoner to the gods. □ I sacrificed a lot of money to a fancy lifestyle.

a sad sight Go to a sorry sight.

sadder but wiser Cliché unhappy but knowledgeable [about someone or something—after an unpleasant event]. □ After the accident, I was sadder but wiser, and would never make the same mistake again. □ We left the meeting sadder but wiser, knowing that we could not ever come to an agreement with Becky’s aunt.

saddle an animal up† to put a saddle on a horse or some other beast of burden. □ Please saddle my horse up. I have to leave. □ Would you saddle my horse up for me?

saddle someone with someone or something Fig. to burden someone with someone or something undesirable, annoying, or difficult to deal with. □ I apologize for saddling you with my young cousin all day. □ I didn’t mean to saddle you with my problems.

saddle up 1. Lit. to prepare one’s horse for riding by putting a saddle on it. □ Let’s saddle up and go for a ride. 2. Fig. to mount one’s horse and sit in the saddle. □ The cowboys saddled up and took off after the rustlers.

saddled with someone or something Fig. burdened with someone or something. □ I’ve been saddled with the children all day. Let’s go out tonight. □ I don’t want to be saddled with your work.

safe and sound unharmed and whole or healthy. □ It was a rough trip, but we got there safe and sound. □ I’m glad to see you here safe and sound.

safeguard against someone or something to protect against someone or something. □ We will try to safeguard against accidents. □ How can I safeguard against prowlers?

safeguard someone or something against someone or something to protect someone or something against someone or something. □ We will take action that will safeguard you against a recurrence of the unpleasantness. □ I will safeguard my family against the prowler.

safety in numbers safety achieved by being concealed in or united with large numbers of people or other creatures. □ We stayed close together, thinking that there was safety in numbers. □ The elderly people went out together for a walk, knowing that there was safety in numbers.

sag away (from something) to settle or droop down or away. □ The cloth sagged away from the edge of the table.

sag down to droop downward. □ The branch sagged down and nearly touched the ground. □ When the rain got the drapes wet, they sagged down and touched the floor.

sag under something to droop under the burden of something. □ The porch roof sagged under the weight of the snow. □ The springs of the car sagged under the weight of all the passengers.

sage advice very good and wise advice. □ My parents gave me some sage advice when I turned 18. □ I asked my uncle for some of his sage advice.

sail against something to operate a boat or ship, so as to move against the wind. □ It takes skill and training to sail against the wind. □ The huge cruise ship sailed against the wind all the way to St. Thomas.

sail along (something) to travel on a course in a boat or plane. □ The huge white ship sailed along the Amazon River slowly and peacefully. □ The boat sailed along peacefully.

sail around to travel by water in a boat or ship. □ We sailed around for about an hour and then went back to the shore. □ Let’s go out and sail around before dinner.

sail for some place to depart in a boat or ship for some place. □ This ship sails for Bridgetown, Barbados, at noon today. □ We will sail for home early in the morning.

sail from some place to some place else to move or travel from one place to another in a boat or ship. □ We sailed from San Juan to Acapulco. □ The ship sailed from its home port to Baltimore overnight.

sail into someone Fig. to attack someone; to chastise someone. (Based on sail into someone or something.) □ The angry coach sailed into the players. □ The teacher sailed into Timmy for breaking the window.
sail into someone or something 1. to crash into someone or something with a boat or ship. □ The boat sailed into the dock, causing considerable damage. □ I was in my skiff when a larger boat sailed into me. 2. to crash into someone or something. □ The missile sailed into the soldiers, injuring a few. □ The car sailed into the lamppost.

sail in(to something) 1. Lit. to travel into something or some place in a boat or ship. □ We sailed into the harbor nearly an hour late. □ We sailed in at noon. 2. Fig. to move or proceed into something or some place gracefully or without resistance. □ She sailed into the room wearing a flowing gown. □ Three young maidens sailed into the room before the door closed.

sail (right) through something 1. Lit. to travel through something in a boat or ship. □ The line of boats sailed right through the Grenadines in the daylight hours. □ We sailed through the narrows without a pilot. 2. Fig. to go through something very quickly and easily. □ The kids just sailed right through the ice cream and cake. There was not a bit left. □ You have sailed through your allowance already. 3. Fig. to get through a procedure, evaluation, or vote quickly and easily. □ The proposal sailed through the committee with no debate. □ I hope that this matter sails through quickly.

sail under false colors 1. Lit. to sail with false identification. (Pirates often sailed under the national flag of the ship they planned on attacking.) □ The ship, sailing under false colors, suddenly started to pursue our ship. □ Bluebeard the pirate was known for sailing under false colors. 2. Fig. to function deceptively. □ You are not who you seem to be. You are sailing under false colors. □ Tom was sailing under false colors and finally got found out.

sail up a river to travel upstream on a river in a boat or ship. □ We sailed up the Amazon River in a large, seagoing ship. □ It was not possible to sail up the Mississippi as far as we wanted.

Sakes alive! Go to Land(s) sakes (alive)!

sally forth to go forth; to leave and go out. □ The soldiers salied forth behind from behind the stone wall. □ Well, it’s time to sally forth and drive to work.

the salt of the earth Fig. the most worthy of people; a very good or worthy person. (A biblical reference, Matthew 5:13.) □ Mrs. Jones is the salt of the earth. She is the first to help anyone in trouble. □ Frank’s mother is the salt of the earth. She has five children of her own and yet fosters three others.

salt something away 1. Lit. to store and preserve a food-stuff by salting it. □ The farmer’s wife salted a lot of fish and hams away for the winter. □ She salted away a lot of food. 2. Fig. to store something; to place something in reserve. □ I need to salt some money away for my retirement. □ I will salt away some money for emergencies.

salt something down 1. to place salt on something, such as icy roads. □ I won’t go out until midmorning, after they have salted the roads down. □ I hope they salt down the roads soon.

salt something with something 1. Lit. to put a variety of salt or a salt substitute onto some food. □ Oscar salts his food with a salt substitute. □ Did you salt your meat with salt or something else? 2. Fig. to put something into something as a lure. (Refers to putting a bit of gold dust into a mine in order to deceive someone into buying the mine.) □ The land agent salted the bank of the stream with a little gold dust hoping for a land rush to start. □ Someone salted the mine to fool the prospectors.

salute someone with something 1. Lit. to greet someone with a formal hand salute. □ He failed to salute the officer with the proper salute and was reprimanded. □ David saluted the captain with the appropriate salute and passed on by. 2. Fig. to greet or honor someone with the firing of guns or an overflight of airplanes. (Military or government.) □ The government saluted the visiting dignitary with a twenty-one gun salute. □ They saluted the prime minister with a flight of acrobatic jets.

salvage something from someone or something to rescue or save something from someone or something. □ The baby got into the eggs, but I was able to salvage about six of them from him before they were broken all over the place. □ I salvaged a good pair of shoes from the trash.

the same as someone or something identical to someone or something. □ Can you build me a birdhouse the same as yours? □ Have you noticed that Mary looks the same as her mother?

same difference the same; no difference at all. □ Pink, fuchsia, what does it matter? Same difference. □ Whether you go or I go, it’s the same difference.

The same for me. Go to I’ll have the same.

Same here. Me too! I agree! □ Bob: I’ll have chocolate ice cream! Bill: Same here. □ Mary: I’ll vote for the best candidate. Tom: Same here!

same o(1)’ same o(l)’ Sl. the same old thing as one has had before or is used to. □ I’m getting tired of the same ol’ same ol’. □ Why not something different? Do you like the same o’ same o’?

the same old story something that occurs or has occurred in the same way often. □ Jim’s got no money. It’s the same old story. He’s spent it all on clothing. □ The company is getting rid of workers. It’s the same old story—a shortage of orders.

The same to you. The same comment applies to you. (This can be a polite or a rude comment.) □ Bill: Have a pleasant evening. Bob: Thank you. The same to you. □ Mary: You’re the most horrible person I’ve ever met! John: The same to you!

sand something down 1. to make something smooth by rubbing it with sandpaper. (To act on the main body of the object, not the imperfections.) □ You should sand the board down before you paint it. □ Please sand down the board. 2. to remove bumps or imperfections on the surface of something by rubbing them with sandpaper. (To act on the imperfections, not the main body of the object.) □ Sand these bumps down, will you? □ Sand down these bumps, please.

the sands of time Fig. the accumulated tiny amounts of time; time represented by the sand in an hourglass. □ The sands of time will make you grow old like everyone else. □ My only enemy is the sands of time.

sandwich someone or something between people or things Fig. to enclose someone or something on both sides between people or things in any combination. □ We had
to sandwich the children between us because there were no other seats close by.  □ We had to sandwich the package between Ed and the side of the bus.

**satisfy** someone or an animal with something to provide enough of something for someone or an animal. □ The waiters set out to satisfy the guests with whatever sinful desserts they desired. □ The zookeeper satiated the tigress with a huge leg of beef.

**satisfy** something by something and **satisfy** something with something to fulfill a requirement, using a particular thing, such as a school or college course. □ Can I satisfy the requirements by taking a course in art? □ Will I satisfy the requirement with this course?

**saturate** someone or something with something to drench someone or something thoroughly with something. □ The rain saturated them all with cooling water. □ Irrigation saturated the field with the moisture they needed.

**Saturday night special** a small, easily obtainable pistol. □ There was another killing last night with a Saturday night special. □ That’s the tenth shooting done with a Saturday night special this week.

**saunter along** to walk along slowly; to ramble along. □ Bob sauntered along, looking as if he didn’t have a care in the world. □ I was just sauntering along, minding my own business, when all of a sudden a mugger jumped out and swiped my purse.

**save a bundle** (on something) Fig. to save a lot of money on the purchase of something. □ I managed to save a bundle on a car by buying a used one.

**Save it!** Inf. Stop talking.; Shut up!; Tell it to me later. □ I’ve heard enough. Save it! □ Save it! You talk too much!

**save (money) on something** to save money or some amount of money on the purchase of something. □ I can save a lot of money on this purchase by buying it somewhere else. □ I am sure you can save on a new car if you shop wisely.

**save (money) toward something** to accumulate money toward the purchase of something. □ I am saving my money toward the purchase of a big-screen TV. □ I’m saving toward a new car.

**save money up** (for something) to accumulate an amount of money for the purchase of something. □ I’m saving my money up for a car. □ Save up your money for a car.

**save one’s bacon** Go to save someone’s skin.

**save one’s breath** Fig. to refrain from talking, explaining, or arguing. □ There is no sense in trying to convince her. Save your breath. □ Tell her to save her breath. He won’t listen to her.

**save (one’s) face** Fig. to preserve one’s good standing, pride, or high position (after a failure). □ The ambassador was more interested in saving his face than winning the argument. □ Most diplomats are concerned with saving face.

**save oneself (for marriage)** Euph. to remain a virgin until marriage. □ No, I can’t. I love you, but I’m saving myself for marriage. □ His buddies teased him, asking if he was saving himself.

**save someone in the (very) nick of time** Go to in the (very) nick of time.

**save someone or something from something** to rescue someone or something from someone or something. □ The cop was able to save the kid from his attackers. □ I managed to save some old photographs from the fire.

**save someone’s neck** Go to next.

**save someone’s skin** and **save someone’s neck; save one’s bacon** Fig. to save someone from injury, embarrassment, or punishment. □ I saved my skin by getting the job done on time. □ Thanks for saving my neck! I would have fallen down the stairs if you hadn’t held my arm.

**save (something) for a rainy day** and **put something aside for a rainy day** hold something back for a rainy day; keep something for a rainy day Fig. to reserve something—usually money—for some future need. □ I’ve saved a little money for a rainy day. □ Keep some extra allowance for a rainy day.

**save something for someone or something** to reserve something for someone or something. □ Please save some cake for me. □ I am saving this cake for tomorrow.

**save something up** to save something; to accumulate something. □ I’m saving up cans for recycling. □ If you’d only save your money up, you could buy anything you want.

**save the day** to produce a good result when a bad result was expected. □ The team was expected to lose, but Sally made three points and saved the day. □ Your excellent speech calmed the crowd and saved the day.

**save (up) for something** to accumulate money in order to buy something. □ I can’t buy a car because I am saving up for college. □ I don’t have the money now, but I am saving up.

**saved by the bell** Cliché saved by the timely intervention of someone or something. (Alludes to a boxer who is saved from being counted out by the bell that ends a round.) □ I was going to have to do my part, but someone knocked on the door and I didn’t have to do it. I was saved by the bell. □ I wish I had been saved by the bell.

**saving grace** Cliché the one thing that saves or redeems someone or something that would otherwise be a total disaster. □ Her saving grace is that she has a lot of money. □ The saving grace for the whole evening was the good music played by the band.

**savor of something** to taste like something. □ This casse- role savor of nutmeg. □ The meat savor of too much garlic.

**saw against the grain** Go to against the grain.

**saw into something** to cut into something with a saw. □ The carpenter sawed into the beam and had it cut in two in no time at all. □ Be careful not to saw into the table.

**saw something down** to cut something down with a saw. □ We are going to have to saw that dead tree down before it falls on the house. □ I’ll saw down the tree.

**saw something off (of) something** and **saw something off** to cut something off something with a saw. (Of is usually
saw something (up) (in(to) something) to cut something up into pieces with a saw. □ Jake sawed the logs up into pieces the right size for the fireplace. □ Would you saw up the logs into smaller pieces?

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say cheese! Inf. an expression used by photographers to get people to smile, which they must do while saying the word cheese. □ “All of you please stand still and say cheese!” asked the photographer. □ “Is everybody ready? Say cheese!” asked Mary, aiming the camera.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something to oneself. 1. Lit. to mutter something to oneself so that no one else can hear. □ He said something to himself, but I didn’t catch what it was. □ I said the answer to myself and no one else was supposed to hear it. 2. Fig. to think something to oneself. □ When I thought of him as a basketball player, I said to myself that he really isn’t tall enough. □ I said a few choice critical remarks to myself when she presented her talk.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something to oneself. 1. Lit. to mutter something to oneself so that no one else can hear. □ He said something to himself, but I didn’t catch what it was. □ I said the answer to myself and no one else was supposed to hear it. 2. Fig. to think something to oneself. □ When I thought of him as a basketball player, I said to myself that he really isn’t tall enough. □ I said a few choice critical remarks to myself when she presented her talk.

Say something to oneself. 1. Lit. to mutter something to oneself so that no one else can hear. □ He said something to himself, but I didn’t catch what it was. □ I said the answer to myself and no one else was supposed to hear it. 2. Fig. to think something to oneself. □ When I thought of him as a basketball player, I said to myself that he really isn’t tall enough. □ I said a few choice critical remarks to myself when she presented her talk.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ A local preacher said grace at the banquet. □ Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.

Say something under one’s breath Go to under one’s breath.
drew herself up to her full height, looked him straight in the eye, and said, “Says who?”

**Says you!** Inf. That’s just what you say! You don’t know what you are talking about! **Fred:** You are fat and ugly. **Tom:** Says you! **Mary:** People who go around correcting other people were found to be very annoying in a recent survey. **Bill:** Says you!

**scare** something **away**\(^1\) (from someone or something) to frighten someone or something away from someone or something. □ He put on a gruff exterior to scare everyone away from him. □ The bear scared away a lot of people from the campground.

**scare** someone or something **up**\(^1\) Rur. to search for and find someone or something. □ Go out in the kitchen and scare some food up. □ I’ll see if I can scare up somebody to fix the broken chair.

**scarce**\(^*\) as hen’s teeth \(\text{scarce as hen’s teeth}\) to be very rare, as hen’s teeth are. □ The rabbit scarped away across the lawn. □ The children scampered away when they heard the teacher coming.

**scarcely**\(^\dagger\) exchange no more than someone or something. □ The wound soon scabbed over and the injury was well on its way to healing. □ I hope this cutting will scab over before I have to leave for work.

**scale** something **down**\(^1\) to reduce the size or cost of something. □ The bad economy forced us to scale the project down. □ Liz scaled down the project.

**scale** something to something to design or adjust the size of one thing to match or complement the size of another thing. □ The architect sought to scale the office building to the buildings surrounding it. □ The playhouse will have to be scaled to the main house.

**scamper along** (for a child or small animal) to run along nimbly. □ The rabbit scampered along, unaware that a fox was following it. □ It is time for Timmy to scamper along home.

**scamper away** (for a child or small animal) to run away nimbly. □ The rabbit scampered away across the lawn. □ The children scampered away when they heard the teacher coming.

**scar over** (for an injury) to form and leave a scar. □ Scar over. □ For a child or small animal, to run away. □ For a child or small animal, to run along.

**scar** over (for work) to reduce the size or cost of something. □ The architect sought to scale the office building to the main house.

**scar** over (for a wound) to form a scab. □ Up†

**scar** over (for a child or small animal) to run along nimbly. □ The rabbit scampered along, unaware that a fox was following it. □ It is time for Timmy to scamper along home.

**scarf** over (for a wound) to form a scab. □ The rabbit scampered away across the lawn. □ The children scampered away when they heard the teacher coming.

**scared silly**\(^\dagger\) to be frightened very much. □ I was scared silly by the loud explosion. □ We were scared silly to go into the park after dark.

**scared stiff** Fig. badly frightened. □ We were scared stiff by the robber. □ I was scared stiff when the dog growled at me.

**scar** the living daylights out of someone Go to frighten the hell out of someone.

**scar** the pants off of someone to frighten someone very badly. (The something can be the living daylights, the wits, the hell, the shit, etc. Use discretion with shit.) □ Gee, you scared the living daylights out of me! □ The police tried to scare the truth out of her. □ The door blew shut and scared the hell out of me.

**scar** the wits out of someone Go to frighten the hell out of someone.

**scare** the wits out of someone to frighten someone very badly. □ The children scampered away when they heard the teacher coming. □ The children scampered away when they heard the teacher coming.

**scared to death** Go to frightened to death.

**scarf** out Sl. to overeat. □ My brother scarf out every day—around the clock! □ We had to scavenge around for a socket wrench.

**scavenge (around)** for someone or something to search everywhere for someone or something. □ We had to scavange for a person who would agree to run for president in my place. □ Sam scavenged around for a socket wrench.

**scheme against** someone or something to plot or conspire against someone or something. □ A group of generals was plotting against the government. □ They schemed against the king until he caught them and put an end to it.

**scheme for** someone to plot and plan for something, perhaps using deception. □ She is scheming for a raise. □ Ted is always scheming for a way to miss work.
schiz(z) out Sl. to freak out; to lose mental control.

What a day! I nearly schizzed out. □ I schizzed out during the test. Got an F.

the school of hard knocks Fig. the school of life’s experiences, as opposed to a formal, classroom education.
□ I didn’t go to college, but I went to the school of hard knocks. I learned everything by experience.

school of thought a particular philosophy or way of thinking about something. □ One school of thought holds that cats cause allergic reactions. □ I come from the school of thought that believes people should always be polite.

school someone in something to train, discipline, or coach someone in something.
□ The voice coach schooled the singer in excellent breathing techniques. □ We were schooled in oratory and debate. □ She schooled herself in patience.

scoff at someone or something to show ridicule or scorn for someone or something.
□ The directors scoffed at her when she presented her plan. □ They scoffed at my new hat, not realizing how stylish it was.

scold someone about something to rebuke or chastise someone about something.
□ How many times have I scolded you about that? □ Please don’t scold me about something I didn’t do.

scold someone for something to rebuke or chastise someone for doing something.
□ The manager scolded the worker for misplacing the door key. □ The teacher scolded all the students for their bad behavior.

scoop something out of something and scoop something out1 to remove something from something by dipping or scooping.
□ She scooped out the water in the bottom of the rowboat. □ Karen scooped out the water.

scoop something up1 to gather and remove something by scooping, dipping, or bailing.
□ Karen scooped the nuts up and put them in a bag. □ Jill scooped up all the money she had won and left the poker table.

scoot down (to some place) to go (down) somewhere in a hurry.
□ I want you to scoot down to the store and get me a dozen eggs. Okay? □ I’ll scoot down as soon as I finish reading the newspaper.

scoot over to slide sideways while seated.
□ Scoot over and let me sit down. □ If you scoot over, we can get another person in this row.

scoot over to someone or something to travel or move over to someone or something or some place in a hurry.
□ Scoot over to Don and ask him to come here for a minute.
□ We all scooted over to the stadium for the football game.

scope (on) someone Sl. to evaluate a member of the opposite sex visually.
□ He scoped every girl who came in the store. □ He wouldn’t like it if somebody scoped on him. Or would he?

scope someone or something out1 Sl. to look someone or something over; to check someone or something out.
□ Hey, scope the new car out! □ Dave was scooping out all the girls.

score against someone or something to make a point or goal against someone or some team.
□ Because of his bad ankle, Fred was unable to score against his defender. □ We never scored against the visiting team.

score something for something 1. to arrange music for one or more musical instruments; to arrange music for a particular type of voice or voices.
□ The arranger scored the music for two pianos. □ The arranger scored the song for a four-part chorus. 2. to scratch something, such as glass, for breaking.
□ Valerie scored the piece of glass for breaking and then snapped it off. □ The worker scored the pane of glass for snapping off.

score something (up1) against someone or something to tally up a score against someone or some team.
□ Tara scored a few points against Sally. □ The Bears scored up thirteen points against the Giants.

score with someone or a group Inf. to please someone or a group.
□ Her rendition of “Old Kentucky Home” really scored with the audience. □ You really score with me.

scour something for someone or something to look carefully and thoroughly in something for someone or something.
□ I scoured the entire roster of members for a person who would agree to run for president. □ The police scoured the entire area for any sign of the suspects.

scour something off (of) something and scour something off1 to clean something off something else by scouring.
□ If you can scour the rust off the cookie sheet. □ I will scour off the rust with steel wool.

scour something out1 to clean something out by scouring.
□ Would you scour the pans out? □ Please scour out the pans—don’t just wash them.

scour something out of something to clean something out of something by scouring.
□ Did you scour the rust out of the pan? □ Please scour the burned material out of the bowl.

scout around (for someone or something) to look around for someone or something.
□ I don’t know who would do a good job for you, but I’ll scout around for a likely candidate. □ You stay here. I’ll scout around.

scout someone or something out1 to search for and discover someone or something.
□ I will scout a new salesclerk out for you if you want. □ I’ll scout out a new clerk for you.

scout someone or something up1 to search for and find someone or something.
□ I’ll scout up a costume for the Halloween party. □ Can you scout a date up for Friday night?

scowl at someone or something to make a frown of disapproval or displeasure at someone or something.
□ Why are you scowling at me? I didn’t do anything wrong! □ Mary scowled at her noisy cat.

scramble for someone or something to push and struggle to get to someone or something.
□ All the teenagers scrambled for the rock star but couldn’t catch him. □ The children scrambled for the candy as it fell from the piñata.

scrape along (on something) and scrape along (with something) to manage just to get along with a minimum amount of something.
□ We can just scrape along on the money I earn from my sewing. □ Do you think you can scrape along with just $400 per month?

scrape by (on something) and scrape by (with something) to manage just to get by with something. (Usually applies to a more specific period or time or a more specific event than scrape along (on something).) □ There is not really enough money to live on, and we just have to
scrape by on what we can earn. We can't scrape by with only that amount of money.

scrape by (something) to manage just to get by something.

I scraped by the man standing at the gate and got into the theater without a ticket. Mary scraped by the cart that was blocking the crowded hallway.

scrape by (with something) Go to scrape by (on something).

scrape someone or something together⁴ and scrape some- one or something up⁴ Fig. to find and collect something; to locate and assemble a group of people or things. (Based on scrape someone up.) I'm sure we can scrape up someone for the job. Mary scraped a few dollars together for some new books. John barely scraped up enough money to pay his rent.

scrape something away¹ (from something) to scratch or rasp something off something. Ted scraped the rough places away from the fender he was repairing. Ted scraped away the rough places.

scrape something off of someone or something and scrape something off¹ to rub or stroke something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) I sat down and scraped the cake mud off of me. It was everywhere! Jake scraped off the rust.

scrape something out¹ to empty something by scraping. Scrape the pan out. Don't leave any of that sauce inside. Please scrape out the pan.

scrape something out of something and scrape something out¹ to remove something by scraping. Scrape all the peanut butter out of the jar before you discard it. Scrape out the peanut butter.

scrape together¹ to gather things together by scraping. The waiter scraped all the crumbs together and removed them from the table with a little gadget. Karen scraped together all the trimmings and set them aside.

scrape the bottom of the barrel to select from among the worst; to choose from what is left over. You've bought a bad-looking car. You really scraped the bottom of the barrel to get that one. The worker you sent over was the worst I've ever seen. Send me another—and don't scrape the bottom of the barrel.

scrape through (something) 1. Lit. to move through something, scraping or rubbing the sides. The car, going at a very high speed, scraped through the tunnel. It managed to scrape through. 2. Fig. to get by something just barely; to pass a test just barely. Alice passed the test, but she just scraped through it. I just scraped through my calculus test.

scrape about (for something) and scrape around (for something) 1. Lit. to hunt for something in dirt, gravel, rocks, etc. The prospector spent the day scraping about for signs of gold. The chickens were scraping around for something to eat. 2. Fig. to look very hard for something. The children were scraping about for the kitchen for something to eat. I've been scraping around for a new assistant for months now.

scrape at something to scratch something. You shouldn't scrape at a chigger bite because it might get infected. Don't scrape at it!

scrape someone or something from something to mark the name of someone or something off a list. We were obliged to scrape Dave from the list. The judges scratched the large collec from the eligibility list.

scrape someone or something out¹ to mark out the name of someone or something. I scratched John out and wrote in George instead. I scratched out John and forgot about him.

scrape someone or something up¹ to damage or mar some- one or something by scraping. Being thrown clear of the car in the accident didn't break any bones, but it scratched her up a lot. Who scratched up my coffee table?

scrape someone's back 1. Lit. to scratch, usually with the fingers, the parts of someone's back that they cannot reach. Please scratch my back between my shoulder blades. 2. Fig. to do a favor for someone in return for a favor done for you. You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours. We believe that the mayor has been scratching the treasurer's back.

scrape something away¹ to rub or scrape something off by scraping. Look at the finish on this furniture. The cat has almost scratched it away! That cat scratched away the finish on the table!

scrape the surface 1. Lit. to scratch something just on the surface, not extending the mark below the finish into the wood, stone, marble, below. There is no serious damage done to the bench. You only scratched the surface. 2. Fig. to just begin to find out about something; to examine only the superficial aspects of something. The investigation of the governor's staff revealed some suspicious dealing. It is thought that the investigators have just scratched the surface. We don't know how bad the problem is. We've only scratched the surface.

scream at someone or something to yell or screech at someone or something. Why are you screaming at me? Go scream at the dog, not me!

scream bloody murder and yell bloody murder Fig. to complain bitterly; to complain unduly. When we put him in an office without a window, he screamed bloody murder. There is something wrong next door. Everyone is yelling bloody murder.

scream down (on someone or something) Fig. [for something, such as birds or bombs] to dive down on someone or something, with a loud noise or very swiftly. The bombs screamed down on the helpless peasants. As the bombs screamed down, some people ran and some prayed.

scream for something to yell or shriek for something. The teenage audience applauded and screamed for more. The children said they were screaming for ice cream.

scream someone down¹ to scream loudly at someone; to outscream someone. (Compare this with shout someone down.) The angry crowd screamed down the politician. They screamed her down and drove her from the platform.

scream something out¹ to say something in a very loud voice. She screamed his name out for everyone to hear. Liz screamed out the winner's name.

scream with something to scream because of something, such as pain, anger, rage, etc. Frank screamed with pain
when the car door closed on his fingers. □ The teacher screamed with rage when the student talked back.

**screeching (drunk)** Sl. intoxicated; very drunk. □ How can anybody be so screeching drunk on four beers? □ She’s not just drunk; she’s screeching.

**screen someone or something (off†)** (from someone or something) to make someone or something out of sight or blocked off to someone or something by erecting a screen. □ We screened her off from the patient in the next bed. □ We screened off the yard from the street.

**screen someone or something out of something** and **screen someone or something out†** to filter someone or something out of something. □ The test screened all the unqualified candidates out of the group. □ We screened out the suppliers who were not financially sound.

**screw around 1.** Inf. to mess around; to waste time. □ Stop screwing around and get to work! □ I’m not screwing around, I’m thinking. 2. Inf. to play sexually; to indulge in sexual intercourse. □ A few couples were screwing around at the party. □ They say that Ted and Alice are screwing around a lot.

**screw around with someone or something** Inf. to fiddle with or mess around with someone or something. □ Andy screwed around with his clock until he broke it. □ Look, chum! Don’t screw around with me!

**screw off** Inf. to waste time. □ Stop screwing off and get busy! □ I’m not screwing off. This is my lunch hour.

**screw someone around** Inf. to harass or bother someone. □ Don’t screw me around, man! I bite back! □ Max got tired of being screwed around by Lefty.

**screw someone or something up†** Inf. to interfere with someone or something; to mess up someone or something. □ Try again and don’t screw it up this time. □ You really screwed up my brother by not being on time.

**screw someone out of something** Inf. to cheat someone out of something. □ I think you screwed me out of ten bucks on that deal. □ Max screwed me out of what was due me.

**screw someone over†** Sl. to give someone a very bad time; to scold someone severely. □ Those guys really screwed you over. What started it? □ Don’t think you can screw over me and my friends. I won’t let you.

**screw someone up†** Inf. to confuse someone mentally. □ Please don’t screw me up again! □ You screwed up my train of thought.

**screw something down†** to secure something to the floor or a base by the use of screws. □ You had better screw these seats down or someone will knock them over. □ Please screw down the shelf.

**screw something into something** to twist something that is threaded into something. □ I screwed all the screws into the back of the computer and turned it on. □ Please screw this bracket into the wall.

**screw something (on)(to something)** to attach something to something by the use of screws or other threaded fasteners. □ Screw the bracket onto the wall, will you? □ Screw on the bracket to the wall.

**screw something up†** to attach something to a higher place by the use of screws. □ The bracket holding the shelf up has come loose. Will you please screw it up again? □ Please screw up this loose bracket.

**screw up 1.** Inf. to mess up. □ I hope I don’t screw up this time. □ The waiter screwed up again. 2. Inf. a mess; a blunder; utter confusion. (Usually screw-up.) □ This is the chef’s screw-up, not mine. □ One more screw-up like that and you’re fired.

**screw up one’s courage** Fig. to build one up’s courage. □ I guess I have to screw up my courage and go to the dentist. □ I spent all morning screwing up my courage to take my driver’s test.

**screwed, blued, and tattooed** 1. Sl. taken advantage of. □ I got a bad deal. I got screwed, blued, and tattooed. □ When John bought his wreck of a car, he got screwed, blued, and tattooed. 2. Sl. intoxicated. □ Who wants to go out and get screwed, blued, and tattooed? □ All four of them went out and got screwed, blued, and tattooed.

**screwed up** Inf. ruined; messed up. □ This is a really screwed up schedule. Let’s start over again. □ Your schedule is completely screwed up.

**scribble away (at something)** to write hard and fast at some task. □ He scribbled away at his notes as the lecturer droned on. □ Jane sat in the library scribbling away.

**scribble something down†** to write something down fast and not too neatly. □ He scribbled the figure down and raced for the telephone. □ Liz scribbled down the telephone number.

**scrimp and save** and **pinch and scrape** to be very thrifty; to live on very little money, often in order to save up for something. □ We had to scrimp and save in order to send the children to college. □ The Smiths pinched and scraped all year in order to go on a Caribbean cruise.

**scrimp on** something to try to economize on the use of something; to fail to use enough of something. □ Please don’t scrimp on the quality of the food. □ There is enough money. You don’t have to scrimp on anything.

**scrounge around (for something or someone)** Fig. to look around all over for someone or something. □ I scrounged around for Jamie, but she was nowhere to be found. □ I will try to scrounge around for a replacement part that will do the job.

**scrounge someone or something up†** Fig. to find someone or something somewhere; to dig someone or something up. □ I can’t think of anyone just now, but I will scrounge someone up. □ They scrounged up an escort for Liz.

**scrub someone or something down†** to clean someone or something thoroughly by rubbing. □ The mother scrubbed the baby down gently and put lotion on her. □ Please scrub down this floor.

**scrub someone or something off†** to clean someone or something by rubbing. □ Mother scrubbed Timmy off. □ Liz scrubbed off the countertop.

**scrub something away** to clean something away by rubbing. □ See if you can scrub that rust away. □ Scrub away that rust if you can.

**scrub something off (of) something** and **scrub something off†** to clean something off something by scrubbing. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ I have to scrub the mud off the porch steps. □ Did you scrub off all the grease?
**scrub** something out¹ to clean out the inside of something by rubbing or brushing.  
**Please scrub these pots out and put them away.**  
**Jim will scrub out the pots.**

**scrub** something out of something and **scrub** something out¹ to clean something out of something by scrubbing.  
**Please scrub the gravy out of the pot.**  
**Are you going to scrub out the burned material?**

**scrub up 1.** Lit. to clean oneself up.  
**You have to scrub up before dinner.**  
**Please go scrub up before you come to the table.**  
**Fig. to clean oneself, especially one's hands and arms, as a preparation for performing a surgical procedure.**  
**The surgeon scrubbed up thoroughly before the operation.**  
**When you finish scrubbing up, someone will help you on with sterile clothing.**

**scrunched up** to squeeze or huddle down into a smaller shape.  
**Mary scrunched down, trying to hide behind the chair.**  
**The children scrunched down so they wouldn't be seen.**

**scrunched down** to squeeze down into a small area or container.  
**Fred scrunched down into his seat, hoping no one would see him there.**  
**Don't scrunched down into your seat. It's bad for your posture.**

**scrunch something down**¹ (into something) 1. to squeeze something into a smaller size or shape.  
**He scrunch the wad of paper down into a hard ball.**  
**Liz scrunched down the cloth into a pad for the hot pan.**  
**Scrub the boxes down before you throw them away.**  
**Dave scrunched his clothing down into the suitcase.**

**scuffled something down**¹ to crush or crunch up.  
**I pounded something into the suitcase.**

**scuff something up**¹ to scrape or scratch something.  
**Who scuffed my floor up?**  
**Please don't scuff up my freshly polished floors!**

**scuffle with** someone to struggle or have a fight with someone.  
**The two prisoners scuffled with each other a little till a guard came along and saw them.**  
**The cowboys scuffled with the deputies when they came out of the saloon.**

**scurry along** to run or scamper along fast.  
**The children scurried along, trotting to school.**  
**We scurried along the trail, keeping watch out for things that might trip us up.**

**scuttle across something** to hurry across something. (Said especially of a small animal.)  
**A tiny mouse scuttled across the kitchen floor and startled me.**  
**A rabbit scuttled across my path.**

**scuttle away** [for a small animal] to run away.  
**The otters scuttled away as we approached.**  
**A skunk scuttled away quickly—thank heavens.**

**scuzz someone out¹** Sl. to nauseate someone.  
**He had this unreal face that almost scuzzed me out!**  
**It's not nice to scuzz out people like that, especially when you hardly know them.**

**sea change** Fig. a major change or transformation.  
**This is not the time for a sea change in our manufacturing division. There are too many orders at the moment.**

**seal a bargain** and **seal the bargain** Fig. to signify or celebrate the reaching of an agreement or bargain.  
**They signed the papers and sealed the bargain by drinking champagne.**

**seal someone's fate** Fig. to determine finally the fate of someone.  
**His lying and cheating sealed his fate. He was convicted and sent to prison.**

**seal something off from** someone or something and **seal something off¹** to make something inaccessible to someone or something.  
**The police sealed the building off from everyone.**  
**They sealed off the building from all the reporters.**

**seal something (up') (with something)** to fasten something closed with something.  
**Please seal this box up with tape.**  
**Would you seal up this box with tape?**

**seal the bargain** Go to seal a bargain.

**sealed (up)** Sl. settled; secured; cinched.  
**The matter was sealed by Monday morning.**  
**The contract was sealed up just in time.**

**sealed with a kiss** and **SWAK** written and sent with love and care. (The initialism is sometimes written on love letters. Also an acronym.)  
**All her letters come SWAK.**  
**I know they are sealed with a kiss, because she says so.**

**seam something with** something to join the edges of something together with something.  
**The worker seamed the two parts of the carpet with a special tool.**  
**She seamed the material with a strip of cloth to strengthen the seam.**

**the seamy side of life** Fig. the most unpleasant or roughest aspect of life. (A reference to the inside of a garment where the seams show.)  
**Doctors in that area really see the seamy side of life.**  
**Mary saw the seamy side of life when she worked as a volunteer in the homeless shelter.**

**search after someone or something** to look for someone or something. (Perhaps over a long period of time.)  
**We searched after a suitable candidate for weeks.**  
**I am searching after a part for my '57 Chevy.**

**search for someone or something** to look very hard for someone or something.  
**I searched for Ted everywhere, but he was already gone.**  
**I have searched for my glasses high and low.**

**search high and low (for someone or something)** Go to hunt high and low (for someone or something).

**Search me.** *Inf. I do not know.*  
**You can search my clothing and my person, but you won't find the answer to your question anywhere near me.** (The two words have equal stress.)  
**Jane: What time does Mary's flight get in? Sally: Search me.**  
**John: What kind of paint should I use on this fence? Bill: Search me.**

**search someone for something** to feel, touch, pat, frisk, or examine electronically a person's body, looking for something hidden underneath the clothes.  
**The police searched the suspect for hidden weapons.**  
**The airport guard used an electronic instrument to search the passengers for weapons.**

**search someone or something out¹** to seek and find someone or something.  
**I will search Fred out. I know he's here somewhere.**  
**We have to search out the key to the safe-deposit box.**

**search something for someone or something** to examine something, looking for someone or something.  
**Everyone searched the house for little Wally, but he was not to be
search something with a fine-tooth comb Go to go over something with a fine-tooth comb.

search through something to examine all the things found in something. □ I searched through my books for the answer. □ My drawers were searched through thoroughly.

season something with something to make something more flavorful with specific spices and herbs. □ I always season my stews with lots of freshly ground black pepper. □ The chili was seasoned with cumin and allspice, among other things.

seat someone by someone or something To go by someone or something.

secure something against something something or an animal. 1. to fasten something against the entry of someone, an animal, or something. □ Jane secured the doors and windows against the prowler who was roving around the neighborhood. □ You had better secure the henhouse against coyotes. 2. to obtain a legal order involving someone or something. □ I secured an injunction against Harry. If he bothers you again, he'll have to go into court to explain himself. □ We can't secure an injunction against this ruling.

security against something something that keeps something safe; something that protects; a protection. □ Insurance provides security against the financial losses owing to theft, loss, or damage. □ A good education is a security against unemployment.

seduce someone from something to lure someone away from something. □ The crooked agent seduced Jerry from his usual honest behavior. □ Frank was seduced from his proper ways by the offer of money.

see a man about a dog Fig. to leave for some unmentioned purpose. (Often refers to going to the rest room.) □ I don't know where Tom went. He said he had to see a man about a dog. □ When John said he was going to see a man about a dog, I thought he would be gone for only a minute.

see about someone or something to investigate someone or something; to check on something that someone has said. □ I don't know who is going on the trip. You ask Jill, and I'll see about Jerry. □ I will see about your request.

see after someone or something to take care of someone or something. (The same as but less common than look after someone or something.) □ Would you please see after Walter? He looks a little pale. □ I will see after the committee while they are meeting.

see ahead (of someone or something) to be able to see into the distance in front of someone or something. □ I can't see ahead, so I will have to stop.

see around something 1. Lit. to see what is on the other side of or partially concealed by something. □ I could not see around the truck in front of me. □ Do you think I can see around corners? 2. Fig. to perceive someone's deception. □ I see around your trickery! □ We all see around your stated purpose!

see beyond something 1. Lit. to be able to perceive into the distance beyond something. □ Can you see beyond the big tree there, where the barn is on the horizon? □ I can't see beyond the end of the road. I think I need glasses. 2. Fig. to be able to imagine the future beyond a certain time or event. □ He can't see beyond the next day—no sense of the future. □ Todd is usually able to see beyond his immediate situation. I do not know what happened this time.

see double to see two of everything instead of one, owing to a medical disorder. □ When I was driving, I saw two people on the road instead of one. I'm seeing double. There's something wrong with my eyes. □ Mike at first thought he was seeing double when he saw Mary with her sister. He didn't know she had a twin.

see eye to eye (about someone or something) (with someone) and see eye to eye (on someone or something) (with someone) Fig. [for someone] to agree about someone or something with someone else. □ I'm glad we see eye to eye about Tod with Mary. □ I see eye to eye with Mary. □ Will labor and management ever see eye to eye on the new contract?

see fit (to do something) to decide to do something. □ If I see fit to return, I'll bring Bill with me. □ She'll do it if she sees fit.

See if I care! Inf. I do not care if you do it! □ Mary: That does it! I'm going home to Mother! John: See if I care! □ Sue: I'm putting the sofa here, whether you like it or not. Bill: Go ahead! See if I care!

see (neither) hide nor hair Go to (neither) hide nor hair.

See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. Prov. Ignore any evil that you come in contact with; be virtuous even though there is evil around you. (Often represented by three monkeys, one of which is covering his eyes, one his ears, and one his mouth.) □ Jill: Do you have any idea why
Fred is staying in the office so late every night? Jane: Not me. Like the three little monkeys, I see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.

**see no further than the end of one’s nose** and cannot see (any) further than the end of one’s nose; can’t see beyond the end of one’s nose Fig. to be narrow-minded; to lack understanding and perception. □ She is so selfish she can see no further than the end of her nose. □ You don’t care about anyone but yourself. You can’t see any further than the end of your nose.

**see no objection (to something)** and not see any objection (to something) not to think of any objection to something. □ I see no objection to your idea. □ Do you see any objection? □ I do not see any objection to anything you have done.

**see one’s way (clear) (to do something)** to find it possible to do something. □ I’d be happy if you could see your way clear to attend our meeting. □ I wanted to be there, but I couldn’t see my way clear.

**see over something** to be able to have a view over something such as a wall, fence, etc. □ I couldn’t see over the fence, but I could hear what was going on. □ We could not see over the wall.

**see red** to be angry. □ Whenever I think of the needless destruction of trees, I see red. □ Bill really saw red when the tax bill arrived.

**see someone about someone or something** to confer with someone about someone or something. □ Jill has to see the boss about one of her office staff members. □ I will have to see Jill about getting permission to go.

**see someone across something** to accompany someone across a dangerous area. □ Paul saw his mother across the field, which contained a number of hazards. □ Timmy offered to see the elderly lady across the street.

**see someone as someone or something** to visualize someone as some other person or type of person. □ I see you as a perfect candidate for the job. □ I don’t see you as mayor.

**see someone as someone or something** to consider someone or something; to deem someone or something as something. □ The manager saw the skilled employee as a godsend. □ John saw the new salesman as a threat to his territory.

**see someone back (to something)** to accompany someone back to something or some place. □ I saw her back to her apartment. □ I will see her back safely.

**see someone down to something** to accompany or escort someone to a lower level. □ I will see you down to the front door. □ Would you please see Mrs. Bracknell down to the door?

**see someone home** to accompany someone home. □ Bill agreed to see his aunt home after the movie. □ You don’t need to see me home. It’s perfectly safe, and I can get there on my own.

**see someone into something** and see someone in to usher or accompany someone into something or some place. □ Please see her into the room and make sure she is seated where she can hear the speaker. □ Please see in the speaker and make sure she finds her seat on the stage.

**see someone off** to accompany one to the point of departure for a trip and say good-bye upon departure. □ We went to the train station to see Andy off. □ We saw off all the scouts going to camp.

**see someone off something** to accompany someone who is leaving something; to escort someone away from something. □ I saw the elderly lady off the station platform safely. □ The emcee saw the contestants off the stage.

**see someone on the dot** Go to on the dot.

**see someone or something around something** to notice someone or something in the vicinity of something or near something. □ I saw the boys around the swings on the playground. □ Did you see my cat around the neighborhood anywhere?

**see someone or something in a new light** Fig. to understand someone or something in a different way [than before]. □ After we had a little discussion, I began to see Fred in a new light. □ I can now see the problem in a new light.

**see someone out of (something)** and show someone out (of something) to accompany or escort someone out of something or some place. □ Please see our guest out of the factory. □ Please show our guest out.

**see someone to some place** to escort someone to a place; to make sure that someone gets some place safely; to accompany someone to a place. □ I saw Mary to her apartment, and then got back in my car and left. □ Bill saw his cousin to the train station, and then they parted.

**see someone to something** to accompany or escort someone to something or some place. (See also see someone to the door.) □ Let me see you to the station. □ Would you please see your aunt to her car?

**see someone to the door** Go to show someone (to) the door.

**see someone up to something** to accompany or escort someone to a higher level. □ That is the end of the tour of the wine cellar. I will see you up to the exit. □ Ted saw Mary up to her apartment.

**see something against something** 1. Lit. to view something against something else. □ I can’t see the cars against the evening sky if their lights aren’t on. □ The cars can’t be seen against the evening sky. 2. Fig. to view or consider something within the context of something else. □ If you can see this issue against the background of a long series of problems, perhaps you will understand how concerned we are. □ You really need to see this matter against the background of what has happened before.

**see something as something else** to visualize or fantasize something as something else. □ I see this as a wonderful way to interest some new people in our organization. □ We all see this as a golden opportunity to get to know one another better.

**see something in someone or something** to appreciate a certain quality in someone or something. □ I see a strong sense of dignity in Fred. That’s good. □ I now see the strong points in your proposal.

**see something in the cards** Go to in the cards.

**see something of someone or something** to know, experience, or visit with someone or some group for some amount of time. □ I hope we are able to see something of you while you
are in town. □ We don't see enough of the town council.
What does it do?

see something through to follow through on something until it is completed. □ Mary is prepared to see the project through. □ It's going to be an unpleasant experience, but I hope you'll see it through.

see stars Fig. to seem to see flashing lights after receiving a blow to the head. □ I saw stars when I bumped my head on the attic ceiling. □ The little boy saw stars when he fell headfirst onto the concrete.

see the big picture Go to the big picture.

see the color of someone's money Fig. to verify that someone has money or has enough money. □ So, you want to make a bet? Not until I see the color of your money. □ I want to see the color of your money before we go any further with this business deal.

see the (hand)writing on the wall Fig. to know that something is about to happen. □ If you don't improve your performance, they'll fire you. Can't you see the writing on the wall? □ I know I'll get fired. I can see the handwriting on the wall.

see the last of someone or something to have experienced the last visit, episode, adventure, etc., with someone or something. □ I hope I have seen the last of Robert Ellis! □ We have seen the last of grandma's homemade strawberry jam.

see the light Fig. to understand something clearly at last. □ After a lot of studying and asking many questions, I finally saw the light. □ I know that geometry is difficult. Keep working at it. You'll see the light pretty soon.

see the light (at the end of the tunnel) Fig. to foresee an end to one's problems after a long period of time. (See also begin to see the light.) □ I had been horribly ill for two months before I began to see the light at the end of the tunnel. □ I began to see the light one day in early spring. At that moment, I knew I'd get well.

see the light (of day) Fig. to come to the end of a very busy time. □ Finally, when the holiday season was over, we could see the light of day. We had been so busy! □ When business lets up for a while, we'll be able to see the light.

see the sights to see the important things in a place; to see what tourists usually see. □ We plan to visit Paris and see the sights. □ Everyone left the hotel early in the morning to see the sights.

see through someone or something 1. Lit. [for one's vision] to penetrate something clear or opaque or a person. □ Of course, I can see through the window! □ With x-rays, they can see through your body! 2. Fig. to understand or detect the true nature of someone or something. □ You can't fool me anymore. I can see through you and all your tricks. □ This plan is designed to make money for you, not to help people. I can see through it! I'm not a fool!

see (to it) that something is done to make sure of something; to make certain of something; to be certain to do something. □ The manager saw to it that everyone began working on time. □ The mayor should see that the potholes are repaired.

see to someone or something to take care of someone or something. □ Tom will see to the horses. Come to the house and freshen up. □ I hear the doorbell. Will someone please see to answering the door?

see which way the wind is blowing to determine what is the most expedient thing to do under the conditions at hand. □ We studied the whole situation to see which way the wind was blowing and decided to avoid any conflict at that time. □ Sam failed to see which way the wind was blowing and got himself caught up in an argument.

see with the naked eye Go to the naked eye.

See ya. Go to See you.


See you. and See ya. Inf. Good-bye. (See also I'll see you later.) □ Good game, Tom. See ya. □ See you, old chum. Give me a ring.


(See you) later. Go to I'll see you later.


Seeing is believing. Prov. It is hard to believe something you have not seen. (Implies that you will not believe the thing under discussion until you have actually seen it.) □ Jill: They say Melissa has become a wonderful housekeeper now that she has her own apartment. Jane: Seeing is believing. □ I really didn't think that Jerry's girlfriend could be as pretty as he said she was, but seeing is believing.

seeing pink elephants and seeing pink spiders; seeing snakes intoxicated; recovering from a drinking bout; having the delirium tremens. □ When I got to the point of seeing pink elephants, I knew that something had to be done. □ The old one who's shaking—he's probably seeing snakes.

seeing pink spiders Go to previous.

seeing snakes Go to seeing pink elephants.

seeing that... considering...; since... □ Seeing that she has no money, Sally won't be going shopping. □ Seeing that it's raining, we won't go to the beach.

seeing things imagining that one sees someone or something that is not there. □ Lisa says that she saw a ghost, but she was just seeing things. □ I thought I was seeing things when Bill walked into the room. Someone had told me he was dead.

seek after someone or something to keep looking for someone or something. □ I will continue to seek after the thief who stole my car. □ The thief was seeking after a late-model sedan.

Seek and ye shall find. Prov. If you search hard enough for something, you will find it. (Biblical. Can imply that the only thing you need to do to get something is look for it.) □ The bookstore on the corner is an excellent one. Any book you want, just seek and ye shall find.

seek professional help Euph. to get psychiatric or psychological treatment. □ If you are seriously thinking of sui-
cide, now is the time to seek professional help. □ His friends suggested that he seek professional help.

**seek revenge** (against someone) Go to take revenge (against someone).

**seek** someone or something out1 to search for and find someone or something. □ We will seek someone out to do the work for us. □ Liz sought out a helper for Karen.

**seek something** from someone or something to pursue something from someone or something. □ We will seek an injunction from the judge. □ My lawyer sought an injunction from the court to try to stop the building project.

**seem high-and-mighty** Go to high-and-mighty.

**seem like a long shot** Go to a long shot.

**seem like oneself again** Go to oneself again.

**seem like putty in someone’s hands** Go to putty in someone’s hands.

**seem like someone or something** to appear to be like some kind of person or something. □ You seemed like such a nice person when I met you. □ This seems like a nice day.

**seem like the last person** Go to the last person.

**seem like putty in someone’s hands** Go to putty in someone’s hands.

**seem like someone or something** to appear to be like some kind of person or something. □ You seemed like such a nice person when I met you. □ This seems like a nice day.

**seem like the last person** Go to the last person.

**seem like putty in someone’s hands** Go to putty in someone’s hands.

**seem like someone or something** to appear to be like some kind of person or something. □ You seemed like such a nice person when I met you. □ This seems like a nice day.

**seem like the last person** Go to the last person.

**seem out of place** Go to out of place.

**seem pushed for time** to look as if someone is in a hurry or short of time. □ This seems pushed for time.

**self-preservation** is the first law of nature. Prov. □ Every living thing will fight to survive.; It is natural to think of yourself first. □ When Joe’s best friend was

**segue into something** to make a smooth transition into something. (From filmmaking and broadcasting. Rhymes with egg - day:) □ At this point in the script, you should segue into the next scene. □ Don’t segue here, this is where a commercial goes.

**seize onto** someone or something to grab onto someone or something. □ The beggar seized onto the well-dressed gentleman and demanded money. □ Tony seized onto the door-knob and gave it a hard jerk.

**seize something with something** to grab someone or something with something. □ The robot seized Roger with its mechanical claws. □ The dockworker seized the cable with a long hook.

**seize something up1** to grab or take something. □ The crow seized the freshly hatched chick up and flew away. □ The huge bird seized up the tiny chick.

**seize the opportunity** to take advantage of an opportunity when offered. □ My uncle offered me a trip to Europe, so I seized the opportunity. □ Whenever you have a chance, you should seize the opportunity.

**seize up** to freeze or halt; to grind suddenly to a stop. □ The engine seized up, and the car coasted to a stop. □ My knee seized up in the middle of a football game.

**seize (upon) something** 1. Lit. to grasp something tightly. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Dave seized upon the knob of the door and yanked hard. □ I seized on the railing and held on tight. 2. Fig. to accept or adopt something, such as a plan, idea, etc. □ I heard her ideas and seized upon them immediately. □ The committee seized on my plan at once.

**seized with something** Fig. affected suddenly by something, such as laughter, coughing, sneezing, fits of rage, etc. □ Suddenly, I was seized with a fit of coughing. □ Mary was seized with laughter at the sight of Ted in a clown suit.

**select from** someone or something to make a choice from a group of people or things. □ You will have to select from the people we have asked to interview with you today. □ They told me that I had to select from what you have in stock.

**select someone from something** to choose someone from a group of people. □ You will have to select a new secretary from the available pool of workers. □ I selected Ted from the applicants I had at the time.

**select someone as something** to choose someone or something to be something. □ The voters selected Alice as the county treasurer. □ We selected Acme as our main distributor.

**select someone for something** or something to choose someone or something for the benefit of someone or something. □ You need a helper, so I will select someone for you. □ Jane selected a car for her husband.

**Self-praise is no recommendation.** Prov. If you praise yourself, people will think that you are boastful and will not respect you. □ After listening to the lawyer brag about his achievements for a solid half hour, I decided I would find someone else to handle my case. Self-praise is no recommendation.

**Self-preservation is the first law of nature.** Prov. Every living thing will fight to survive.; It is natural to think of yourself first. □ When Joe’s best friend was
sell at something [for something] to be marketed at a particular price. □ This coat formerly sold at twice this price. □ Next month, this will sell at a 60 percent markup.

sell like hotcakes Fig. [for something] to be sold very fast. □ The delicious candy sold like hotcakes. □ The fancy new cars were selling like hotcakes.

sell out [for an item] to be sold until there is no more. □ All the plastic hangers have sold out.

sell out (to someone) 1. to sell everything, such as all one’s property or one’s company, to someone. □ The farmer finally gave up and sold out to a large corporation. □ I refuse to sell out no matter what they offer me. 2. to betray someone or something to someone. □ I think that you have sold out to the enemy!

sell someone a bill of goods Fig. to get someone to believe something that isn’t true; to deceive someone. □ Don’t pay any attention to what John says. He’s just trying to sell you a bill of goods. □ I’m not selling you a bill of goods. What I say is true.

sell someone down the river Go to sell someone out†.

sell someone on something to convince someone to do something; to convince someone to accept an idea. □ Mary sold me on ordering pizza for dinner. □ John sold Anne on switching long-distance phone companies.

sell someone or something as something to put someone or something up for consideration as something. □ The political party tried to sell the candidate as a responsible administrator. □ The sales force was told to sell the paint as the best available anywhere.

sell someone or something short Fig. to underestimate someone or something; to fail to see the good qualities of someone or something. □ This is a very good restaurant. Don’t sell it short. □ When you say that John isn’t interested in music, you’re selling him short. Did you know he plays the violin quite well?

sell someone out† and sell someone down the river to betray someone; to reveal damaging information about someone. □ Bill told everything he knew about Bob, and that sold Bob down the river. □ You’ll be sorry if you sell me out. □ Lefty sold out his friends, and we’ll all soon be arrested.

sell something at something 1. to market something at a particular price. □ Do you think we can sell these things at four dollars each? □ We cannot sell these at ten times what we paid for them! 2. to market something at some place. □ We will try to sell our old kitchen sink at the flea market in Adamsville. □ He sold all his watermelons at the farmers market in town.

sell something for a certain price to market something at a certain price. □ I think I can sell this for twice what I paid for it. □ This is selling for twice the price at the shop down the street.

sell something for a song Fig. to sell something for very little money. (As in trading something of value for the singing of a song.) □ I had to sell my car for a song because I needed the money in a hurry. □ I have two geometry books and I would sell one of them for a song.

sell something off† to sell all of something. □ We ended up with a large stock of out-of-style coats and we had to sell them all off at a loss. □ We sold off all the excess stock.

sell something on credit to sell something now and let the purchaser pay for it later. □ I’m sorry, we don’t sell groceries on credit. It’s strictly cash-and-carry. □ There is a shop around the corner that sells clothing on credit.

sell something out† to sell all of something. □ Have they sold their supply out yet? □ The stores sold out their stocks of that game long before Christmas.

sell the farm and bet the farm Fig. to liquidate all one’s assets in order to raise money to invest in something. □ It’s a risky proposition. I wouldn’t bet the farm on it.

a selling point a feature of a product or idea that is worth mentioning when trying to sell the product or idea. □ The fact that the book had large type is an important selling point.

send after someone or something to request that someone or something be brought; to send for someone or something. □ You really ought to send after a doctor. □ Let’s send after a taxi to take us to the airport.

send ahead for something to send a message for something to be ready or available when one arrives. □ I will send ahead for a taxi to meet us at the station. □ We sent ahead for room reservations at the hotel.

send away (for something) to order something to be brought or sent from some distance. □ I sent away for a new part to replace the one that was broken. □ I couldn’t find the part locally. I had to send away for it.

send for someone or something to make a request that someone or something be brought. □ Mr. Franklin sent for his secretary. □ I think we should send for an ambulance.

send in for something and send off for something to dispatch an order for something to a company or other body making a public offer of goods. □ I sent in for a new product that is supposed to make my hair grow back. □ Did you send in for that country-and-western CD as you said you would? □ I sent off for the proper contest entry forms.

send off for something Go to previous.

send one about one’s business to send someone away, usually in an unfriendly way. □ Is that annoying man on the telephone again? Please send him about his business. □ Ann, I can’t clean up the house with you hanging around. I’m going to have to send you about your business.

send one to one’s death to order one to go on a mission or journey that will result in one’s death. □ The general sent many fine young men to their deaths that day. □ They were sent to their death by the act of a madman.

send out (for someone or something) to send an order by messenger, telephone, cable, or fax that someone or something is to come or be delivered. □ We sent out for a public stenographer to record the will as Uncle Herman dictated it. □ There was no food in the refrigerator, so we decided to send out.

send someone after someone or something to send someone to get someone or something. □ Please send John after the doctor. This is an emergency. □ The telephone was out so we sent someone after an ambulance.

send someone away Go to put someone away.
send someone away with something to make someone leave and carry something away. □ I sent him away with a message for his mother. □ She sent Ted away with a little booklet about manners.

send someone back for something to cause someone to return to get something. □ He came without it, so I sent him back for it. □ Ted sent Roger back for the rest of the groceries.

send someone before someone or something to cause someone to appear before someone or a group. □ I sent my lawyer before the mayor to plead my cause. □ Donna sent a friend before the committee.

send someone below to send someone to one of the lower decks of a ship. □ The first mate sent the sailor below to shovel coal into the boiler. □ The captain sent Mr. Wallace below, where he would be out of the way during the storm.

send someone down for something to request someone to go to a place on a lower level to get something. □ I sent the butler down for another bottle of wine. □ I sent the butler down for more of this vintage.

send someone for something to cause someone to go and get someone or something. □ Please send Jerry for the doctor. This is an emergency. □ Could you send someone for pizza?

send someone from pillar to post Fig. to send someone to many different places, none of which is the correct place. (Compare this with send someone on a wild-goose chase.) □ Jill sent Roger from pillar to post to look for a special kind of paper. □ Roger was sent from pillar to post with his problem.

send someone in† Go to send someone into something.

send someone in for someone to send someone into a game as a replacement for someone else. □ The coach sent Jill in for Alice, who was beginning to tire. □ Ted sent Bill in for Wally.

send someone into a state or condition to cause someone to be in a certain state or condition. □ The horrifying news sent our family into hysteria. □ The clerk’s rude behavior sent the customer into a fit of anger.

send someone into something and send someone in† to make someone go into something or some place. □ George sent me into the house for a hammer. □ The boys know where it is. He should have sent in the boys. □ George sent me in.

send someone off to participate in saying good-bye to someone who is leaving. □ We had a party to send Tom off on his retirement. □ Bob’s parents sent him off from the airport.

send someone off (to something) to send someone away to something or some place, especially away on a journey; to be present when someone sets out on a journey to something or some place. □ We sent both kids off to camp this summer and had peace in the house for the first time in years. □ Liz sent Karen off to the store.

send someone on a wild-goose chase Fig. to send someone on a pointless or futile search. □ You sent me on a wild-goose chase! There are no straw hats for sale anywhere in town! □ Fred was sent on a wild-goose chase while his friends prepared a surprise party for him.

send someone or something across (something) to cause someone or something to cross something. □ The coach sent the player across the field to give a message to someone on the other side. □ We sent the taxi across the river to pick up Gerald on the other side.

send someone or something along† to help someone or something continue along; to send someone. □ I knew it was time for Johnny to go home, so I sent him along. □ I will send along the baggage later.

send someone or something around† to cause someone or something to go from place to place. □ I sent my secretary around to look for the missing book. □ I will send around some papers for you to sign.

send someone or something around for someone or something to make someone or something go somewhere to pick up someone or something. □ I will send my driver around for you at about six. □ We sent a taxi around for Jane.

send someone or something away† to cause someone, a group, or something to leave. □ I sent the salesman away. □ The store sent away all late deliveries.

send someone or something back† to cause someone or something to return. □ He came to apologize, but I sent him back. □ Send back these goods. They are defective.

send someone or something down† to dispatch someone or something to some place on a lower level. □ They wanted someone downstairs to help with the moving, so I sent John down. □ I sent down John to help.

send someone or something on† (ahead) (of something) to dispatch someone or something to arrive before someone or something else. □ I sent my personal assistant on ahead of me to get the rooms ready. □ Jeff sent on his luggage.

send someone or something under something to force someone or something under something. □ The accident sent poor Roger under the wheels of a truck. □ Mary kicked the ball and sent it under a bush.

send someone or something up† 1. Lit. to order someone to go upward to a higher level; to arrange for something to be taken upward to a higher level. □ I’ll send up Gary. □ They are hungry on the tenth floor. Let’s send some sandwiches up. 2. Fig. to parody or ridicule someone or something. □ Comedians love to send the president or some other famous person up. □ The comedian sent up the vice president.

send someone out† Go to send someone out of something.

send someone out† (for someone or something) to send someone out to search for someone or something. □ We sent Gerald out for Walter, who was supposed to have been here already. □ Karen sent out Liz for some medicine.

send someone out of something and send someone out† to order someone to leave something or some place. □ The teacher sent the student out of the room. □ The teacher sent out the troublesome students.

send someone (out) on an errand to dispatch someone to perform an errand. □ Jerry will be back in a minute. I sent him out on an errand. □ Who sent you on an errand?
send **someone over (to)** some place and send **someone over** to order someone to go to some place. □ I sent Dave over to the main office. □ Please send over someone else.

send **someone packing** Fig. to send someone away; to dismiss someone, possibly rudely. □ I couldn’t stand him anymore, so I sent him packing. □ The maid proved to be so incompetent that I had to send her packing.

send **someone through the mill** Go to through the mill.

send **someone to bed** Go to put someone to bed.

send **someone to glory** 1. Fig. to kill someone. □ One shot sent him to glory. □ You want me to send you to glory or something? 2. Fig. to officiate at the burial services for someone. □ The preacher sent him to glory amidst the sobs of his relatives. □ The preacher probably gets fifty bucks for every stiff he sends to glory.

send **someone to the locker room** Go to next.

send **someone to the showers** and send **someone to the locker room** Fig. to order a player from the playing field, thus ending the player’s participation for the day. □ The coach had sent four players to the showers before the end of the game. □ He was angry enough to send them all to the locker room.

send **someone up** Fig. to mock or ridicule, particularly by imitation. □ Last week, he sent the prime minister up. □ In his act, he sends up famous people.

send **someone up (the river)** Fig. to send someone to prison. (Underworld. As done by a judge or indirectly by the police.) □ They tried to send me up the river, but my testimony got me off. □ I’m gonna send you up the river if it’s the last thing I do.

send **someone up the wall** Fig. to annoy and irritate someone; to drive someone crazy. □ Don’t scratch your fingers on the blackboard. It sends me up the wall! □ That noise sends me up the wall!

send **something by something** to dispatch something by a particular carrier. □ I will send it to you by special messenger. □ We sent the package by air freight.

send **something C.O.D.** to send merchandise to someone who will pay for it when it is delivered. (C.O.D. means “cash on delivery” or “collect on delivery.”) □ I asked them to send the book C.O.D. □ This person has ordered a copy of our upcoming release. Send it C.O.D.

send **something from something** to dispatch something from something or some place. □ Ted sent the package from the downtown post office. □ The gifts were sent off in a large box from the company’s shipping dock.

send **something into something** and send **something in** to dispatch something, such as an order, to a company or other body making a public offer of goods. □ I sent the order in to the home office. □ I sent it in the order.

send **something off** (to someone or something) to dispatch something to someone, something, or some place. □ I will send the package off to you in tomorrow’s mail. □ Karen sent off a letter to her aunt.

send **something over** (to) some place) to cause something to be taken to some place. □ I sent the package over to your home. □ Please send over the rest of the mail.

send **something to someone or something** to dispatch something to someone, something, or some place. □ I will send the books to my parents. □ I sent the order to Detroit.

send **up a trial balloon** to suggest something and see how people respond to it; to test public opinion. □ Mary had an excellent idea, but when we sent up a trial balloon, the response was very negative. □ Don’t start the whole project without sending up a trial balloon.

send **word to someone** to get a message to someone by any means. □ I will send word to her as soon as I have something to report. □ Tom sent word to Bill just in time.

**a sense of humor** the ability to appreciate good humor and jokes; the ability to create jokes and say funny things. □ Does he have a sense of humor? He looks like he has never laughed in his life.

**sensitize someone to something** 1. to make a person have an allergic reaction to something. □ Frequent exposure to the chemical sensitized Harry to it and made him get a rash. □ He became sensitized to pet dander. 2. to make someone more thoughtful and receptive to something. □ We want to sensitize you to the feelings of other people. □ He never became sensitized to the needs of others.

**sentence someone to something (for something)** [for a judge] to order someone to suffer confinement, death, or labor for committing a crime. □ The judge sentenced Roger to three years in prison for the crime. □ The judge sentenced him to hard labor.

**separate but equal** segregated but of equal value or quality. (A doctrine once sanctioned by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding racial segregation.) □ The separate but equal doctrine was abandoned years ago. □ They were provided with facilities that were said to be separate but equal—but were really of a lower standard.

**separate off (from something)** to move or head away from something. □ The road to the cabin separates off from the main road and goes along for a mile or two. □ It separates off about a mile from here.

**separate someone from someone else** and **separate something from something else** to segregate people or things. □ The nurse separated the infected people from the healthy ones. □ Please separate the spoiled apples from the good ones.

**separate someone or something into** something to divide people or things into subdivisions. □ We had to separate the kids into smaller groups. □ June separated the apples into three groups by size.

**separate something from something else** Go to separate someone from someone else.

**separate something off from something** and **separate something off** to remove something from something. □ Frank separated the cream off from the milk. □ Separate off the hens from the rooster.

**separate something out of something** and **separate something out** to remove something out from something. □ She used a filter to separate the dirt particles out of the water. □ A filter separated out the impurities.

**separate the men from the boys** and **separate the sheep from the goats** Fig. to separate the competent from those who are less competent. (Not necessarily just about males.) □ This is the kind of task that separates the
serve

**serve** the wheat from the chaff  Prov. to separate what is useful or valuable from what is worthless.  When it comes to books, time will separate the wheat from the chaff. Good books will have lasting appeal, and the rest will be forgotten.  The managers hoped that the new procedure for evaluating employees would separate the wheat from the chaff.

**serve** serious about someone in love with someone; romantically interested in someone.  I’m afraid I’m getting serious about Bill.  Bill, unfortunately, is pretty serious about Mary.

**serve** a (useful) purpose to be useful in accomplishing some purpose.  This large book should serve a useful purpose. We can use it for a doorstop.

**serve** as a guinea pig  Fig. [for someone] to be experimented on; to allow some sort of test to be performed on one. (Alludes to the use of guinea pigs for biological experiments.) Try it on someone else! I don’t want to serve as a guinea pig.  Jane agreed to serve as a guinea pig. She’ll be the one to try out the new flavor of ice cream.

**serve** as someone or something to act in the capacity of someone or something.  I served as the mayor’s assistant for a number of years.  This brick will not serve as a doorstop.

**serve** as the driving force (behind someone or something) Go to the driving force (behind someone or something).

**serve** notice (on someone) to formally or clearly announce something to someone.  John served notice that he wouldn’t prepare the coffee anymore.  I’m serving notice that I’ll resign as secretary next month.

**serve** on something to carry out one’s duty or responsibility on something, such as a committee or a board.  Will you be able to serve on this committee next year also?  Sarah refused to serve on the committee again.

**serve** someone right [for an act or event] to punish someone fairly (for doing something).  John copied off my test paper. It would serve him right if he fails the test.  It’d serve John right if he got arrested.

**serve** someone’s purpose Go to answer someone’s purpose.

**serve** someone with something to officially deliver something, such as a subpoena, to someone.  He served her with papers from the circuit court.  Has Tom been served with the subpoena?

**serve** something around to distribute something to eat or drink to everyone present.  Please serve the snacks around so that everyone gets some.  Serve around the birthday cakes, would you?

**serve** something for something to distribute something to eat or drink for a particular purpose.  We served smoked salmon for an appetizer.  What will you serve for a main course?

**serve** something in something to present something to eat or drink in a particular container.  Kelly served the lemonade in paper cups.  What will you serve the soup in?

**serve** something on a silver platter Go to on a silver platter.

**serve** something on someone to officially deliver something, such as a subpoena, to someone.  A prosecuting attorney served the subpoena on Max.  The document was served on the plaintiff by a sheriff’s deputy.

**serve** something out to carry out one’s duty or responsibility for the whole time, all the way to the end.  She was unable to serve her term out.  The convict served out his sentence in solitary confinement.

**serve** something to someone to present something with something to eat or drink.  The host served the snacks to everyone and left the room to work on the salad.  The snacks were served to everyone in attendance.  to officially deliver something, such as a subpoena, to someone.  She served the papers to the person who lived there.

**serve** something up to distribute or deliver food for people to eat.  The cook served the stew up and then passed around the bread.  Can you serve up the food now?

**serve** time to spend a certain amount of time in jail.  The criminal served ten years in jail.  After the felon served his time, he was released from prison.

**serve** under someone or something to carry out one’s responsibility under the direction or in the employment of someone.  I served under the president of the company as special assistant.  Jane served under the previous administration as an investigator.

**serve** with someone to perform military service alongside or with someone.  I served with Harry when we were both in the army.  At the reunion, I met a lot of the guys I served with in the navy.

**Set a beggar on horseback, and he’ll ride to the devil.**  Prov. If a poor person becomes wealthy, he or she will quickly become corrupt.  Since Phil inherited all that money, all he does is go to parties and take drugs.  Jane: Yep. Set a beggar on horseback, and he’ll ride to the devil.

**Set a precedent** to establish a pattern; to set a policy that must be followed in future cases.  I’ll do what you ask this time, but it doesn’t set a precedent.  We’ve already set a precedent in matters such as these.

**Set a thief to catch a thief.**  Prov. The best person to catch a thief is another thief, because he or she knows how thieves think.  The government set a thief to catch a thief, hiring a stockbroker convicted of fraudulent practices to entrap the stockbroker they were investigating for fraud.

**set a trap** to adjust and prepare a trap to catch an animal.  Bill set a mousetrap and baited it with cheese.  Those old men set a trap to catch an annoying squirrel.

**set about doing something** to begin to do something.  When are you going to set about fixing the roof?  We will set about painting the house when the weather gets a little cooler.

**set eyes on someone or something**  Fig. to see someone or something for the first time.  I knew when I set eyes on that car that it was the car for me.  Have you ever laid eyes on such a beautiful flower?
set fire to someone or something

set one's heart on someone or something Fig. to be determined to get or do something. ① I am sorry you didn't get to pick the one you wanted. I know you had set your heart on Fred. ② Jane set her heart on going to London.

set one's hopes on someone or something Fig. to have one's hopes or expectations dependent on someone or something. ① Please don't set your hopes on me in the race. I can't run as fast as I used to. ② I have set my hopes on the effectiveness of the new law.

set one's house in order Fig. to make certain that one's affairs are in proper legal order. ① Before we can ask for a bank loan, we have to set our house in order. ② I found an accountant who would help me set my house in order.

set one's mind on someone or something Fig. to be determined to get or have someone or something. ① I've set my mind on Dave. I have to have him on my team. ② Jamie set her mind on the red sports car.

set one's mind to something Go to put one's mind to something.

set one's (own) price to name the (relatively high) price at which one is willing to sell something. ① If you have a first edition of Milton, you can almost set your own price. They are in great demand by collectors.

set one's sights on someone or something Fig. to regard having someone or something as one's goal. ① He wanted a wife and he had set his sights on Alice. ② James set his sights on a law degree.

set out (for some place) to leave from some place on a journey for some place. ① We set out for home from the cabin on the very next morning. ② We set out from the cabin at dawn.

set out on one's own Go to strike out on one's own.

set out (on something) to begin a journey; to begin a project. ① We set out on our trip exactly as planned. ② We set out at noon.

set out to do something to begin to do something; to intend to do something. ① I set out to weed the garden, but pulled up a few valuable plants in the process. ② I set out to repair the door, not rebuild the whole porch.

set sail for some place to leave in a ship or boat for some place. (Not limited to ships having sails.) ① We set sail for Grenada at noon. ② When do we set sail for Nantucket?

set someone about something to make someone begin doing something. ① I set the boys about taking up the leaves. ② She set herself about repairing the damaged machine.

set someone apart from someone else to make someone stand out when compared to someone else. ① Her flaming red hair sets her apart from all the others in her class. ② They set themselves apart from the rest due to their superb accomplishments.

set someone back (some amount of money) to cost someone (an amount of money). ① This coat set me back about $250. ② That fancy dinner at the restaurant last night really set us back.

set someone down (on/to) something to place a person one is carrying or lifting onto something. ① I set the small

set one's feet against something Fig. to turn against something; to become totally against something. ① Jane set her heart against going to Australia. ② I set my heart against her departure.

set one back on one's heels Fig. to surprise or shock someone. ① I'll bet that news really set her back on her heels! ② The bill for the repairs set me back on my heels.

set one on one's feet again to reestablish someone; to help someone become active and productive again. ① Gary's uncle helped set him back on his feet. ② We will all help set you on your feet again.

set one on one's feet Go to set one (back) on one's feet.

set one on one's feet again and set one on one's feet on fire to ignite someone or something; to put someone or something to flames. ① The thief set fire to the building. ② The poor man accidentally set himself on fire.

set foot in some place to enter into some place; to begin to enter some place. ① The judge ordered him never to set foot in her house again. ② I would never step foot in a place like that.

set for life prepared to exist for the rest of one's life; having adequate supplies for the rest of one's life. ① As soon as I win the lottery, I will be set for life. I'll never have to work again!

set forth on something and launch forth on something

1. Lit. to start out on something, such as a journey. ① We intend to set forth on our journey very early in the morning. ② What time will you launch forth on your trip?

2. Fig. to begin presenting a speech or an explanation. ① As soon as John set forth on his speech, three people walked out. ② Every time he launches forth on a presentation, it's a half hour before he shuts up.

set great store by someone or something to have positive expectations for someone or something; to have high hopes for someone or something. ① I set great store by my computer and its ability to help me in my work. ② Bill sets great store by his expensive tools.

set in to begin; to become fixed for a period of time. ① A severe cold spell set in early in November. ② When high temperatures set in, the use of electricity went up considerably.

set in one's ways leading a fixed lifestyle; living according to one's own established patterns. ① At her age, she's getting sort of set in her ways. ② If you weren't so set in your ways, you'd be able to understand young people better.

a set of pipes Fig. a very loud voice; a good singing voice. ① She has a nice set of pipes. ② With a set of pipes like that, she's a winner.

a set of wheels Fig. a car. ① I need a new set of wheels. ② Man, look at that set of wheels that chick has!

set off (for something) to leave for something or some place. ① We set off for Springfield three hours late. ② It was afternoon before we could set off.

set off on something to begin on a journey or expedition. ① We set off on our adventure tomorrow morning. ② When do you plan to set off on your journey? ② We will set off on our adventure tomorrow morning.

set one (back) on one's feet and set one on one's feet again Fig. to reestablish someone; to help someone become active and productive again. ① Gary's uncle helped set him back on his feet. ② We will all help set you on your feet again.

set one back on one's heels Fig. to surprise or shock someone. ① I'll bet that news really set her back on her heels! ② The bill for the repairs set me back on my heels.

set one on one's feet again Go to set one (back) on one's feet.

set one's heart on someone or something Fig. to be determined to get or do someone or something. ① I am sorry you didn't get to pick the one you wanted. I know you had set your heart on Fred. ② Jane set her heart on going to London.
boy down onto the desk and gave him a piece of candy. □ Set the baby down and come over here.

**set someone off** 1. Fig. to cause someone to become very angry; to ignite someone’s anger. (Based on set something off ①.) □ That kind of thing really sets me off! □ Your rude behavior set off Mrs. Franklin. 2. Fig. to cause someone to start talking or lecturing about a particular subject. (Based on set something off ②.) □ When I mentioned high taxes it really set Walter off. He talked and talked. □ The subject set off my uncle, and he talked on endlessly.

**set someone on fire** Fig. to excite someone; to make someone passionate. (Based on set fire to someone or something.) □ Her oratory set everyone on fire. □ Ted’s presentation didn’t exactly set me on fire, but it was a good summary of the project.

**set someone or an animal on someone or an animal to command someone or an animal to attack someone or an animal.** □ The gang leader set his thugs on the unwary tourists. □ Scott set his hounds on the raccoon.

**set someone or something above someone or something 1.** to place someone or something in a physical location higher than someone or something. □ Timmy’s dad set him above the others so he could see better. □ I set the trophy above the television on a little shelf. 2. to regard someone or something as better than someone or something else. □ Fred set his wife and children above everyone else. □ Gene set his job above his family.

**set someone or something down** and put someone or something down to lower or set down someone or something. (See also set something down; put someone or something down.) □ Put me down! □ Please set that vase down. It cost a fortune. □ Put down that gun!

**set someone or something free (from something)** to release someone or something from something. □ The commando set the secret agent free from the prison. □ Who set the chickens free from their pens? □ At last, he set himself free from the inhibitions that held him back.

**set someone or something on fire** Go to set fire to someone or something.

**set someone or something on track** Go to on track.

**set someone or something to work** to start someone or something working; to cause someone or something to begin functioning. □ The captain set everyone to work repairing the tears in the fabric of the sails. □ We will set the machines to work at the regular time.

**set someone or something up against someone or something** to put someone or something into competition against someone or something. □ The coach set his team up against the Lions. □ He set up Will against a very fast runner.

**set someone or something up as something** to arrange for or equip someone or something to be or work as something. □ His uncle set him up as a tax consultant. □ Lee set up his nephew as a tax consultant. □ Ken set the company up as a partnership.

**set someone’s mind at ease (about someone or something)** to make someone feel mentally comfortable about someone or something. □ Alice is upset. I will have to do something to set her mind at ease about the accident. □ Please set your mind at ease. Everything will be all right.

**set something back from something else**
set something before someone, something, or some creature
get knocked off. □ You should set back the crystal vase a little. It’s too close to the edge.

**set something** before someone, something, or some creature to place something in front of someone, an animal, a group, or something. □ I set the plate of sandwiches before the children and they were gone in a few minutes. □ Jane set the bowl of food before the cats.

**set something** beside something to place something near or next to something. □ Please set the chair beside the window. □ I set the suitcase beside the door so I would not forget it.

**set something** down1 and put something down1 1. to place something on the surface of something. □ Andy set the hot skillet down on the dishcloth and burned a hole in it. □ He set down the skillet here and burned the counter. 2. to write something on paper. □ Let me put this down on paper so we will have a record of what was said. □ I will set down this note on paper. 3. to land an aircraft. □ The pilot put the plane down exactly on time. □ I can’t set down this plane in the fog.

**set something** down as something to regard something as something. (See also put something down to something.) □ I set his behavior down as an event that would not repeat itself. □ Please just set the whole afternoon down as an exercise in patience.

**set something** down1 in black and white Go to put something down1 in black and white.

**set something** down to something Go to put something down to something.

**set something** for something to adjust something for a particular setting. □ I set the thermostat for a lower temperature. □ Please set the air conditioning for about 75 degrees.

**set something** forth1 to explain something; to present some information. □ She set her ideas forth in an organized and interesting manner. □ Please set forth your thoughts quickly and concisely.

**set something** forward 1. to move something to a more forward position. □ Please set the chair forward a little bit. It is in the walkway. □ If you set the vase forward, it will show up better against the dark background. 2. to reset a timepiece to a later time. □ You are supposed to set your clock forward at this time of year. □ Did you set your watch forward?

**set something** in1 Go to set something into something.

**set something** in a place to locate the action of a play or movie in a place. □ The author set the second act in a wooded glade. □ The opera was set in a forest outside Moscow.

**set something** in a type face to set something in type, a particular style of type, or a particular font. □ Why not set this section in italics to make it stand out from the rest? □ Why was this paragraph set in bold type?

**set something** in motion to start something moving. □ The mayor set the project in motion by digging the first shovelful of soil. □ I cannot set the procedure in motion until I receive a purchase order.

**set something** into something and **set something** in1 to install something into its place. □ The movers set the stove into its proper place, and the plumber hooked it up two days later. □ They set the stove carefully.

**set something** off1 1. Lit. to ignite something, such as fireworks. □ The boys were setting firecrackers off all afternoon. □ They set off rocket after rocket. 2. Fig. to cause something to begin. □ The coach set the race off with a shot from the starting pistol. □ She set off the race with a whistle. 3. Fig. to make something distinct or outstanding. □ The lovely stonework sets the fireplace off quite nicely. □ The white hat really sets off Betsy’s eyes.

**set something** out1 (for someone or something) to remove something and place it so that it is available for someone or some purpose. □ I set a piece of cake out for you to eat whenever you get home. □ Liz set out some cake for Karen.

**set something** over something to place something in a position above something else. □ Toby set the plate over the hole in the dishcloth. □ Please place the kettle over the fire.

**set something** right and make something right; make something good; put something right to alter a situation to make it more fair. □ This is a very unfortunate situation. I’ll ask the people responsible to set this matter right. □ I’m sorry that we overcharged you. We’ll try to put it right. □ I know I owe you some money, but don’t worry, I’ll make it good.

**set something** straight and put something straight to figure out and correct something; to straighten out a mess. □ I am sorry for the error. I am sure we can set it straight. □ We’ll put this matter straight in a short time.

**set something** to music to write a piece of music to accompany a set of words. □ The musician set my lyrics to music. □ The rock band set the poem to music.

**set something** up1 1. Lit. to put something together; to erect something. □ My parents bought me a dollhouse, but I had to set it up myself. □ It took nearly an hour to set up the tent. 2. Fig. to establish or found something. □ We set up a fund to buy food for the needy. □ The business owners set a bank up in the small town.

**set something** up1 (with someone) to make plans for something. □ John is hard at work setting something up with Bill and Mary. □ Sally and Tom set up a party for Saturday night.

**set something** (up)on something to place something on the surface of something. □ Mrs. Franklin set a bowl of fruit upon the table. □ I set my empty glass on the counter.

**set the ball rolling** Go to get the ball rolling.

**set the record straight** Fig. to put right a mistake or misunderstanding: to make sure that an account, etc., is correct. □ The manager thought Jean was to blame, but she soon set the record straight. □ Jane’s mother heard that Tom is a married man, but he set the record straight. He’s divorced.

**set the stage** for something 1. Lit. to arrange a stage for an act or scene of a production. □ The stage crew set the stage for the first act. □ They set the stage for the second scene while the orchestra played. 2. Fig. to prepare something for some activity. □ The initial meeting set the stage for further negotiations. □ Your negative comments set the stage for another big argument.

**set the table** to place plates, glasses, napkins, etc., on the table before a meal. (The opposite of clear the table.) □
**Jane, would you please set the table?**  [ ] I’m tired of setting the table. Ask someone else to do it.

**set the world on fire** Fig. to do exciting things that bring fame and glory. (Frequently with the negative.)  [ ] I’m not very ambitious. I don’t want to set the world on fire.  [ ] You don’t have to set the world on fire. Just do a good job.

**set to** to begin to fight; to attack or commence someone or something.  [ ] The two boys set to almost as soon as they met each other.  [ ] They set to and fought for about ten minutes, cursing and screaming.

*set to do something* ready to do something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.*)  [ ] I’m all set to go. Are you ready?  [ ] We are set to leave at a moment’s notice.

**set to work (on someone or something)** to begin working on someone or something.  [ ] We have finished questioning Tom, so we will set to work on Fred.  [ ] We set to work on dinner at noon.

**set tongues (a)wagging** Fig. to cause people to start gossiping.  [ ] The affair between the boss and her accountant set tongues wagging.  [ ] If you don’t get the lawn mowed soon, you will set tongues wagging in the neighborhood.

**set type** to arrange type for printing; to prepare finished pages for printing.  [ ] Have you finished setting the type for page one yet?  [ ] John sets type for a living.

**set up shop somewhere** to establish one’s place of work somewhere.  [ ] Mary set up shop in a small office building on Oak Street.  [ ] The police officer said, “You can’t set up shop right here on the sidewalk”

**set upon someone or something** to attack someone or something violently.  [ ] The dogs set upon the bear and chased it up a tree.  [ ] Bill set upon Tom and struck him hard in the face.

**settle a score with someone and settle the score (with someone)** Fig. to clear up a problem with someone; to get even with someone.  [ ] Tom, it’s time you and I settled the score.

**settle down 1.** to calm down.  [ ] Now, children, it’s time to settle down and start class.  [ ] If you don’t settle down, I’ll send you all home. 2. to settle into a stable way of life; to get married and settle into a stable way of life.  [ ] Tom, don’t you think it’s about time you settled down and stopped all of this running around?  [ ] Bill and Ann decided to settle down and start a family.

**settle for something** to agree to accept something (even though something else would be better).  [ ] We wanted a red one, but settled for a blue one.  [ ] Ask your grocer for Wilson’s canned corn—the best corn in cans. Don’t settle for less.

**settle in** to become accustomed to one’s new surroundings; to get used to living in a place or a new dwelling.  [ ] I need a little time to settle in, then I can think about buying a car.

**settle on something** to decide on something.  [ ] We’ve discussed the merits of all of them, and we’ve settled on this one.  [ ] I can’t settle on one or the other, so I’ll buy both.

**settle someone’s affairs** to deal with one’s business matters; to manage the business affairs of someone who can’t.

**settle someone’s hash** Sl. to calm someone down, perhaps by threats or by violence.  [ ] If he comes in here, I’ll settle his hash.  [ ] Now, that ought to settle your hash.

**settle (something) (out of court)** to end a disagreement and reach an agreement without having to go through trial in a court of justice.  [ ] The plaintiff and defendant decided to settle before the trial.  [ ] Mary and Sue settled out of court before the trial.

**settle the score (with someone)** Go to settle a score with someone.

**settle up with someone** to pay someone what one owes; to pay one’s share of something.  [ ] I must settle up with Jim for the bike I bought for him.  [ ] Bob paid the whole restaurant bill and we all settled up with him later.

**seven-day wonder** Fig. a person or a process supposedly perfected in only seven days. (Sarcastic.)  [ ] Tommy is no seven-day wonder. It took him 6 years to get through high school!

**the seven-year itch** a real or imagined longing for other women in a man’s seventh year of marriage.  [ ] Looks like Jack has the seven-year itch.  [ ] The seven-year itch is just a rumor.

**sever ties with someone** Fig. to end a relationship or agreement suddenly or completely.  [ ] The company severed its ties with the dishonest employee.  [ ] John has severed all ties with his parents.

**sew someone or something up** 1. Lit. to stitch together an opening in someone or something.  [ ] The surgeon sewed the patient up and pronounced the operation a success.  [ ] This is torn. Can you sew up this rip? 2. Fig. to complete one’s dealings with or discussion of someone or something.  [ ] It’s time to sew this up and go home.  [ ] I think we can sew up the shipping contract this afternoon and get on to someone else.  [ ] Let’s sew up this last matter and go.

*sewed up 1. Lit. [the sewing of a gap in cloth] completed. (*Typically: get something ~; have something ~.*)  [ ] Have you got that tear sewed up yet? 2. and *wrapped up Fig. settled or finished. (*Typically: get something ~; have something ~.*)  [ ] I’ll take the contract to the mayor tomorrow morning. I’ll get the whole deal wrapped up by noon.  [ ] Don’t worry about the car loan. I’ll have it wrapped up in time to make the purchase.

Sez me! Go to Says me!

**Sez who?** Go to Says who?

**shack up (with someone)** Inf. to sleep or live with someone temporarily in a sexual relationship.  [ ] They shackled up for over a year until her parents found out and stopped sending her money.

**shackle someone with something** to fetter or hobble someone with something, such as chains, etc.  [ ] The sheriff shackled the prisoner with handcuffs and leg irons.  [ ] The prisoners were shackled with leg irons.

**shades of someone or something** Fig. reminders of someone or something; a thing that is reminiscent of someone or something.  [ ] When I met Jim’s mother, I thought “shades of Aunt Mary.”  [ ] “Shades of grade school,” said Jack as the university lecturer rebuked him for being late.

599
*a shadow of oneself and *a shadow of itself; *a shadow of one’s former self Fig. someone or something that is not as strong, healthy, full, or lively as before. (*Typically: be ~ of; become ~ of.) □ The sick man was a shadow of his former self. □ The abandoned mansion was merely a shadow of its old self.

a shady character and a suspicious character Fig. an untrustworthy person; a person who makes people suspicious. □ There is a suspicious character lurking about in the hallway. Please call the police.

a shady deal Fig. a questionable and possibly dishonest deal or transaction. □ The lawyer got caught making a shady deal with a convicted felon.

shag (off) Sl. to depart. □ I gotta shag. It’s late. □ Go on! Shag off! □ I gotta shag. Somebody’s calling my name.

shagged out Sl. exhausted. □ What a day! I’m shagged out! □ You guys look sort of shagged out.

a shaggy-dog story a kind of funny story that relies for its humor on its length and its sudden ridiculous ending. □ Don’t let John tell a shaggy-dog story. It’ll go on for hours. □ Mary didn’t get the point of Fred’s shaggy-dog story.

shake a disease or illness off! Fig. [for the body] to fight off a disease or illness. □ I thought I was catching a cold, but I guess I shook it off. □ I hope I can shake off this flu pretty soon.

shake a habit Go to kick a habit.

shake a leg 1. to hurry; to move faster. (Often as a command.) □ Let’s shake a leg, you guys. We gotta be there in twenty minutes. □ She told me to shake a leg, so I hurried the best I could. 2. to dance. □ Let’s shake a leg. The music’s great. □ Hey, Jill! You wanna shake a leg with me?

shake hands and shake someone’s hand to take someone’s hand and move it up and down to greet someone or mark an agreement with someone. (See also shake hands (with someone).) □ David shook my hand when he greeted me. □ Anne and John shook hands before their business appointment.

shake (hands) on something to clasp and shake the hand of someone as a sign of agreement about something. □ The two people didn’t sign a contract; they just shook hands on the terms of the agreement. □ I think it would be better to sign an agreement than just shake on it.

shake hands (with someone) to clasp and shake the hand of someone as a greeting. □ His hands were full, and I didn’t know whether to try to shake hands with him or not. □ He put down his packages, and we shook hands.

shake in one’s boots and quake in one’s boots Fig. to be afraid; to shake from fear. □ I was shaking in my boots because I had to go see the manager for being late. □ Stop quaking in your boots, Bob. I’m not going to fire you.

Shake it (up)! Inf. Hurry!; Move faster! □ Get going, chum! Shake it up! □ We’re late. Shake it!

shake someone down! 1. to blackmail someone. (Underworld.) □ Fred was trying to shake Jane down, but she got the cops in on it. □ The police chief was trying to shake down just about everybody in town. 2. to put pressure on someone to lend one money. □ We tried to shake down Max for a few hundred, but no deal. □ If you’re trying to shake me down, forget it. I have no cash.

shake someone or something off! Fig. to get rid of someone; to get free of someone who is bothering you. □ Stop bothering me! What do I have to do to shake you off? □ I wish I could shake off John. He’s such a pest.

shake someone or something up! to jostle or knock someone or something around; to toss someone or something back and forth. □ We rode over a rough road, and that shook us up. □ The accident shook up John quite a bit.

shake someone’s hand Go to shake hands.

shake someone up! to shock or upset someone. □ The sight of the injured man shook me up. □ Your rude remark really shook up Tom.

shake something down! Go to shake something out.

shake something off! to get rid of something that is on one by shaking. (See also shake a disease or illness off.) □ I tried to shake the spider off. □ The dog shook off the blanket Billy had put on him.

shake something out! 1. Lit. to clean something of dirt or crumbs by shaking. □ Please shake the tablecloth out. □ Can you shake out your coat? It’s really dusty. 2. and shake something down! Fig. to test something to find out how it works or what the problems are. □ I need to spend some time driving my new car to shake it out. □ We need to shake this car before I buy it.

shake something up! 1. Lit. to shake a container to mix its contents together well. □ Please shake this up before using it. □ I shook up the medicine bottle like it says on the label. 2. Fig. to reorganize a group or organization, not always in a gentle way. □ The new manager shook the office up and made things run a lot better. □ The coach shook the team up before the last game and made them better organized.

shake the habit Go to kick a habit.

shake the lead out Go to get the lead out.

The shame of it (all)! That is so shameful!; I am so embarrassed; I am shocked. (Considerable use jocularly or as a parody. Compare this with For shame!) □ John: Good grief! I have a pimple! Always, just before a date. Andy: The shame of it all! □ Tom: John claims that he cheated on his taxes. Bill: Golly! The shame of it!

Shame on you! a phrase scolding someone for being naughty. (Typically said to a child or to an adult for a childish infraction.) □ John: I think I broke one of your figurines. Mary: Shame on you! John: I’ll replace it, of course. Mary: Thanks, I sort of liked it. □ “Shame on you!” said Mary. “You should have known better!”

shank it Sl. to use one’s legs to get somewhere; to walk. □ My car needs fixing so I had to shank it to work today. □ I like to shank it every now and then.

shank’s mare Fig. travel on foot. □ You’ll find that shank’s mare is the quickest way to get across town. □ Is there a bus, or do I have to use shank’s mare?

shape someone up! to get someone into good physical shape; to make someone behave or perform better. □ I’ve got to shape myself up to improve my health. □ The trainer was told that he’d have to shape up the boxer before the fight.

shape up 1. to improve; to reform. □ I want to get things shaped up around here. □ I guess I’d better shape up if I want to stay in school. 2. to assume a final form or structure. □ The game plan for the election was beginning to
shape up. Her objectives began to shape up in her senior year.

Shape up or ship out. Fig. Either improve one's performance (or behavior) or leave. (Used as a command.) \(\circ\) Okay, Tom. That's the end. Shape up or ship out! \(\square\) John was late again, so I told him to shape up or ship out.

share and share alike Cliché having or taking equal shares. \(\square\) I kept five and gave the other five to Mary—share and share alike. \(\square\) The two roommates agreed that they would divide expenses—share and share alike.

share someone's pain to understand and sympathize with someone's pain or emotional discomfort. (Said in order to sound sympathetic.) \(\square\) I am sorry about the loss of your home. I share your pain. \(\square\) We sympathize about the loss of your mother. We share your pain.

share someone's sorrow to grieve as someone else grieves. \(\square\) We all share your sorrow on this sad, sad day. \(\square\) I am sorry to hear about the death in your family. I share your sorrow.

*sharp as a razor 1. very sharp. (Also: as \(\sim\).) \(\square\) The penknife is sharp as a razor. \(\square\) The carving knife will have to be as sharp as a razor to cut through this gristle. 2. and *sharp as a tack very sharp-witted or intelligent. (Also: as \(\sim\).) \(\square\) The old man's senile, but his wife is as sharp as a razor. \(\square\) Sue can figure things out from even the slightest hint. She's as sharp as a tack.

*sharp as a tack Go to previous.

a sharp tongue Fig. An outspoken or harsh manner; a critical manner of speaking. \(\square\) He has quite a sharp tongue. Don't be totally unnerved by what he says or the way he says it.

a sharp wit Fig. A good and fast ability to make jokes and funny comments. \(\square\) Terry has a sharp wit and often makes cracks that force people to laugh aloud at inappropriate times.

She will get hers. Go to He will get his.

shed crocodile tears and cry crocodile tears Fig. To shed false tears; to pretend that one is weeping. \(\square\) The child wasn't really hurt, but she shed crocodile tears anyway. \(\square\) He thought he could get his way if he cried crocodile tears.

shed (some) light on something and throw (some) light on something Fig. To reveal something about something; to clarify something. (Also with any.) \(\square\) This discussion has shed some light on the problem. \(\square\) Let's see if Ann can throw any light on this question.

shell out (an amount of money) to spend a certain amount of money. \(\square\) I'm not going to shell out $400 for that! \(\square\) Come on. You owe me. Shell out!

*a shellacking 1. Fig. A physical beating. (Typically: get \(\sim\); take \(\sim\); give someone \(\sim\).) \(\square\) The boxer took a shellacking and lost the fight. \(\square\) I got a shellacking when I broke the window. 2. Fig. A beating—as in sports. (Typically: get \(\sim\); take \(\sim\); give someone \(\sim\).) \(\square\) Our team played well, but got a shellacking anyway. \(\square\) I practiced my tennis game so I wouldn't take a shellacking in the tournament.

shift for oneself and fend for oneself to get along by oneself; to support oneself. \(\square\) I'm sorry, I can't pay your rent anymore. You'll just have to shift for yourself. \(\square\) When I became twenty years old, I left home and began to fend for myself.

shift one's ground Fig. To change one's opinions or arguments, often without being challenged or opposed. \(\square\) At first Jack and I were on opposite sides, but he suddenly shifted ground and started agreeing with me. \(\square\) Jim has very fixed views. You won't find him shifting his ground.

shine up to someone Fig. To try to gain someone's favor by being extra nice. \(\square\) John is a nice guy, except that he's always trying to shine up to the professor. \(\square\) Mary never tries to shine up to the manager.

shipping and handling the costs of handling a product and transporting it to a customer. \(\square\) Shipping and handling charges were included in the price. \(\square\) The cost of the goods is low and shipping and handling added only a few dollars.

ships that pass in the night Cliché people who meet each other briefly by chance, sometimes having a sexual liaison, and who are unlikely to meet again or have an ongoing relationship. \(\square\) Mary wanted to see Jim again, but to him, they were ships that passed in the night. \(\square\) We will never be friends. We are just ships that passed in the night.

shirk one's duty to neglect one's job or task. \(\square\) The guard was fired for shirking his duty. \(\square\) You cannot expect to continue shirking your duty without someone noticing.

Shit happens. Slat. Bad things just happen and are unavoidable. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) \(\square\) Too bad that your new car got dented, but shit happens. \(\square\) Shit happens. There's nothing that can be done about it.

*the shock of one's life Fig. A serious (emotional) shock. (Typically: get \(\sim\); have \(\sim\); give one \(\sim\).) \(\square\) I opened the telegram and got the shock of my life. \(\square\) I had the shock of my life when I won $5,000.

The shoe is on the other foot. Prov. One is experiencing the same (often bad) things that one caused another person to experience. (Note the variations in the examples.) \(\square\) The teacher is taking a course in summer school and is finding out what it's like when the shoe is on the other foot. \(\square\) When the policeman was arrested, he learned what it was like to have the shoe on the other foot.

shook up upset; shocked. (See also all shook up.) \(\square\) Relax, man! Don't get shook up! \(\square\) I always get shook up when I see a bad accident.

shoot a place up† and shoot the place up† Fig. To fire a gun in or at a place, usually at people. \(\square\) The cowboy walked into the saloon and began to shoot the place up. \(\square\) They shot up the place.

Shoot first, ask questions later. Prov. Assume that everyone you encounter is hostile to you. Take action, even though you do not know enough to be sure if it is the right action. \(\square\) If the foreman saw that one of the workers was working slowly, he didn't stop to find out if the worker was sick or unhappy; he just fired him. He believed in shooting first and asking questions later.

shoot for something 1. Lit. to aim for or at something. (Usually in reference to basketball.) \(\square\) The center shot for the basket just before the end of the game. \(\square\) Wally shot for the basket but missed. 2. Fig. To aim for something; to set something as one's goal. \(\square\) You have to shoot for the very
**shoot for the sky** Go to reach for the sky.

**shoot from the hip** 1. Lit. to fire a gun that is held at one’s side, beside one’s hip. (This increases one’s speed in firing a gun but is much less accurate.) 2. When I lived at home on the farm, my father taught me to shoot from the hip. 3. I quickly shot the snake before it bit my horse. I’m glad I learned to shoot from the hip. 4. John has a tendency to shoot from the hip, but he generally speaks the truth. 5. Don’t pay any attention to John. He means no harm. It’s just his nature to shoot from the hip.

**shoot one’s breakfast** Go to next.

**shoot one’s cookies** and **shoot one’s breakfast**; **shoot one’s supper** Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. 1. I think I’m gonna shoot my cookies. 2. I shot my supper, and I was glad to get rid of it.

**shoot one’s mouth off** Inf. to boast or talk too much; to tell secrets. 1. Don’t pay any attention to Bob. He’s always shooting his mouth off. 2. Oh, Sally! Stop shooting off your mouth! You don’t know what you’re talking about.

**shoot one’s supper** Go to shoot one’s cookies.

**shoot one’s wad** Sl. to spend all or nearly all one’s cash on hand. 1. I shot my wad on junk food. 2. I can’t afford a cab. I shot my wad at the restaurant.

**shoot oneself in the foot** Fig. to cause oneself difficulty; to be the author of one’s own misfortune. 1. I slapped the kid and now I’m going to have to face the music. 2. Suddenly she turned sort of green, and I knew she was going to shoot herself in the foot.

**shoot someone down in flames** Fig. to ruin someone; to bring about someone’s downfall. 1. They shot down all the candidates for president. 2. The storm weakened the foundation of our house, and we must have shot the cat a dozen times during the night. 3. Don’t shoot the works! Save some for a rainy day.

**shoot someone or something (all) to hell** 1. Lit. to destroy someone or something with gunfire. (Use discretion with hell.) 2. Fred shot the crook to hell with his machine gun. 3. The farm boys had shot the stop sign all to hell.

**shoot something down** Fig. to foil a plan through criticism; to counter an idea with criticism. (Based on shoot someone, something, or an animal down.) 1. Fred shot the crook to hell with his machine gun. 2. The farm boys had shot the stop sign all to hell. 3. He raised a good point, but the others shot him down almost immediately. 4. Liz shot down Jeff’s best idea.

**shoot something out** 1. to stick, throw, or thrust something outward. 2. The diamond shot bright shafts of light out when the sun fell on it. 3. The little girl shot out her tongue at the teacher. 4. Bill and the cowboy—with whom he had been arguing—went out in the street and shot it out.

**shoot the breeze** Fig. to chat casually and without purpose. 1. We spent the entire afternoon just shooting the breeze. 2. It was good to shoot the breeze with you, Mary.

**shoot the bull** and **shoot the crap**; **shoot the shit** Inf. to chat and gossip. (The same as throw the bull. Use caution with crap, shit.) 1. Let’s get together sometime and shoot the bull. 2. You spend too much time shooting the crap.

**shoot the cat** Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. 1. I must have shot the cat a dozen times during the night. 2. Shooting the cat is no fun when you’re weak and dizzy.

**shoot the crap** Go to shoot the bull.

**shoot the shit** Go to shoot the bull.

**shoot the works** 1. to do everything; to use everything; to bet all one’s money. 2. Okay, let’s go out to dinner and shoot the works. 3. Don’t shoot the works! Save some for a cab. 4. Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. 5. Suddenly she turned sort of green, and I knew she was going to shoot the works. 6. After she shot the works, she looked fine—but I was sort of pale.

**shoot up** Sl. to take drugs by injection. 1. Wallace was caught by the cops shooting up in the high school rest room.

**shop around (for something)** to shop at different stores to find what you want at the best price. 1. I’ve been shopping around for a new car, but they are all priced too high. 2. You can find a bargain, but you’ll have to shop around.

**shopping list** 1. Lit. a list of things one needs to buy. 2. I made up a shopping list for groceries that we are out of. 3. Don’t forget to take the shopping list with you to the store. 4. Fig. a list of things, especially questions or things one wants. 5. I have a shopping list of absolute musts. 6. He showed up for the interview with a shopping list so long that it took two pages.

**shore someone up** Fig. to (figuratively) prop up or support someone. 1. Mary’s solid character and personality helped shore her up during her recent problems with the law. 2. Everyone co-operated to shore up John when his mother died.

**shore something up** to prop up or support something. 1. The fence fell over, so we shore it up with more posts. 2. The storm weakened the foundation of our house, and we had to have workers shore up the house.

**short and sweet** Cliché brief (and pleasant because of brevity). 1. That was a good sermon—short and sweet. 2. I don’t care what you say, as long as you make it short and sweet.

**the short and the long of it** Go to the long and the short of it.

*the short end of the stick* Fig. the smaller or less desirable part, rank, task, or amount. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~; end up with ~.*) 1. Why do I always get the short end of the stick? I want my fair share! 2. She’s unhappy because she has the short end of the stick again.

**short for something** [of a form] being a shortened form of a word or phrase. 1. Photo is short for photograph. 2. Dave is short for David.

**short of something** not having enough of something. 1. I wanted to bake a cake, but I was short of eggs. 2. Usually at the end of the month, I’m short of money.
Short reckonings make long friends. Prov. If you borrow something from a friend, pay it back as soon as possible so that the two of you remain friendly.  ◊ Now that you’ve finished using Bert’s saw, take it right back to him. Short reckonings make long friends.

(a) short shift a brief period of consideration of a person’s ideas or explanations. ◊ They gave the reporter short shift and got him out of the office. ◊ My plan got short shift from the board—a ten-minute presentation; they then voted it down.

a short temper Go to a quick temper.

*short with someone abrupt and a little bit rude in speaking to a person. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) ◊ Please don’t be short with me. I am doing the best that I can.

a shot at someone Go to a try at someone.

shot full of holes and shot to ribbons; shot to hell; shot to pieces 1. Fig. [of an argument that is] demolished or comprehensively destroyed. ◊ Come on, that theory was shot full of holes ages ago. ◊ Your argument is all shot to hell. 2. to be very intoxicated due to drink or drugs. ◊ Tipsy? Shot to ribbons, more like!

*shot with something abrupt and a little bit rude in speaking to a person. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) ◊ Please don’t be short with me. I am doing the best that I can.

a shot in the arm 1. Lit. an injection of medicine. ◊ The doctor administered the antidote to the poison by a shot in the arm. 2. Fig. a boost or act of encouragement. ◊ How about a little shot in the arm, bartender?

shot through with something Fig. containing something; interwoven, intermixed, or filled with something. ◊ The rose was a lovely pink shot through with streaks of white. ◊ John’s comments are often shot through with sarcasm.

a shotgun wedding Fig. a forced wedding. (From imagery of the bride’s father having threatened the bridegroom with a shotgun to force him to marry the bride because he made her pregnant.) ◊ Mary was six months pregnant when she married Bill. It was a real shotgun wedding. ◊ Bob would never have married Jane if she hadn’t been pregnant. Jane’s father saw to it that it was a shotgun wedding.

should have stood in bed Fig. an expression used on a bad day, when one should have stayed in one’s bed. ◊ What a horrible day! I should have stood in bed. 2. The minute I got up and heard the news this morning, I knew I should have stood in bed.

shoulder the blame for something Go to the blame for something.

shoulder to shoulder Fig. side by side; with a shared purpose. ◊ The two armies fought shoulder to shoulder against the joint enemy. ◊ The strikers said they would stand shoulder to shoulder against the management.

shouldn’t happen to a dog Fig. an expression of something that is so bad that no creature deserves it. ◊ Poor guy. That shouldn’t happen to a dog. 2. This cold I got shouldn’t happen to a dog.

shout about someone or something 1. to yell about someone or something. ◊ Alice is shouting about Tom, the guy who stood her up. ◊ What are you shouting about? 2. to show one’s pride or enthusiasm about someone or something. (Usually with the object shifted to the front of the sentence.) ◊ That’s really something to shout about. ◊ She’s something to shout about.

shout someone or something down1 to overwhelm someone or something by shouting. ◊ Mary was trying to speak, but Sally shouted her down. ◊ Ann brought up a very important suggestion, but Bob shouted it down. ◊ The lecturer had to shout down the entire audience to be heard.

shove off Go to push off.

shove one’s way somewhere to make a path through a crowd by pushing. ◊ The impatient man shoved his way through the crowd. ◊ The reporter shoved her way to the front of the crowd.

shove someone around1 Lit. to push someone around. ◊ The bigger boys shoved him around easily because he is so small. ◊ Karen shoved around the little kids until they got mad at her. 2. Fig. to harass someone. ◊ Stop shoving me around! Who do you think you are? ◊ Do you think you can shove around just anybody?

shove someone or something down someone’s throat and ram someone or something down someone’s throat; force someone or something down someone’s throat 1. Lit. to force someone to swallow something. ◊ The harsh nurse forced the medicine down the patient’s throat. 2. Fig. to force someone to accept something. ◊ The zookeepers rammed the food down the python’s throat. 3. Fig. to harass someone. ◊ Don’t try to force that car down my throat! I don’t want it! ◊ You can’t force that nonsense down my throat! ◊ I don’t want any more insurance, and I don’t want anyone to shove any insurance down my throat. ◊ Mary isn’t invited to my party, and I don’t wish for anyone to ram her down my throat!

show a lot of promise Go to a lot of promise.

show and tell a session where objects are presented and described. (Essentially a kindergarten or grade school activity, but often used figuratively.) ◊ It was a short lecture with lots of show and tell. ◊ I can’t take another show and tell session.

show good faith to demonstrate good intentions or good will. ◊ I’m certain that you showed good faith when you signed the contract. ◊ Do you doubt that she is showing good faith?

a show of hands a display of raised hands [in a group of people] that can be counted for the purpose of votes or surveys. ◊ We were asked to vote for the candidates for captain by a show of hands. ◊ Jack wanted us to vote on paper, not by a show of hands, so that we could have a secret ballot.

show off to do things in a way that is meant to attract attention. ◊ Please stop showing off! You embarrass me. ◊ John is always showing off to his girlfriend.
show one’s hand Fig. to reveal one’s intentions to someone. (From card games.) □ I don’t know whether Jim is intending to marry Jane or not. He’s not one to show his hand. □ If you want to get a raise, don’t show the boss your hand too soon.

show one’s teeth and bare one’s teeth Fig. to act in an angry or threatening manner. (Alludes to what an angry wolf or dog does.) □ We thought Bob was meek and mild, but he really showed his teeth when Jack insulted his girlfriend. □ The enemy forces didn’t expect the country they invaded to bare its teeth.

show one’s (true) colors Fig. to show what one is really like or what one is really thinking. □ Whose side are you on, John? Come on. Show your colors. □ It’s hard to tell what Mary is thinking. She never shows her true colors.

show one to one’s seat Go to show someone to a seat.

show signs of something to show hints or indications of something. □ I let the horse run at full speed until it began to show signs of tiring. □ Sally is showing signs of going to sleep.

show someone around (some place) to give someone a tour of a place. □ I’m very glad you’ve come to work here. Let me show you around so you’ll know where things are. □ Welcome to our town. As soon as you unpack, I’ll get someone to show you around.

show someone into somewhere and show someone in† to lead or usher someone into somewhere. □ The butler showed me into the sitting room and asked me to wait. □ The car dealer showed me into the sales office and asked me to sign some papers. □ The butler showed in the guests one by one.

show someone else’s stuff Fig. to show someone how well one can do something. □ We’ll audition Kate now. Okay, Kate, show us your stuff.

show someone or something off† to display someone or something so that the best features are apparent. □ Bill drove around all afternoon showing off his new car. □ Mrs. Williams was showing off her baby to the neighbors.

show someone out of something Go to see someone out of something.

show someone the big picture Go to the big picture.

show someone the ropes Go to the ropes.

show someone to a seat and show one to one’s seat to lead or direct someone to a place to sit. □ May I show you to your seat, sir? □ The ushers showed us to our seats politely and efficiently.

show someone to the door and see someone to the door to lead or take someone to the door or exit. □ After we finished our talk, she showed me to the door. □ Bill and I finished our chat as he saw me to the door.

show someone the tricks of the trade Go to the tricks of the trade.

show someone up† to make someone’s faults or shortcomings apparent. □ John is always trying to show someone up to make himself look better. □ John’s excellent effort really showed up Bill, who didn’t try very hard at all.

show someone up† as something to reveal that someone is really something (else). □ The investigation showed her up as a fraud. □ The test showed up the candidate as unqualified.

show something to good advantage to display the best features of something; to display something so that its best features are apparent. □ Put the vase in the center of the table and show it to good advantage. □ Having and using a large vocabulary shows your intelligence to good advantage.

show up to appear; to arrive. □ Where is John? I hope he shows up soon. □ When will the bus show up? □ Weeds began to show up in the garden.

show up ahead of time Go to ahead of time.

show up on the dot Go to on the dot.

shower someone or something with something to cover something or something something with something. □ Mary’s friends showered her with gifts on her twenty-first birthday. □ The guests showered the bride and groom with confetti and rice.

a shrinking violet Fig. someone who is very shy and not assertive. □ I am not exactly a shrinking violet, but I don’t have the guts to say what you said to her.

shroud someone or something in something to wrap or conceal something or something in something. □ They shrouded Mr. Carlson in sailcloth and prepared him for burial at sea. □ They shrouded the decision in a series of formalities.

Shrouds have no pockets. Prov. You cannot take any material goods with you when you die. □ You should use your money to enjoy yourself while you’re alive. Shrouds have no pockets.

shrug something off (as something) and pass something off (as something) to ignore something unpleasant or offensive as if it meant something else. □ She shrugged off the criticism as harmless. □ I passed off the remark as misinformed. □ Bill scolded me, but I just passed it off.

shuck something off† to take something off. □ Tom shucked his jacket off and sat on the arm of the easy chair. □ He shucked off his jacket. □ She shucked off her bad habits. □ She shucked off one girlfriend after another.

shuffle off this mortal coil Euph. to die. (Often jocular or formal euphemism. Not often used in consoling someone.) □ Cousin Fred shuffled off this mortal coil after suffering a heart attack. □ When I shuffle off this mortal coil, I want to go out in style—bells, flowers, and a long, boring funeral.

shush (up) to be quiet. □ Shush! I want to hear the weather. □ Shush up and listen to the lecture.

shut down Go to close down.

shut one’s eyes to something Go to close one’s eyes to something.

shut someone or something out† to exclude someone or something; to refuse entrance to someone or something. □ We tried to get into the stadium, but they shut us out because there was no more room. □ My parents shut out their children when they made important decisions.

shut someone up† to silence someone. □ Oh, shut yourself up! □ Will you please shut up that crying baby!
shut something down¹ Go to close something down¹.

shut the door (up)on someone or something and close the door on someone or something; close the door to someone or something 1. Lit. to close a door, preventing someone or something from passing through. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ They shut the door upon me, and I couldn’t get in! □ We quickly closed the door on the smoke. 2. Fig. to eliminate an opportunity for someone or something. □ The board of directors shut the door on me, and there was no further opportunity for me to pursue. □ They closed the door on further discussions.

Shut the stable door after the horse has bolted. and Lock the stable door after the horse is stolen. Prov. To try to prevent something that has already happened; to act too late. □ When Ray heard that the bank had failed, he tried to withdraw his money, but there was no money to withdraw. He was shutting the stable door after the horse had bolted. □ Jenny has stopped smoking since the doctor told her that her lungs were in bad shape, but I’m afraid she’s locking the stable door after the horse is stolen.

Shut up! Inf. Be quiet! (Impolite.) □ Bob: And another thing. Bill: Oh, shut up, Bob! □ Andy: Shut up! I’ve heard enough! Bob: But I have more to say! □ “Shut up! I can’t hear anything because of all your noise!” shouted the director.

Shut up about it. Inf. Do not tell anyone about it. □ Bill: I heard that you had a little trouble with the police. Tom: Just shut up about it! Do you hear? □ Andy: Didn’t you once appear in a movie? Alice: Shut up about it. No one has to know.

Shut your cake hole! and Shut your pie hole! Shut your face! Inf. Shut up! Shut your mouth! □ I’ve heard enough! Shut your cake hole!

shuttle someone or something from person to person and shuttle someone or something from place to place (Specific persons or places are sometimes expressed.) to move or pass someone or something from person to person; to move or pass someone or something from place to place. □ My phone call was shuttled from person to person. □ Mary shuttled her children from home to school to practice.

shy away (from someone or something) to avoid someone or something. □ The dog shies away from John since he kicked it. □ I can understand why the dog would shy away.

*sick (and tired) of someone or something Fig. tired of someone or something, especially something that one must do again and again or someone or something that one must deal with repeatedly. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~; grow ~.) □ I am sick and tired of cleaning up after you. □ Mary was sick of being stuck in traffic.

*sick as a dog Cliché very sick; sick and vomiting. (Also: as ~.) □ We’ve never been so ill. The whole family was sick as dogs. □ Sally was as sick as a dog and couldn’t go to the party.

*sick at heart Fig. distressed and depressed. (Typically: be ~; become ~; make someone ~.) □ I became sick at heart just looking at all the homeless children.

sick in bed remaining in bed while (one is) ill. □ Tom is sick in bed with the flu. □ He’s been sick in bed for nearly a week.

sick to death (of someone or something) totally disgusted with someone or something. □ I am sick to death of your constant bickering. □ This reporting about the scandals in the government just has me sick to death.

sick (up) Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. □ I think I’m going to sick up. Isn’t there supposed to be a barf bag in one of these seat pockets? □ He’s got to sick, and there’s no air sickness bag. Help!

side against someone to be against someone; to take sides against someone. □ I thought you were my friend! I never thought you would side against me! □ The two brothers were always siding against their sister.

side by side (of two or more people or things) lined up so their sides are adjacent. □ We walked side by side across the lawn.

side with someone to join with someone; to take someone else’s part; to be on someone’s side. □ Why is it that you always side with him when he and I argue? □ I never side with anybody. I form my own opinions.

sidle away (from someone or something) to avoid someone or something by moving to the side; to ease away from someone or something. □ The cowboy sidled away from the bar and drew his gun. □ He sidled away and snuck out the door.

sidle up (to someone or something) to move close to someone or something cautiously or furtively; to move closer to someone or something gradually. □ Tex sidled up to Dolly and said howdy in a soft, shy voice. □ Dolly sidled up and picked the cowboy’s pocket.

sift something from something to remove something from something by sifting. □ Fran sifted all the impurities from the flour before using it. □ Timmy sifted all the leaves from the sand in his sandbox.

sift something out of something and sift something out¹ to get rid of something in something else by sifting. □ Dan sifted the impurities out of the flour. □ Walter sifted out the foreign matter.

sift something through something to make something pass through something such as a sieve. □ She sifted the powdered sugar through a strainer. □ Please sift the soil through this screen and watch for bits of pottery.

sift through something to examine all parts of something. □ The fire inspector sifted through the rubble, looking for clues to the start of the fire. □ We sifted through all the papers in the old trunk, but we did not find what we were looking for.

sigh about something to release a deep breath, indicating anxiety, distress, or relief about something. □ What are you sighing about? □ She sighed about her illness and then shifted her thoughts to something else.

sigh for someone to release a deep breath, indicating anxiety about one’s emotional attachment for someone. □ Dave spent a lot of his time sighing for Laura, on whom he had a crush. □ Laura has been sighing for some as-yet-unnamed young man.
sight for sore eyes  Fig. a welcome sight.  □ Oh, am I glad to see you here! You're a sight for sore eyes.  □ I'm sure hungry. This meal is a sight for sore eyes.

sign for someone to sign something, using one's own signature in place of someone else's signature; to sign something, using another person's name, adding the phrase "by [one's own name]."  □ He's not here. I will sign for him. Where do I sign?  □ Who will sign for Mr. Wilson?

sign for something to sign a piece of paper indicating that one has received something.  □ Would you sign for this, please?  □ Ted signed for the package and opened it up.

sign in to indicate that one has arrived somewhere and at what time by signing a piece of paper or a list.  □ Please sign in so we will know you are here.  □ Did you remember to sign in this time?

a sign of the times something that signifies the situation evident in the current times.  □ Your neighbor's unmowed grass is just a sign of the times. Nobody really cares any longer.

a sign of things to come Go to a harbinger of things to come.

sign off 1. Lit. [for a broadcaster] to announce the end of programming for the day; [for an amateur radio operator] to announce the end of a transmission.  □ Wally signed off and turned the transmitter off.  □ Channel 43 failed to sign off at the scheduled time last night. 2. Fig. to quit doing what one has been doing and leave, go to bed, quit trying to do something, etc.  □ I have to sign off and get to bed. See you all.  □ When you finally sign off tonight, please turn out all the lights.

sign off on something to sign a paper, indicating that one has finished with something or agrees with the state of something.  □ The publisher signed off on the book and sent it to be printed.  □ I refuse to sign off on this project until it is done correctly.

sign on to announce the beginning of a broadcast transmission.  □ The announcer signed on and then played "The Star-Spangled Banner."  □ We usually sign on at six in the morning.

sign on the dotted line 1. Lit. to indicate one's agreement or assent by placing one's signature on a special line provided for that purpose. (The line may be solid or dotted.)  □ I agreed to the contract, but I haven't signed on the dotted line yet.  □ When you have signed on the dotted line, please give me a call. 2. Fig. to indicate one's agreement to something.  □ Okay. I agree to your terms. I'll sign on the dotted line.  □ He is thinking favorably about going with us to Canada, but he hasn't signed on the bottom line.

sign on (with someone or something) (as something) to join up with someone or something in a particular capacity by signing a contract or agreement.  □ I signed on with the captain of the Felicity Anne as first mate.  □ Roger signed on as manager for the new store.

sign one's own death warrant Fig. to do something (knowingly) that will most likely result in severe trouble. (As if one were ordering one's own execution.)  □ I wouldn't ever gamble a large sum of money. That would be signing my own death warrant.  □ The killer signed his own death warrant when he walked into the police station and gave himself up.

sign out to indicate that one is leaving a place or going out temporarily by signing a piece of paper or a list.  □ I forgot to sign out when I left.  □ Please sign out every time you leave.

sign someone in1 to record that someone has arrived somewhere and at what time by recording the information on a paper or a list.  □ I will sign you in. What is your name?  □ Do I have to sign in everyone?

sign someone on1 to employ someone; to recruit someone as an employee.  □ How many workers did the manager sign on?  □ The construction company signed on ten new workers.

sign someone out of some place and sign someone out1 to make a record of someone's departure from some place.  □ Did someone sign you out of the factory, or did you just open the door and leave?  □ I signed out those two who just left.

sign someone up1 (for something) to record the agreement of someone, including oneself, to participate in something.  □ Has anyone signed you up for the office picnic?  □ Can you sign up Liz for the party?

sign someone up1 (with someone or something) to record the agreement of someone to join someone, a group of people, or an organization.  □ I want to sign George up with our softball team.  □ Tom signed up his friends with the agency.

sign something away1 to sign a paper in which one gives away one's rights to something.  □ Valerie signed her rights away.  □ She signed away her claim to the money.

sign something for someone 1. to sign one's signature on a paper in place of someone else's signature.  □ Would you please sign this for me?  □ I can't sign it right now. Would you sign it for me? 2. to sign a paper for another person, using that person's name, adding the phrase "by [one's own name]."  □ When the delivery comes, will you please sign my name for me?  □ I signed Ted's name for him.

sign something in1 to record that something has been received at a particular time by recording the information on a paper or a list.  □ I have to sign this package in, then I will be right with you.  □ Should I sign in this shipment now?

sign something out of some place and sign something out1 to make a record of the borrowing of something from some place.  □ Dave signed the tape recorder out of the library.  □ Dave signed out the tape recorder as well as some blank tapes.

sign something over1 (to someone) to sign a paper granting the rights to or ownership of something to a specific person.  □ Larry signed all the rights to his book over to the publisher.  □ He signed over all the rights to the publisher.

sign up (for something) to record one's agreement to participate in something.  □ I want to sign up for guitar lessons.  □ We will sign up as soon as possible.

sign up with someone or something to enter into an agreement with someone or a group.  □ I signed up with Tom and John to crew their ship in the regatta.  □ Did you sign with the office equipment supplier yet?

signal for someone to make a sign for someone to come.  □ I signaled for the waiter and got the check.  □ Ted signaled for the parking lot attendant.
signal for something to make a sign that something should be done. □ I caught the waiter’s eye and signaled for the check. □ The director signaled for applause.

signal (to) someone (to do something) [for someone] to give someone a command or instruction using a signal. □ The traffic cop signaled me to stop. □ The state trooper signaled the driver to pull over to the side of the road.

signed, sealed, and delivered Fig. formally and officially signed; [for a formal document to be] executed. □ Here is the deed to the property—signed, sealed, and delivered. □ I can’t begin work on this project until I have the contract signed, sealed, and delivered.

Silence gives consent. Prov. If you do not object to what someone says or does, you can be assumed to agree with or condone it. □ Jill: What did Fred say when you told him we were thinking about leaving the office early? Jane: He didn’t say anything. Jill: Then he must not mind if we go. Silence gives consent.

Silence is golden. Prov. Silence is often good or desirable. □ Jerry has two teenage children who listen to music using their headphones all day. He knows that silence is golden. □ Hush! Silence is golden.

*silent as the dead and* silent as the grave completely silent. (Has ominous connotations because of the reference to death. Usually used to promise someone that you will be silent and therefore not betray a secret. *Also: as ~.) □ I knew something was wrong as soon as I entered the classroom; everyone was silent as the dead. □ Jessica is as silent as the grave on the subject of her first marriage. □ If you tell me what Katy said about me, I promise to be as silent as the grave.

silent as the grave Go to previous.

*silly as a goose very foolish. (*Also: silly as a goose

silt up [for a body of water] to become filled with silt. □ The river moved too fast to silt up. □ The lake silted up in a very few years.

simmer down 1. Lit. to decrease in intensity. (As boiling dies down when the heat is lowered or removed.) □ The hectic activity of the day finally simmered down. □ When things simmer down in the fall, this is a much nicer place. 2. Fig. [for someone] to become calm or less agitated. □ I wish you would simmer down. □ Please simmer down, you guys!

sin against someone or something to offend or desecrate someone or something sacred or revered. □ The critic said that Walter sinned against the poet when he read the poem in a sarcastic manner. □ I would say that Walter sinned against poetry, not just one poet.

since day one Go to previous.

since someone was knee-high to a grasshopper Go to knee-high to a jackrabbit.

since time immemorial since a very long time ago. (Literally, since time before recorded history.) □ My hometown has had a big parade on the Fourth of July since time immemorial. □ Since time immemorial, the trees have blossomed each spring.

Since when? Inf. When was that decided? That’s news to me.; When was that done? □ Tom: You’ve been assigned to the night shift. John: Since when? □ Jane: Fred is now the assistant manager. Pete: Since when? Jane: Since I appointed him, that’s when.

sing a different tune and sing another tune Fig. to change one’s manner, usually from bad to good. (Almost the same as dance to another tune.) □ When she learned that I was a bank director, she began to sing a different tune. □ You will sing another tune as soon as you find out how right I am!

sing along (with someone or something) to sing with someone or with the accompaniment of some instrument(s). □ Harry played all the old songs and everybody sang along. □ Let’s sing along with Mary. She knows some good songs.

sing another tune Go to sing a different tune.

Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before night. and Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before supper. Prov. If you wake up feeling very happy, your mood will change before the end of the day. □ Jill: I woke up in such a good mood today. I don’t even know why, but everything seems good. Jane: Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before night. □ Alan: Good morning, dear! Isn’t it a wonderful day? I feel great. Jane: Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before supper.

sing from the same hymnbook Go to read from the same page.

sing of someone or something to tell about or sing a song about someone or something. □ The folksinger sang of Paul Bunyan. □ They all sang of happier times in the past.

sing one’s heart out Go to cry one’s heart out.

sing out to sing louder. □ Sing out, please. This is a very large hall. □ The sopranos will have to sing out more.

sing someone’s or something’s praises and sing the praises of someone or something Fig. to praise someone highly and enthusiastically. □ The boss is singing his new secretary’s praises. □ The theater critics are singing the praises of the young actor.

sing someone to sleep to sing softly and sweetly to someone until sleep comes. □ The mother sang her baby to sleep. □ Please sing Timmy to sleep. He is very restless.

sing something out¹ to sing or announce something loudly. □ The teacher sang the names out loud and clear. □ She sang out “The Star-Spangled Banner” in a loud voice.

sing the praises of someone or something Go to sing someone’s or something’s praises.

sing to someone or something to sing a song and direct it at someone or something. □ The singer sang to a man in the front row, and he was very embarrassed by it. □ Claire sang to an older audience and put many of them to sleep.

sing together for people to coordinate their singing. □ Let’s sing together now. Everyone should watch the conductor and follow the beat. □ You have to sing together if you want your words to be understood.

sing up a storm Go to sing out a storm.

sing up a storm
sink back (into something) to lean back and relax in something, such as a soft chair. I can’t wait to get home and sink back into my easy chair. He sank back and went to sleep almost immediately.

sink below someone or something Go to below someone or something.

sink below something to descend below a certain level. The boat sank below the surface of the water and was gone. The temperature sank below the freezing mark again today.

sink down to sink or submerge. The sun sank down and darkness spread across the land. She sat in the chair and sank down, enjoying her moment of relaxation.

sink in 1. Lit. to sink, submerge, or descend into something. How long will it take the water to sink in? It might take days for the oil to sink in, so you have time to clean it up. Fig. [for knowledge] to be understood. I heard what you said, but it took a while for it to sink in. I pay careful attention to everything I hear in calculus class, but it usually doesn’t sink in.

sink into despair to become depressed; to become completely discouraged. After facing the hopelessness of the future, Jean Paul sank into despair. Mary sank into despair upon learning of the death of her grandmother.

sink into oblivion Fig. to fade into obscurity. She may be famous now, but in no time she will sink into oblivion. In his final years, Wally Wilson sank into oblivion and just faded away.

sink one’s teeth into something Go to get one’s teeth into something.

sink or swim Fig. to fail or succeed. (Alludes to the choices available to someone who has fallen into the water.) After I’ve studied and learned all I can, I have to take the test and sink or swim. It’s too late to help John now. It’s sink or swim for him.

sink something in(to) someone or something and sink something in 1. Lit. to drive or push something into someone or something. The brave hero sank the wooden stake into the vampire. The hero sank in the stake. Fig. to invest time or money in someone or something. (Sometimes implying that it was wasted.) You would not believe how much money I’ve sunk into that company! She sank in a lot of money, but it was all wasted.

sink to (doing) something Fig. to lower oneself to doing something bad or mean. I never thought he would sink to doing that. There is nothing that Max wouldn’t sink to.

sink under (something) to submerge. The small boat turned over and sank under the surface. It sank under and went straight to the bottom.

* a sinking feeling the feeling that everything is going wrong; a bad feeling in the base of one’s stomach. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) I get a sinking feeling whenever I think of the night of the accident.

siphon something off (from something) 1. Lit. to suck or draw a liquid off from something. Harry siphoned the cream off the milk. He siphoned off the cream. Fig. to embezzle or steal something a little at a time. The teller had been siphoning money off for years. She siphoned off a few dollars from the collection every week or so.

sit around to relax sitting; to waste time sitting. Don’t just sit around! Get moving! I need to sit around every now and then and reorganize my thoughts.

sit around something to be seated at the edge or perimeter of something. They sat around the campfire for hours. We used to sit around the big kitchen table and talk.

sit around (somewhere) to sit somewhere and relax or do nothing; to sit idly somewhere. Tom likes to sit around the house in shorts and a T-shirt on hot days. Too many people are just sitting around doing nothing at my office.

sit at something to be seated in front of something, such as a table. He sat at the table, taking his tea. Please sit at your desk and finish your work before taking a break.

sit at the feet of someone Fig. to pay homage to someone; to pay worshipful attention to someone. The graduate student sat at the feet of the famous professor for years. I do not intend to sit at the feet of an incompetent for years and years.

sit back to push oneself back in one’s seat; to lean against the back of one’s seat. Please sit back. I can’t see around you. I sat back and made myself comfortable, assuming that the movie would bore me to sleep.

sit back and let something happen Fig. to relax and not interfere with something; to let something happen without playing a part in it. I can’t just sit back and let you waste all our money! Don’t worry. Just sit back and let things take care of themselves.

sit behind someone or something Go to behind someone or something.

sit below someone or something Go to below someone or something.

sit beneath something Go to beneath something.

sit bolt upright to sit up straight. Tony sat bolt upright and listened to what the teacher was saying to him. After sitting bolt upright for almost an hour in that crowded airplane, I swore I would never fly again.

sit by someone to sit next to someone. May I sit by you? Come over here and sit by me.

sit close to someone or something Go to close to someone or something.

sit down to be seated; to sit on something, such as a chair. Please sit down and make yourself comfortable. Can I sit down here?

sit down on something to be seated on something. Please sit down on this chair and wait until you are called. I don’t want to sit down on this hard bench.

sit down to something to sit down at a table to do something, such as eat a meal or attend to some business. I
sit well with someone

look forward to going home and sitting down to a quiet supper.  □ Ted looked forward to sitting down to a big Thanksgiving dinner.

sit for an exam to take an exam to qualify for a license, such as a bar exam.  □ When do you sit for the bar exam?  □ I will sit for the exam next week.

sit for one’s portrait to serve as the subject of a portrait being done by a painter or photographer.  □ I sat for the picture for two hours.  □ Do you mind sitting for the painter all day? It will be easier if you get it over with all at once.

sit for someone 1. to care for someone in the role of babysitter.  □ I sit for Timmy sometimes. I like him. He’s a good little kid. □ Mary doesn’t sit for anyone anymore. It leaves no time for a social life. 2. to serve as a babysitter in someone’s employ.  □ I sit for Mrs. Franklin every now and then.  □ Ted used to sit for the Wilsons. 3. to serve as a model or subject for someone, such as an artist.  □ She sat for the portrait painter every day for a week.  □ She is looking for someone to sit for her so she can develop her skills.

sit hand in hand Go to hand in hand.

sit idly by and stand idly by to remain close, doing nothing to help.  □ I do not intend to stand idly by while your children need my help. □ The wealthy man sat idly by while the poor people starved.

sit in (for someone) to act as a substitute for someone. (Usually involves actual sitting, such as at a meeting.)  □ I am not a regular member of this committee. I am sitting in for Larry Smith.  □ Do you mind if I sit in? My representative can’t be here.

sit in judgment (upon) on someone or something to make a judgment about someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than over.)  □ I don’t want to sit in judgment upon you or anyone else, but I do have some suggestions. □ There is no need to sit in judgment on the proposal at this time.

sit in (on something) to attend something as a visitor; to act as a temporary participant in something.  □ Do you mind if I sit in on your discussion?  □ Please do sit in.

sit on its hands and sit on their hands Fig. [for an audience] to refuse to applaud. (See also sit on one’s hands.)  □ The performance was really quite good, but the audience sat on its hands. □ They sat on their hands during the first act.

sit on one’s ass Inf. to sit idle; to sit around doing nothing. (Use ass with discretion.) □ Don’t just sit on your ass! Get busy! □ He just sat on his ass, watching what was going on.

sit on one’s hands Fig. to do nothing; to fail to help. (See also sit on its hands.) □ When we needed help from Mary, she just sat on her hands. □ We need the cooperation of everyone. You can’t sit on your hands!

sit on someone or something 1. Lit. to place oneself in a sitting position on someone or something. □ The enormous woman knocked the crook out and sat on him until the police came.  □ I need to sit on this chair for a minute and catch my breath. 2. Fig. to hold someone or something back; to delay someone or something. □ The project cannot be finished because the city council is sitting on the final approval. □ Ann deserves to be promoted, but the manager is sitting on her because of a disagreement. □ It’s hard to do your best when you know that someone is sitting on you, and no matter what you do, it won’t help your advancement.

sit on the fence Fig. not to take sides in a dispute; not to make a clear choice between two possibilities. (Fig. on the image of someone straddling a fence, representing indecision.) □ When Jane and Tom argue, it is best to sit on the fence and not make either of them angry. □ No one knows which of the candidates Joan will vote for. She’s sitting on the fence.

sit on the fence (about something) Go to sit on the fence (about something).

sit on their hands Go to sit on its hands.

sit out to elect not to participate in something. □ I think I will not join in this game. I’ll sit out. □ I’ll sit out for this round.

sit right with someone Fig. [for something] to be acceptable or understandable to someone. (Very close to sit well with someone.) □ What you just said doesn’t really sit right with me. Let’s talk about it. □ It didn’t sit right with the boss.

sit something out! not to participate in something; to wait until something is over before participating. □ Oh, please play with us. Don’t sit it out. □ I’m tired of playing cards, so I think I’ll sit out this game.

sit still for something 1. Lit. to remain seated without fidgeting during something. □ The child could hardly be expected to sit still for the opera. □ Timmy would not sit still for his haircut. 2. Fig. to remain idle rather than act to prevent something; to endure or tolerate something. □ I won’t sit still for that kind of treatment. □ She would not sit still for an insult like that.

sit through something to remain seated and in attendance for all of something, even though it is boring or poorly done. □ I can’t stand to sit through that class one more time! □ Do I have to sit through the whole lecture?

sit tight to wait; to wait patiently. (This does not necessarily refer to sitting.) □ Just relax and sit tight. I’ll be right with you. □ We were waiting in line for the gates to open when someone came out and told us to sit tight because it wouldn’t be much longer before we could go in.

sit up 1. to rise from a lying to a sitting position. □ When the alarm went off, he sat up and put his feet on the floor. □ She couldn’t sleep, so she sat up and read a book. 2. to sit more straight in one’s seat; to hold one’s posture more upright while seated. □ Please sit up. Don’t slouch! □ You wouldn’t get backaches if you would sit up.

sit up and take notice to become alert and pay attention. □ A loud noise from the front of the room caused everyone to sit up and take notice. □ The company wouldn’t pay any attention to my complaints. When I had my lawyer write them a letter, they sat up and took notice.

sit up with someone to stay with someone through the night, especially with a sick or troubled person or with someone who is waiting for something. □ I had to sit up with my younger sister when she was ill. □ I sat up with Bill while he waited for an overseas telephone call.

sit well with someone to be acceptable to someone. □ Your explanation of your absence doesn’t sit well with the president. □ The whole affair didn’t sit well with the manager.
**sit with someone** 1. to stay with someone; to sit up with someone. 2. to stay with and care for one or more children; to babysit for someone. □ I hired Mrs. Wilson to sit with the children. □ We couldn’t go out for dinner because we couldn’t find anyone to sit with the kids.

*a sitting duck* Fig. someone or something vulnerable to attack, physical or verbal. (Alludes to a duck floating on the water, not suspecting that it is the object of a hunter or predator. *Typically: be ~; like ~; looking like ~.*) □ You look like a sitting duck out there. Get in here where the enemy cannot fire at you. □ The senator was a sitting duck because of his unpopular position on school reform.

**sitting on a gold mine** Fig. in control of something very valuable; in control of something potentially very valuable. □ When I found out how much the old book was worth, I realized that I was sitting on a gold mine. □ Mary’s land is valuable. She is sitting on a gold mine.

**sitting on a powder keg** Fig. in a risky or explosive situation; in a situation where something serious or dangerous may happen at any time. (A powder keg is a keg of gunpowder.) □ Things are very tense at work. The whole office is sitting on a powder keg. □ The fire at the oil field seems to be under control for now, but all the workers there are sitting on a powder keg.

**(sitting) on top of the world** Fig. feeling wonderful; glorious; ecstatic. □ Wow. I feel on top of the world. □ Since he got a new job, he’s on top of the world.

**sitting pretty** living in comfort or luxury; living in a good situation. (Typically: be ~; leave someone ~.) □ My uncle died and left enough money for me to be sitting pretty for the rest of my life. □ Now that I have a good-paying job, I’m sitting pretty.

**six feet under** Fig. dead and buried. □ Fred died and is six feet under. □ They put him six feet under two days after he died.

**six of one and half a dozen of the other** Fig. about the same one way or another. □ It doesn’t matter to me which way you do it. It’s six of one and half a dozen of the other. □ What difference does it make? They’re both the same—six of one and half a dozen of the other.

**a sixth sense** a supposed power to know or feel things that are not perceptible by the five senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. □ My sixth sense told me to avoid going home by my usual route. Later I discovered there had been a fatal accident on it. □ Jane’s sixth sense demanded that she not trust Tom, even though he seemed honest enough.

**the sixty-four-dollar question** Fig. the most important question; the question that everyone wants to know the answer to. □ Who will win? Now, that is the sixty-four-dollar question. □ Now for the sixty-four-dollar question. What’s the stock market going to do this year?

**size someone or something up** to observe someone or something to get information; to check someone or something out. □ The comedian sized the audience up and decided not to use his new material. □ I like to size up a situation before I act.

**skate around** to skate here and there in no particular direction. □ Let’s go over to the pond and skate around. □ We will skate around for a while until we get too cold.

**skate around someone or something** 1. to skate to one side or the other of someone or something. □ Somehow I managed to skate around the child without knocking her down. □ I skated around the tree limb and avoided an accident. 2. to circle someone or something while skating. □ The children skated around their instructor until she was satisfied with their form. □ We skated around the post in a circle.

**skate on something** to skate on a particular surface. □ You can’t skate on that ice! It’s too thin. □ Don’t skate on the ice until it has been scraped smooth.

**skate on thin ice** Fig. to be in a risky situation. (Fig. on the image of someone taking the risk of ice skating on thin ice.) □ I try to stay well informed so I don’t end up skating on thin ice when the teacher asks me a question. □ You are skating on thin ice when you ask me that!

**skate over something** 1. Lit. to move over something, skating. □ I love to be the first one to skate over newly frozen ice. □ I skated over the pond too soon and the ice cracked while I was on it. 2. Fig. to move over or deal with something quickly. □ The speaker skated over the touchy issues with discretion. □ I’ll skate over the things that I am not sure about.

**skull(s) in the closet** a hidden and shocking secret. □ You can ask anyone about how reliable I am. I don’t mind. I don’t have any skeletons in the closet. □ My uncle was in jail for a day once. That’s our family’s skeleton in the closet.

**sketch something in** to draw in the image of someone or something. □ I sketched a figure of a woman in so that she appears to be standing beneath the tree. □ I’ll sketch in the house in the upper left corner.

**sketch something out** to create a rough idea or image of something by sketching or some other means. (Does not necessarily require an actual sketch.) □ Sally sketched the furniture arrangement out so we could get an idea of what it was to look like. □ Would you sketch out your ideas, please?

**skid across something** to slip or glide across something, such as ice or wet pavement. □ The car skidded across the pavement and crashed into a tree. □ Our bus skidded across the icy bridge and ran into a ditch on the other side.

**skid into someone or something** to slip or glide into someone or something. □ The bicycle skidded into a pedestrian. □ The car skidded into a guard rail.

**skim over something** Lit. to glide across something. □ The sailboat skimmed over the waves like a bird. □ The bird skimmed over the treetops, darting and dodging. 2. Fig. to go over or review something hastily. □ I just skimmed over the material and still got an A on the test! □ Please skim over chapter four for Thursday.

**skim something off (of) something** and **skim something off** 1. Lit. to scoop something off the surface of something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The cook skimmed the fat off the stew. □ The cook skimmed off the fat. 2. Fig. to remove a portion of something of value, such as money, from an account. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The auditor was skimming a few dol-
lars a day off the bank’s cash flow. □ Kelly skimmed off a few dollars each day.

**skim through** something to go through something hastily; to read through something hastily. □ She skimmed through the catalogs, looking for a nice gift for Gary. □ I will skim through your manuscript and see whether it looks promising.

**skimp on** something to use too little of something; to save something by using less of it than needed for something. □ Please don’t skimp on the gravy. I like my potatoes swimming in it. □ They skimmed on quality a little when they furnished the lobby.

**Skin me!** Go to Give me five!

**skin someone alive** Fig. to be very angry with someone; to scold someone severely. (Fig. on being angry enough to do this kind of bodily harm to someone.) □ I was so mad at Jane that I could have skinned her alive. □ If I don’t get home on time, my parents will skin me alive.

*skinny as a beanpole* very thin; very skinny. (*Also: as ~.) □ I exercised and dieted until I was skinny as a beanpole.

**skinny-dip** to swim naked. □ The boys were skinny-dipping in the creek when Bob’s mother drove up.

**skip bail** Go to Jump bail.

**Skip it!** Inf. Never mind! Forget it! (Shows impatience or disappointment.) □ John: I need some help on this project. Mary: What? John: Oh, skip it! □ Jane: Will you be able to do this, or should I get someone with more experience? Bob: What did you say? Jane: Oh, skip it!

**skip off (with something)** Fig. to leave and take something with one. □ The little kid with the freckles skipped off with a candy bar. □ He took the candy bar I offered him and skipped off.

**skip (out)** Inf. to leave; to run away without doing something, such as paying a bill. □ The guy skipped when the waitress wasn’t looking. □ Fred skipped out, leaving me with the bill.

**skip out on someone or something** Fig. to sneak away from someone or some event; to leave someone or an event suddenly or in secret. □ I heard that Bill skipped out on his wife. □ I’m not surprised. I thought he should have skipped out long ago.

**skip out with something** Fig. to leave and take something with one; to steal something. □ The hotel guest skipped out with the towels. □ Someone skipped out with the petty cash box.

**skip over someone or something** not to choose someone or something next in line. □ She skipped over me and chose the next one in line. □ I skipped over the red ones and took a blue one.

**skip rope** to jump over an arc of rope that is swung beneath one’s feet then over one’s head, repeatedly. □ The children skipped rope on the playground. □ The boxer skipped rope while training.

**skip through** something to go through a book or a stack of papers without dealing with every page. □ I skipped through the book, just looking at the pictures. □ Ted skipped through the report, not bothering to read it.

**skirmish with** someone or something to have a minor fight with someone, a group, or something. □ Tim skirmished a bit with his brother and then ran into the house. □ I don’t want to skirmish with the committee.

**skirt around** someone or something Fig. to move around and avoid someone or something. (Something can be a topic of conversation.) □ We talked the whole evening and managed to skirt around Fred. □ We had to skirt around the subject.

The **sky’s the limit.** Inf. there is no upper limit. □ I can afford it. The sky’s the limit. □ You can do anything you set your mind to, Billy. The sky’s the limit.

**slack off** 1. to taper off; to reduce gradually. □ Business tends to slack off during the winter months. □ The storms begin to slack off in April. 2. [for someone] to become lazy or inefficient. □ Near the end of the school year, Sally began to slack off, and her grades showed it. □ John got fired for slacking off during the busy season.

**slack up (on something)** and **slack off (on something)** to release the pressure or tension on something. (See also slack off.) □ Slack up on the rope a bit, will you? □ Please slack off!

**slam dunk** 1. Lit. [in basketball] a goal scored by shooting the ball down from above the rim. □ He was wide open and scored on an easy slam dunk. 2. Fig. an action or accomplishment that is easily done. □ Finishing that project with all his experience should be a slam dunk for George.

**slam into** someone or something to crash into someone or something. □ The race car—out of control—slammed into the stands. □ The bus slammed into a truck.

**slam someone or something down** to drive or strike someone or something downward. □ The wrestler slammed his opponent down hard. □ He slammed down his opponent and injured him.

**slam something down** to push on a vehicle’s brakes suddenly and hard. (The can be replaced by a possessive pronoun.) □ The driver in front of me slammed her brakes on and I nearly ran into her. □ Don’t slam on your brakes when the road is wet.

**slam the brakes on** to push on a vehicle’s brakes suddenly and hard. (The can be replaced by a possessive pronoun.) □ The driver in front of me slammed her brakes on and I nearly ran into her. □ Don’t slam on your brakes when the road is wet.

**slam the door in someone’s face** 1. Lit. to swing a door closed with force while someone is standing in the doorway. □ I didn’t know Todd was behind me and I accidentally slammed the door in his face. □ Please don’t slam the door in my face! 2. Fig. suddenly to withdraw an opportunity from someone. □ The events of the last week effectively slammed the door in my face for future employment. □ We slammed the door in Bill’s face since he was so rude when we interviewed him.

**slant against** something to rest obliquely against something. □ The bookcase slants against the wall, and it should be straight. □ The lumber was left slanted against the garage.

**slant something against** someone or something to bias something against someone or something; to twist information so it is against someone or something. □ The writer slanted the story against the innocent people of the
slant something toward someone or something

town. □ The reporter slanted her story against one political party.

slant something toward someone or something and slant something in favor of someone or something to bias something toward someone or something; to twist information so it favors someone or something. □ The writer slanted the story toward the plaintiff’s charges. □ The reporter slanted her story in favor of one political party.

slant toward someone or something to incline toward someone or something. □ The scenery slanted toward the actors and looked as if it would fall. □ Everything in your sketch slants toward the right.

slap against someone or something [for something] to flap or strike against someone or something. □ The flag kept slapping against Ed, making it hard for him to remain at attention. □ The awning slapped against the side of the house.

a slap in the face an insult; an act that causes disappointment or discouragement. □ Losing the election was a slap in the face for the club president. □ Failing to get into a good college was a slap in the face to Tim after his years of study.

*a slap on the wrist 1. Lit. a hit on the wrist as a mild punishment for putting one’s hands where they shouldn’t be or taking something. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ When Billy tried to grab another cookie, he got a slap on the wrist. 2. Fig. to get a light punishment (for doing something wrong). (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ He created quite a disturbance, but he only got a slap on the wrist from the judge. □ I thought I’d get a slap on the wrist for speeding, but I got fined $500.

slap someone down1 1. Lit. to cause someone to fall by striking with the open hand. □ She became enraged and slapped him down when he approached her again. □ Liz slapped down the insulting wretch. 2. Fig. to squelch someone; to rebuke or rebuff someone. □ I had a great idea, but the boss slapped me down. □ Don’t slap down people without hearing what they have to say.

slap someone in something Fig. Inf. to put or throw someone in jail or prison. □ The sheriff slapped the crooks in jail. □ Do you want me to slap you in jail?

slap someone on something to slap a particular part of someone. □ Gerald was always slapping his friends on the back. □ He slapped himself on the knee and laughed very loudly.

slap someone on the wrist and slap someone’s wrist 1. Lit. to strike someone’s wrist with the open hand, as a punishment. □ Aunt Maude slapped Tony on the wrist when he grabbed a couple of her freshly baked cookies. □ Tony was slapped on the wrist when he tried to swipe some cookies. 2. Fig. to administer only the mildest of punishments to someone. □ The judge did nothing but slap the mugger on the wrist.

slap something against someone or something to flap or strike something onto someone or something. □ The wind slapped the branches against Walter. □ The gusts from the storm slapped the shutters against the side of the house.

slap something down1 to strike downward with something flat in one’s hand. □ She slapped the dollar bill down in great anger and took her paper cup full of water away with her. □ Karen slapped down the money that the bailiff demanded.

slap something on1 1. Inf. to dress in something hastily. □ Henry slapped a shirt on and went out to say something to the garbage hauler. □ He slapped on a shirt and ran to the bus stop. 2. Go to slap something onto someone or something.

slap something on someone Inf. to serve someone with a legal paper or citation. □ The strange man came into the office and slapped a subpoena on Mary. □ I will slap a citation on you for speeding if you don’t stop arguing.

slap something onto someone or something and slap something on2 to place something onto someone or something by slapping. □ Tim slapped a sign onto Gary that said “kick me.” □ Tim came up to Gary’s back and slapped on a sign.

slap something together1. Go to throw something together1.

slash and burn 1. Lit. of a farming technique where vegetation is cut down and burned before crops are planted. (Hyphenated before nominals.) □ The small farmers’ slash-and-burn technique destroyed thousands of acres of forest. 2. Fig. of a crude and brash way of doing something. (Hyphenated before nominals.) □ The new manager’s method was strictly slash and burn. He looks decisive to his boss and merciless to the people he fires.

slash (out) at someone to thrust out at someone with a knife or something similar, with the intent of cutting. □ The attacker slashed out at his victim and then ran away. □ Max slashed at the cop with a pocketknife.

slate someone or something for something to schedule someone or something for something else; typically to bias something in favor of someone or something. □ They slated me for a trip to Columbia, Missouri, in August. □ Wally slated the meeting room for his presentation.

*slated for something scheduled for something. (As if a schedule had been written on a slate. *Typically: be ~; have someone ~.) □ John was slated for Friday’s game, but he couldn’t play with the team. □ Ann is slated for promotion next year.

*slated to do something scheduled to do something. (*Typically: be ~; have someone ~.) □ Mary is slated to go to Washington in the fall. □ We are slated to leave in November.

slave away (at something) Fig. to work very hard (doing something). □ I’m tired of slaving away at this and getting nowhere. □ I’m slaving away for $7.00 an hour and have no prospects for the future.

slave over something Fig. to stand over something, working at it very hard, typically cooking over a hot stove. □ I’ve been slaving over this hot stove for hours to cook this meat! □ Ted slaved over his special dessert for hours.

*a slave to something Fig. someone who is under the control of something; someone whose time or attention is controlled or “owned by” by something. (Fig. on being a slave to a person. *Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ Mary is a slave to her job. □ Bill is a slave to his drug addiction.

sled down something to ride down something on a sled. □ I love to sled down the hill in the winter. □ This hill is too steep to sled down safely.
sled over something to travel over something, such as snow, in a sled. □ We sledded rapidly over the fresh snow, scoo- ting down the hill. □ We wanted to sled over the new snow, but we had to wait until Uncle Herman had taken a picture of it for his scrapbook.

sleep around the clock to sleep for a full twenty-four hours; to sleep for a very long time. □ I was so tired I could have slept around the clock. □ When I got home, I lay down and slept around the clock.

sleep around (with someone) Inf. to have sex with several partners over time; to be promiscuous. □ They say she sleeps around with just anybody all the time. □ Yes, she sleeps around.

sleep in to oversleep; to sleep late in the morning. □ If you sleep in again, you'll get fired. □ I really felt like sleeping in this morning.

sleep in the buff Go to in the altogether.

sleep like a log and sleep like a baby to sleep very soundly. □ Everyone in our family sleeps like a log, so no one heard the thunderstorm in the middle of the night. □ Nothing can wake me up. I usually sleep like a baby.

sleep on to remain sleeping through something. □ Slide the lawn mower can slice you up if you get too close. □ The sharp blades sliced up Bobby's rubber ball.

sleep around (with someone) Inf. to copulate. □ My brother and I used to have to sleep together. □ Euph. to slide into something

sleep with someone 1. to share a bed with someone. □ Do I have to sleep with my little brother? □ Many little boys have to sleep with their brothers. 2. Euph. to copulate with someone. □ I hear Sam's sleeping with Sally now. □ Whom did you say he slept with?

a sleeping giant a great power that is still and waiting. □ The huge country to the south is a sleeping giant, waiting for its chance to become sufficiently industrialized to have real prosperity. □ The U.S. was a sleeping giant at the outbreak of both world wars.

slice in(to something) to cut into something, usually with a knife or something similar. □ Betty sliced into the cake and discovered it was chocolate all the way through. □ It wasn't until she sliced in that she found out what kind of cake it was.

a slice of the action Go to a piece (of the action).

a slice of the cake a share of something. □ There's not much work around and so everyone must be content with a slice of the cake. □ The company makes huge profits and the workers want a slice of the cake.

slice something off1 to remove something with slicing motions. □ Sue sliced the dead branches off with a tree saw. □ Karen sliced off a nice piece of turkey.

slice something off1 to cut something off with slicing motions. □ The chef sliced through the ham as if it were butter. □ The knife was too dull to slice through the tomato.

*slick as a whistle quickly and cleanly; quickly and skill- fully. (*Also: as ~.) □ Tom took a broom and a mop and cleaned the place up as slick as a whistle. □ Slick as a whistle, Sally pulled off the bandage.

slick something down1 to brush or comb down hair, usually with some sort of dressing or water. □ He used something gooey—grease or something—to slick his hair down. □ Please slick down your hair. You look a mess.

slick something up1 to tidy up something or some place. □ I have to slick this house up a little. □ Please slick up this room before company gets here.

slide along to slide or glide along. □ The sled slid along at a good clip down the gently sloping hill. □ We slid along on the icy roads and had a hard time stopping and turning.

slide around to slide or skid around. □ Many cars slide around on the roads when they are icy. □ The pedestrians were sliding around on the icy pavement.

slide by to try to slide by. □ She didn't do a lot of work—she just slid by. □ Don't just slide by. Put in some effort.

slide down from something to slide down from something from a higher place. □ Beth slid down from the top of the mound. □ The boys slid down from the roof of the shed and got their pants all dirty.

slide down something to slip down something, such as a pole. □ The fire captain slid down the pole and ran to the engine. □ Please don't slide down the stairs. You'll ruin the carpet.

slide into something to slip or glide into something, as a car going into a ditch. □ It was raining hard, and car after
car slid into the ditch at the sharp turn near Wagner Road.

**slide out of** something (to slip or glide out of something without much effort). Mary slid out of the car and ran to the front door. The CD-ROM slid out of the computer.

**slide over** something (to slip or glide over something). The car almost slid over the edge of the cliff. We almost slid over the edge.

**slide something around** (to push, twist, or turn something around). Please slide the carton around and look at the address on the other side. Can you slide the refrigerator around so I can clean the back of it?

**slide something into** something and **slide something in** (to insert something into something effortlessly). Henry slid the end of the seat-belt buckle into its holder and started the car. Slide in the buckle and make sure it's tight.

**slide something out of** something and **slide something out** (to cause something to slip or glide out of something without much effort). The hunter slid his knife out of its sheath and got ready to skin the deer. He slid out the heavy box.

**slightly rattled** (Inf. upset; confused). Tom was slightly rattled by the policeman at the door. I’m slightly rattled. I’ll get over it. (Inf. tipsy; intoxicated). He’s only slightly rattled. He’ll recover by morning. She can be really drunk and still seem only slightly rattled.

**slim chance** (a slight chance; a small chance). There is a slim chance that I will arrive on Monday, but Tuesday is more likely.

**slim down** (to become thinner; to lose weight). You have really slimmed down a lot since I last saw you. I need to eat less so I can slim down. He slimmed down quite a bit after he had his health problem.

**slim someone down** (to cause someone to lose weight). They started to slim her down in the hospital, but she gained the weight back as soon as she got out. The dietician slimmed down all the patients under his care.

**sling something at** someone or something (to heave or toss something at someone or something). The child slung a handful of mud at his playmate. Who slung this muddy mess at the side of the house?

**sling something out** (1. to toss or heave something outward). The fishermen slung their nets out into the water. They slung out their nets. 2. to throw something away. Just sling all that old junk out, if you will. Sling out that stuff into the trash!

**sling the cat** (Sl. to empty one’s stomach; to vomit). Suddenly Ralph left the room to sling the cat, I guess. That stuff will make you sling the cat.

**slink around** (to creep or slither around furtively). The cat slunk around, waiting for a chance to get at the bird. Don’t slink around like that. Someone is likely to take you for a robber.

**slink away** (to creep or slither away furtively). The fox slunk away, leaving the henhouse as quietly as such a thing is possible. I hope that the skunk will slink away as quietly as it came.

**slip in** (to something) (to creep into something). The cat slunk into the hallway and lay down in the middle of the floor. I left the door ajar and a cat slunk in.

**slip off** (to creep away furtively). Carl was embarrassed and tried to slink off, but the ushers spotted him. The boys slunk off from the picnic and smoked some cigarettes.

**slip out (of some place)** (to creep out of some place furtively). The fox slunk out of the henhouse just as the farmer came out. It slunk out and got away.

**slip around** (to slide or skid around). The pedestrian slipped around and finally fell on the ice. The dog slipped around on the ice and finally made it to shore.

**slip away** (1. and **slip off** (to go away or escape quietly or in secret; to slide out). I slipped away when no one was looking. Let’s slip off somewhere and have a little talk. I’ll try to slip out for an hour or two when Tom is asleep. 2. Euph. to die). Uncle Charles slipped away in his sleep last night.

**slip back** (to someone or something) (to move quietly and cautiously back to someone or something). Walter slipped back to Sally when her parents weren’t looking. He slipped back and then Mary’s parents slipped back, and there was quite a scene.

**slip between the cracks** (Fig. [for someone or something] to be forgotten or neglected. (Fig. on something being lost by falling between floorboards)). Where is Alice? I guess we neglected her and she slipped between the cracks. This issue seems to have slipped between the cracks and become forgotten.

**slip by** (1. and **slip by someone or something** (to move by someone or something quickly or unnoticed; to move through a tight area or past someone or something in a tight area). The hall was narrow, and I could hardly have slipped by. 2. [for time] to pass quickly or unnoticed. Goodness, almost an hour has slipped by! How time flies. The entire workday slipped by before I knew it.

**slip down** (to slide or glide downward). His socks kept slipping down. He lost so much weight that his pants almost slipped down.

**slip from** something (to fall away from something; to lose one’s step or grasp and fall from something). He slipped from the top step and fell down the other three. Ted slipped from the stool and fell on the floor.

**slip in** (some place) (to sneak or go into a place quietly and unnoticed). I think we can slip in the rear door unnoticed. We slipped in and crept up the stairs.

**slip in** (to something) (to slide or glide into something, such as clothing, a sleeping bag, a tight place, etc.). I don’t want to slide into a cold sleeping bag. How can I warm it up? I opened the bag and slipped in.

**Slip me five!** Go to Give me five! A **slip of the tongue** (an error in speaking in which a word is pronounced incorrectly, or in which the speaker says something unintentionally). I didn’t mean to tell her that. It was a slip of the tongue. I failed to understand the instructions because the speaker made a slip of the tongue at an important point.

**slip off** (Go to slip away.)
slip off ([of] someone or something) to fall away from or off someone or something. ([Of] is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The jacket slipped off of Sally, but she grabbed it before it hit the floor. □ She hung the jacket on the back of the chair, but it slipped off.

slip off (to some place) to sneak away to some place. □ Judy and Jeff slipped off to the movies unnoticed. □ They slipped off and no one saw them leave.

slip on something to step on and slide on something. □ Valerie slipped on a banana peel and hurt her back. □ Don’t slip on that wet spot on the floor!

slip one over on someone or something Go to slip something over on someone or something.

slip one’s mind [for something that was to be remembered] to be forgotten. □ I meant to go to the grocery store on the way home, but it slipped my mind. □ My birthday slipped my mind. I guess I wanted to forget it.

slip one’s trolley Sl. to become a little crazy; to lose one’s composure. □ I was afraid I would slip my trolley. □ He slipped his trolley and went totally bonkers.

slip out 1. [for someone] to exit quietly without bothering anyone. □ I slipped out during intermission. 2. [for information] to be spoken without realizing that it is secret or privileged. □ The secret about her divorce slipped out when we were discussing old friends.

slip out of something 1. to sneak out of a place unnoticed. □ Gloria slipped out of the theater at intermission. □ She slipped out and went home. 2. to slide out of an article of clothing. □ She slipped out of her dress and hung it neatly in the closet. □ Ted slipped out of his T-shirt and left it on the floor where it fell.

slip past someone or something to sneak or move past someone or something unnoticed. □ It is impossible to slip past the armed guards and metal detectors. □ Do you think I can slip past the doorway without being seen?

slip someone a Mickey to secretly put a Mickey Finn in someone’s alcoholic drink. (This drug either makes the victim ill or causes immediate diarrhea.) □ Somebody slipped Barlowe a Mickey and sent him into action. □ For a ten-spot, the bartender slipped Slim a Mickey.

slip someone five Sl. to shake someone’s hand. □ Billy slipped me five, and we sat down to discuss old times. □ Come on, man, slip me five!

slip someone or something past someone or something to cause someone or something to move past someone or something unnoticed; to manage to get something past the scrutiny of someone. □ I slipped another one of my friends past the usher into the theater. □ Do you think I can slip this sausage past the customs officers? □ I slipped a note past the guard.

slip something back 1. to pull or place something back. □ Alice slipped the gearshift lever back and away they went. □ She slipped back the gearshift and sped away. 2. to return something secretly. □ Someone took my wallet away and slipped it back later. □ The thief slipped back my wallet, but the money was gone.

slip something down 1 to slide something downward. □ I slipped my pants down a little so the doctor could give me a shot in what they call your “hip.” □ He slipped down his pants a little.

slip something into something and slip something into something to cause something to slide or glide into something. □ Max slipped the bullets into their chambers and got ready to fire. □ He slipped the bullets in silently.

slip something off to let an item of clothing slide off one’s body; to remove an item of clothing easily or casually. □ He slipped his coat off and put it on a chair. □ She slipped off her shoes and relaxed.

slip something on to put on an article of clothing, possibly in haste or casually. □ I will go in and slip my bathing suit on and join you in a minute. □ She slipped on her shoes and we left.

slip something over on someone or something and slip something over one over on someone or something; slip something over; slip one over to deceive someone. □ Are you trying to slip something over on me? □ I think he tried to slip one over on me.

slip something over someone or something to cause something to slide or glide over onto someone or something. □ Mother slipped the covers over Timmy and kissed him good night. □ Jane slipped the cover over the birdcage for the night.

slip something through (something) 1. Lit. to cause something to slide or glide through something. □ The nickel I dropped slipped through the crack in the floor. □ It rolled toward a crack in the floor and slipped through. 2. Fig. to get something approved without much fuss by a group of people, perhaps by deception. □ I will try to slip this through the committee. □ I can slip it through for you.

slip through someone’s fingers 1. Lit. to slide through and out of one’s grasp. □ The glass slipped through his fingers and crashed to the ground. □ The rope slipped through his fingers and followed the anchor to the bottom of the lake. 2. Fig. to escape from someone; to elude someone’s capture or control. □ The prisoner slipped through the sheriff’s fingers. □ Don’t let Max slip through your fingers again this time!

slip through something to slide or slither through something narrow or crowded. □ Gerald slipped through the narrow opening and got away. □ The dog slipped through the door and ran out into the street.

slip through the cracks Go to through the cracks.

slip up to make an error. □ I hope you don’t slip up again. Try to be more careful.

slip up on someone, something, or an animal to sneak up on someone, something, or an animal quietly. (See also slip up.) □ I slipped up on Harry and scared him to death. □ The cat slipped up on a mouse and grabbed it.

slip up on something to make an error in something. □ I guess I slipped up on that last job. □ Fred slipped up on compiling that list—there are a lot of names missing.

slip up something to climb something, slipping along the way. □ The hikers slipped up the wet slope. □ Ted slipped up the stairs, tracking mud and water as he went along.

slippery as an eel devious and untrustworthy, but impossible to catch. (*Also: as ~.*) □ Don’t sign a lease with that landlord; I think he’s as slippery as an eel. □ The con artist was slippery as an eel. Although he defrauded many people, he never went to prison.
a slippery customer 1. Fig. a clever and deceitful customer. □ Watch out for that guy with the big padded coat. He may snatch something. He’s a real slippery customer.
2. Fig. a slippery creature. □ This little fish is a slippery customer. Get me something to scoop it back into its bowl.

a slippery slope a dangerous pathway or route to follow; a route that leads to trouble. □ The matter of euthanasia is a slippery slope with both legal and moral considerations.

slither along to slink or crawl along. □ The snake slithered along, unmindful of our presence. □ A pair of otters slithered along playfully.

slither away to sneak or crawl away, like a snake. □ The little lizards slithered away soundlessly. □ The snake slithered away while Maggie was still screaming.

slob up SL. to eat. □ What time do you people slob up around here? □ Fred stopped slobbing up long enough to change the channel on the TV set.

slobber (all) over someone or something to drool on someone or something. (See also slobber over something.) □ The dog slobbered over the child. It was just being friendly. □ Jenny has slobbered all over her dress.

slobber over someone or something Fig. to drool with delight or eagerness at the thought of someone or something. (Based on slobber over something. See also slobber (all) over someone or something.) □ Fred was slobbering over Donna as she lay sunbathing in a tiny bikini. □ Jamie was slobbering over Mary’s new car.

slobber over something to drool with delight or eagerness before or while eating something. (See also slobber over someone or something.) □ The milk slobbered over the edge of the container. □ Slippery customer. Get me something to scoop it back into its bowl.

slosh through something to wade or trudge through something, such as mud or snow. □ Do I have to slog through the snow to go to school? Can’t you drive me? □ When I was your age, I slogged through snow twice this deep to get to school.

slosh around 1. [for a liquid] to rush or splash around in an enclosure or container. □ The milk sloshed around in the pitcher and splashed over a little bit. □ The fluid sloshed around, making a splashing sound.
2. to move or splash through a liquid, usually standing on one’s feet. □ Biff sloshed around in the wading pool. □ The kids have been sloshing around in puddles again.

slosh over [for a liquid] to splash over its container. □ The water in the wading pool sloshed over and made the grass slippery. □ Don’t fill the glass too full. It will slosh over.

slosh something (all) over someone or something to spill or splash a liquid over someone or something. □ Laura tripped and sloshed the grape juice all over Martha. □ Martin sloshed pancake batter over the side of the stove.

slosh something around to cause a liquid to rush or splash in a container. □ The chef sloshed the dressing around a few times and poured it on the salad. □ The chef sloshed around the dressing and poured it on the salad.

slosh something on(to) someone or something and slosh something on to spill or splash a liquid onto someone or something. □ Betsy sloshed the charcoal lighter fluid on Fred, and he went in to wash it off. □ Then she sloshed the fluid onto the charcoal. □ Slop on some more.

slosh through something [for a person] to wade or splash through something. □ The little kids sloshed through every puddle on their way home. □ We sloshed through the stream, ruining our shoes and soaking our cuffs.

slosh around to move around with a stooped or bent posture. (One may sloch because of age, illness, fatigue, depression, fear, or with the intention of not being observed.) □ She is sloching around because she is tired. □ Don’t you sloch around when you are tired?

slosh behind something to remain behind something, slouding with depression, fear, or the intent of not being observed. □ Jim sloshed behind a chair where no one could see him. □ A weary clerk sloshed behind the counter, wanting a nap more than anything else.

slosh down to slump or droop down. □ Don’t always slosh down, Timmy! Stand up straight. □ I slosh down because I am tired.
slouch down (in something) to sink or slouch down into something, trying to become less visible or more comfortable. □ Please don’t slouch down in your chair, Tim. □ He can’t sit in anything without slouching down.

slouch over to lean or crumple and fall to one side; [for someone] to collapse in a sitting position. □ He slouched over and went to sleep in his chair. □ When he slouched over, I thought something was wrong.

slough something off 1. Lit. to brush or rub something off. □ The snake sloughed its old skin off. □ It sloughed off its skin. 2. Fig. to ignore or disregard a negative remark or incident. □ I could see that the remark had hurt her feelings, but she just pretended to slough it off. □ Liz sloughed off the remark.

Slow and steady wins the race. Prov. If you work slowly but constantly, you will succeed better than if you work fast for a short while and do not continue. (Associated with Aesop’s fable of “The Tortoise and the Hare.”) □ Joy only had a little bit of time to spend sewing every day, but she worked steadily and soon had finished a beautiful quilt. Slow and steady wins the race.

slow but sure and slowly but surely slow but unstoppable. □ Bob’s progress on his novel was slow but sure. □ Nancy is finishing the paint job on her house, slowly but surely.

slow down to decrease speed; to go slower. □ Please slow down. You are going too fast.

slow going the rate of speed when one is making slow progress. □ It was slow going at first, but I was able to finish the project by the weekend. □ Getting the heavy rocks out of the field is slow going.

slow off the mark 1. Lit. slow in starting or reacting. (Compare this with quick off the mark.) □ If you are always that slow off the mark you will never win the race. □ Boy, you were slow off the mark there! 2. Fig. slow-witted. □ The guy’s slow off the mark but very friendly. □ Yes, I’m afraid Tony is a bit slow off the mark when it comes to trigonometry.

slow on the draw 1. Lit. slow in drawing a gun. (Cowboy and gangster talk.) □ Bill got shot because he’s so slow on the draw. □ The gunslinger said, “I have to be fast. If I’m slow on the draw, I’m dead.” 2. and slow on the uptake Fig. slow to figure something out; slow-thinking. □ Sally didn’t get the joke because she’s sort of slow on the draw. □ Bill—who’s slow on the uptake—didn’t get the joke until it was explained to him.

slow on the uptake Go to previous.

slow someone or something up 1 and slow someone or something down 1 to cause someone or something to reduce speed. □ I’m in a hurry. Don’t try to slow me down. □ Please slow up the train. There are sheep near the track.

a slow study a person who is slow to learn things. (Compare this to a slow study.) □ Fred, who is a slow study, never caught on to the joke.

slow up to go slower; to reduce speed in order for someone or something to catch up. □ Slow up a little! I can’t keep up with you! □ Please slow up. I can’t follow your lecture when you talk so fast.

slower and slower at a decreasing rate of speed; slow and then even slower. □ The car is going slower and slower and will stop soon. □ The dog’s breathing got slower and slower as it went to sleep.

slower than molasses in January Go to slow as molasses in January.

slowly but surely Go to slow but sure.

sluff (off) Sl. to waste time; to goof off. □ Watch him. He will sluff off if you don’t keep after him. □ He won’t stuff. I know I can trust him.

slug it out to fight something out; to argue intensely about something. □ They finally went outside to slug it out. □ We’ll just have to sit down in the conference room and slug it out.

sluice something down 1 to rinse something out; to flood the surface of something with water or other liquid to clean it. □ John sluiced the driveway down. □ Karen sluiced down the garage floor.

sluice something out 1 to rinse something out; to flood the inside of something to clean it. □ Sluice the wheelbarrow out, will you? □ Please sluice out the wheelbarrow.

slump down [for someone] to collapse and fall down; [for someone] to crumple. □ The shot hit Max and he slumped down. □ Suddenly, Mr. Wilson slumped down in pain.

slump down in(to) something [for someone] to bend down or collapse into something, such as a chair or bed. □ Gary grabbed at his chest and slumped down into the bed. □ He slumped down into the chair and draped himself over the arm.

slump over [for someone] to collapse and fall over forward in a sitting position. □ Just after the gunshot, Bruno slumped over and slid from his chair.

slur over something 1. Lit. to avoid saying difficult or crucial words by mumbling them; to speak over words unclearly. □ The speaker slurred over so many words that we didn’t know what she was saying. □ Unfortunately, Ted slurred over many of the important parts of his speech. 2. Fig. to avoid talking about or mentioning an issue. □ The mayor slurred over the major issue of the day. □ She slurred over the major problems.

slush up to become messy with slush. □ As the winter storm increases in intensity, the roads will slush up and become impassable. □ After an hour of snow and rain, the roads were so slushed up that we could not travel.

slut’s wool Go to curly dirt.

sly as a fox and cunning as a fox Cliché smart and clever. (Also: as ~.) □ My nephew is as sly as a fox. □ You have to be cunning as a fox to outwit me.

smack (dab) in the middle exactly in the middle. □ I came in smack dab in the middle of the play. □ I want a piece that is not too big and not too small—just smack in the middle.

a smack in the face Fig. something that will humiliate someone, often when it is considered deserved; an insult. □ Being rejected by Jane was a real smack in the face for
Tom, who thought she was fond of him. □ Meg thought she was the best-qualified candidate for the job, and not getting it was a smack in the face.

**smack of something** to be reminiscent of something; to imply something. □ The whole scheme smacked of dishonesty and deception. □ All of this story smacks of illegal practices.

**smack someone down** 1. Lit. to knock a person down or cause a person to retreat with a slap or a blow. □ He tried to touch her again and she smacked him down. □ She smacked down the rude fellow. 2. Fig. to rebuke someone. □ She smacked him down by telling him that he didn’t fit in there anymore. □ He has a way of smacking down people who ask stupid questions.

**smack something down** (on(to) something) to slap something down onto something. □ He smacked his bet down onto the table, angry with his mounting losses. □ Todd smacked down his hand on the table. □ She smacked her dollar down and grabbed up the newspaper.

**smack the road** sl. to leave; to hit the road. □ Time to smack the road! Let’s go! □ Let’s smack the road. I have to get up early.

**small change** Fig. an insignificant person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ Look, small change, why don’t you just move along? □ The guy you think is small change happens to own this building you seem to be guarding so well.

**small fortune** a rather sizeable amount of money. □ This set of wheels cost me a small fortune. □ I’ve got a small fortune tied up in test equipment.

**small fry** 1. Lit. newly hatched fish; small, juvenile fish. □ The catch was bad today. Nothing but small fry. 2. Fig. unimportant people. □ The police have only caught the small fry. The leader of the gang is still free. □ You people are just small fry! I want to talk to the boss. 3. Fig. children. □ Peter’s taking the small fry to the zoo. □ We should take the small fry to the pantomime.

the **small hours (of the night)** and the **wee hours (of the night)** the hours immediately after midnight. □ The dance went on into the small hours of the night. □ Jim goes to bed in the wee hours and gets up at lunchtime.

**small potatoes** something or someone insignificant; small fry. □ This contract is small potatoes, but it keeps us an important part of a document. □ You p eople don’t care; the police have only caught the small fry.

**small print** and **fine print** an important part of a document that is not easily noticed because of the smallness of the printing. □ You should have read the small print before signing the contract. □ You should always read the fine print of an insurance policy.

**Small things please small minds.** Go to Little things please little minds.

**smart ass** someone who makes wisecracks and acts cocky. (Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ Some smart ass came in here and asked for a sky hook. □ Don’t be such a smart ass!

**smart at something** to suffer the pains of something. □ Over an hour later she was still smarting at his cruel remarks. □ For many days Ted smarted at the scolding he got.

**smart from something** 1. Lit. to get a stinging pain from something. □ His arm smarted from many mosquito bites. □ Her legs smarted from the scratches she got from walking through the briars. 2. Fig. to suffer mental distress from something. □ She smarted from wounded vanity. □ He smarted for hours from the rude rebuff.

**smart guy** someone who acts cocky or rude. □ All right, smart guy, see if you like this one. □ Some smart guy put chewing gum on this bench.

**smart money** money belonging to smart or clever people. □ Most of the smart money is going into utility stocks right now. □ Watch and see what the smart money is doing.

**smart mouth** someone who makes wisecracks; a cocky person who speaks out of turn. □ Don’t be a smart mouth with me! □ Mr. Atkins is going to get a reputation as a smart mouth.

**smart under something** to suffer stinging pain under something. □ The sailor’s back smarted under the blows of the lash. □ Ted smarted under the lash for his wrongdoings.

**smarten up** to get smarter; to become more alert and knowing. □ You had better smarten up if you want to survive around here. □ I knew he would smarten up sooner or later.

a **smash hit** a play, movie, musical, etc., that is a big success. □ Her first book was a smash hit. The second was a disaster. □ A smash hit doesn’t always make people rich.

**smash into something** to crash into something; to bump or crash into something. □ Judy smashed into the coffee table and hurt her leg. □ The car smashed into the side of a bus and caused a lot of damage.

**smash out of something** to break [one’s way] out of something. □ The prisoner smashed out of his cell and ran. □ The horse smashed out of its stable.

**smash someone’s face in** 1. Fig. to crush someone’s face. □ The accident smashed Harry’s face in, and he had to have extensive surgery. □ The accident smashed in his face. 2. Inf. to strike someone in the face. □ You had better stop that or I will smash your face in. □ Max tried to smash in Lefty’s face.

**smash something in** 1 to crush something inward; to make something collapse inward by striking it. □ Andy gave one good kick and smashed the box in. □ Liz smashed in the window.

**smash something up** 1 to break something up; to destroy something. □ I hope the children don’t smash any of the good china up if we use it tonight. □ The driver fell asleep and smashed up the car.

**smash through something** to break [one’s way] through some sort of barrier. □ The fleeing car smashed through the police barrier. □ Max got angry and smashed through the office door.

a **smear campaign (against someone)** a campaign aimed at damaging someone’s reputation by making accusations and spreading rumors. □ The politician’s opponents are engaging in a smear campaign against him. □ Jack started a smear campaign against Tom so that Tom wouldn’t get the manager’s job.
**smear** someone or something with something 1. to spread or rub something or something with some substance. □ Billy smeared Bobby with mud and made him very angry. □ You should smear that burn with lotion. □ He smeared himself with grease and ruined his shirt. 2. to damage the reputation of someone or something by spreading serious charges or rumors. □ He smeared his opponent with all sorts of charges. □ The speaker smeared the entire city with his criticism.

**smear** something on(to) someone or something and **smear** something on to spread or rub something onto someone or something. □ Judy asked Jeff to smear the sun lotion onto her, and he was very happy to do so. □ She smeared on the lotion. □ Jane smeared a little on.

**smell** a rat to suspect that something is wrong; to sense that someone has caused something wrong. □ I don't think this was an accident. I smell a rat. □ Bob had something to do with this. □ The minute I came in, I smelled a rat. Sure enough, I had been robbed.

**smell blood** Fig. to be ready for a fight; to be ready to attack; to be ready to act. (Like sharks, which are sent into a frenzy by the smell of blood.) □ Lefty was surrounded, and you could tell that the guys from the other gang smelled blood. □ The lawyer heard the crash and came running—smelling blood and bucks.

**smell fishy** to seem suspicious. □ Barlowe squinted a bit. Something smells fishy here, he thought. □ Something about the deal smelled fishy—too good to be true.

**smell like a rose** Fig. to seem innocent. □ I came out of the whole mess smelling like a rose, even though I caused all the trouble. □ The politician survived the scandal smelling like a rose, but I knew different.

**smell of something** to have the smell of something; to smell like something. □ This house smells of onions. □ Her cooking always smells of entirely too much garlic.

**smell something, or an animal out of something** to locate someone, something, or an animal by smelling or as if by smelling. □ The dog smelled the crook out from the place in the alley where he was hiding. □ The dog smelled out the raccoon.

**smell something up** to cause a bad or strong odor in a place or on someone. □ You cooking sure smelled this place up! □ The spoiled meat really smelled up the house!

**smell to (high) heaven** 1. Go to stink to high heaven. 2. Fig. to give signals that cause suspicion. □ This deal is messed up. It smells to high heaven. □ Something's wrong here. Somebody blabbed. This setup smells to high heaven.

**smile at** someone to make a smiling face at someone. □ I love the way you smile at me. □ I am glad you smile at me occasionally.

**smile on** someone or something to be favorable to someone or something. □ Fate smiled on me and I got the job. □ Lady luck smiled on our venture and we made a profit.

**smile (up) on** someone or something to bestow approval on someone or something. (Up on is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ Fate has smiled upon me at last! □ I wish good luck would smile on me.

**Smile when you say that.** Inf. I will interpret that remark as a joke or as kidding. □ John: You're a real pain in the neck. Bob: Smile when you say that. □ Sue: I'm going to hop you on the head! John: Smile when you say that!

**smiling like a Cheshire cat** Fig. smiling very broadly. (Alludes to a grinning cat in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.) □ There he stood, smiling like a Cheshire cat, waiting for his weekly pay.

**smirk at** someone or something to smile in a smug or sneering way at someone or something. □ Why are you smirking at me like that? □ Jane looked at the report and smirked at it.

**smite** someone with something to strike someone with something. (Literary or biblical.) □ The silver knight approached the black knight and smote him with his sword. □ Please go and smite the dragon with your sword.

**smoke and mirrors** deception and confusion. (Said of statements or more complicated rhetoric used to mislead people rather than inform. Alludes to the way a magician uses optical illusion to create believability while performing a trick. Fixed order.) □ Most people know that the politician was just using smoke and mirrors to make things look better than they really were. □ Her report was little more than smoke and mirrors. No one will believe any of it.

**smoke like a chimney** to smoke a great deal of tobacco or other smokable substances. □ My uncle smoked like a chimney when he was living. □ Somebody who smokes like a chimney in a restaurant ought to be thrown out.

**smoke something, or an animal out of something** and **smoke** someone, something, or an animal out of someone 1. Lit. to force someone, something, or an animal out of something or a place, using smoke. □ The police used tear gas to smoke the kidnappers out of the house. □ They smoked out the crooks. 2. Fig. to drive someone or something out into public view, as if using smoke or something similar. □ What will it take to smoke these crooks out of government? □ We will smoke out the corrupt officials yet.

**smoke something up** to cause something or a place to become smoky. □ Get out of here with that cigarette! I don't want you smoking my house up! □ The burning beans sure smoked up the house.

**smoke-filled room** a room where a small group of people make important decisions. (Usually used in reference to political parties.) □ The smoke-filled rooms are still producing the candidates for most offices, despite all the political reforms. □ The deal was cut in a smoke-filled room.

**smoking gun** Fig. the indisputable sign of guilt. (Fig. on a murderer being caught just after shooting the victim.) □ Mr. South was left holding the smoking gun. □ The chief of staff decided that the the aide should be found with the smoking gun.

**smooth as glass** and **smooth as silk** Cliché smooth and shiny. (Often used to describe calm bodies of water. *Also: as ~*) □ The bay is as smooth as glass, so we should have a pleasant boat trip. □ This custard is smooth as silk.

**smooth as silk** Go to previous.

**smooth sailing** Go to clear sailing.

**smooth something away** to remove something, such as wrinkles or other unevenness, by pressing or smoothing. □ Jeff put the cloth on the table and smoothed the wrinkles away with his hand. □ Jeff smoothed away the wrinkles.
**smooth** something **back**\(^1\) to flatten and position something by pressing or smoothing. □ He smoothed his hair back out of his eyes. □ Jeff smoothed back his hair.

**smooth** something **down**\(^1\) to make something flat or smooth by pressing. □ She smoothed her skirt down, fluffed her hair, and went into the boardroom. □ Karen smoothed down the bedclothes.

**smooth** something **onto** someone or something and **smooth** something **on**\(^1\) to spread or flatten something onto someone or something. □ Ted smoothed the suntan lotion onto Alice, who lay on a towel in the sand. □ He smoothed on some lotion.

**smooth** something **out**\(^1\) 1. Lit. to flatten or even something by smoothing or pressing. □ Wally smoothed the bedspread out. □ Wally finished making the bed by smoothing out the spread. 2. Fig. to polish and refine something. □ The editor smoothed John's style out. □ You need to smooth out your delivery when you are speaking. 3. and **smooth** something **over**\(^2\) Fig. to reduce the intensity of an argument or a misunderstanding; to try to make people feel better about something disagreeable that has happened. (Fig. on 1.) □ Mary and John had a terrible argument, and they are both trying to smooth it over. □ Let's get everyone together and try to smooth things out. We can't keep on arguing with one another. □ We can smooth over the whole affair.

**smother** someone or something **with** something 1. Lit. to suffocate someone or something with something. □ The villain tried to smother his victim with a pillow. □ Fred tried to smother the cat with a plastic bag. 2. Fig. to cover someone or something with something. (An exaggeration.) □ She smothered him with kisses. □ Aunt Margaret smothered us with the ruffles on the front of her dress when she hugged us.

**smuggle** someone or something **across** something to move someone or something across a border illegally and in secret. □ The terrorists smuggled one of their number across the border last night. □ Larry helped smuggle contraband across the border.

**smuggle** someone or something **into** some place and **smuggle** someone or something **in**\(^1\) to move someone or something across a border into a place illegally and in secret. □ The secret agent smuggled his family into the country and then defected. □ He smuggled in his family.

**smuggle** someone or something **out of** some place and **smuggle** someone or something **out**\(^1\) to move someone or something across a border out of a place illegally and in secret. □ Judy smuggled her cousin out of the country in a van. □ She smuggled out her cousin.

**smuggle** someone or something **past** (someone or something) to move something past a guard or monitor illegally and in secret. □ We failed in our attempt to smuggle Mary past the border. □ It is easy to smuggle wine past the border guards.

**smuggle** someone or something **through** (something) to move something through a guard post or other barrier illegally and in secret. □ The officers smuggled the child through the barrier so he could be with his mother. □ We smuggled some other goods through, too.

**snack** off (of) something to eat food, bit by bit, in little snacks. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Please don't snack off the turkey so we can get another meal out of it. □ Who has been snacking off of last night's roast beef?

**snake** along to move along in a curving line, looking like a snake; to move along in a line, moving as a snake moves. □ The train snaked along, gaining speed as it went downhill. □ The line of people waiting to buy tickets snaked along slowly.

**snake** in the grass a sneaky and despised person. □ How could I ever have trusted that snake in the grass? □ John is such a snake in the grass.

**snakebite** medicine Inf. inferior whiskey; strong whiskey; homemade whiskey. □ That old-time snakebite medicine is good for what ails you. □ Snakebite medicine is a tremendous protection against snakebites if you can get the snake to drink the stuff before it bites you.

**snap** at someone to speak sharply or angrily to someone. (Based on **snap at** someone or something.) □ Don't snap at me. What did I do? □ Why did you snap at me? I did nothing wrong.

**snap** at something to bite at someone or something. (See also **snap at** someone or something.) □ The dog snapped at the chicken and finally snapped back at Tex's hand.

**snap** back (after something) to return to normal after an accident or similar event. □ He is upset now, but he will snap back after things settle down. □ Things will snap back in no time at all.

**snap** back (at someone) to give a sharp or angry response to someone. □ The telephone operator, unlike in the good old days, snapped back at the caller. □ Please don't snap back. I've had a bad day.

**snap** back (on someone or something) [for something] to be jerked back onto someone or something. □ The branch snapped back on Tim and left a welt on his arm. □ The whip snapped back and stung Tex's hand.

**snap** into something [for something] to be put or fit into an opening with an audible snap. □ The larger edge of the card snaps into the slot at the base. □ This part snaps right into the other part.

**Snap** it up! Inf. **Hurry up!** □ John: Come on, Fred. Snap it up! Fred: I'm hurry ing! I'm hurry ing! □ Sally: Snap it up! You're going to make us late. John: That's exactly what I had in mind.

**snap** one's **cookies** Sl. to vomit; to regurgitate. □ I think I'm gonna snap my cookies. □ Some jerk snapped his cookies on the sidewalk.

**snap** out of something Fig. to become suddenly freed from a condition. (The condition can be a depression, an illness, unconsciousness, etc.) □ I was very depressed for a week, but this morning I snapped out of it. □ It isn't often that a cold gets me down. Usually I can snap out of it quickly.

**snap** someone's **head** off Fig. to speak very sharply to someone. (Based on **snap at** someone.) □ How rude! Don't
snap my head off! □ Mary snapped Ted's head off because he had come in late.

**snap** something back¹ to cause something to jerk back. □ The force of the crash snapped his head back and injured his neck. □ The crash snapped back his head.

**snap** something into something and **snap** something in¹ to put or press something into something with an audible snap. □ Next, you snap this little part into this slot here. □ Snap in these legs then tighten the screws.

**snap** something off¹ to break off something brittle. □ Liz snapped a bit of the rock off and put it in her bag. □ Carl snapped off a piece of the candy and gave it to Timmy.

**snap** something on¹ to attach something to something else, causing an audible snap. □ Dawn took two pills from the bottle and snapped the lid on. □ She snapped on the lid.

**snap** something out of something and **snap** something out¹ to remove something from something, causing an audible snap. □ Jeff snapped the plastic plug out of the socket. □ He snapped out the plug.

**snap** something up¹ 1. Lit. to grasp something quickly. □ Karen snapped her pencil up and strode out of the room. □ Harry walked through the kitchen and snapped up two cookies on the way. 2. Fig. to purchase something quickly, because the price is low or because the item is so hard to find. (Fig. on ①.) □ We put the cheap shirts out for sale this morning and people snapped them up in only a few minutes. □ They snapped up the bargains quickly. 3. Fig. to believe something eagerly; to believe a lie readily. □ They are so gullible that you can say anything and they'll snap it up. □ They will snap up anything that sounds good.

**snap to (attention)** Fig. to move quickly to military attention. □ The troops snapped to attention when they saw the general appear. □ Snap to when I tell you!

**Snap to it!** Inf. Move faster! Look alert! □ Bill: Snap to it! Mary: Don't rush me! □ John: Get in line there. Snap to it! Sally: What is this, the army? You just wait till I'm ready!

**snarl** at someone, something, or an animal to growl at someone, something, or an animal angrily and threateningly. □ The dog snarled at everyone who passed by. □ Our dog used to sit in front of the washing machine and snarl at it.

**snarl** someone or something up¹ to tangle someone or something; to mess something up. □ The wind snarled my hair up terribly. □ The wind snarled up my hair.

**snarl** something out¹ to utter something by snarling or growling. □ Lefty snarled a naughty word out at the police. □ Walt the pickpocket snarled out a curse as the cop grabbed his coat collar.

**snatch** at someone or something to grasp at someone or something. □ The mugger snatched at Jane just as she sprayed Mace on him. □ He snatched at the Mace, but it was too late.

**snatch** someone from the jaws of death Go to snatch someone out of the jaws of death.

**snatch** someone or something (away) from someone or something to grab and take someone or something from someone or something. □ The mother snatched her child away from the doctor and fled. □ She snatched the candy from the child.

**snatch** someone out of the jaws of death and **snatch** someone from the jaws of death Fig. to save someone from almost certain or imminent death. □ The soldier snatched the tiny child from the jaws of death.

**snatch** something out of something to grab something out of something. □ The police officer snatched the gun out of Don's hand. □ Mary snatched the piece of chicken out of the fire as soon as it fell in.

**snatch** something up¹ 1. Lit. to grasp something and lift it up. □ Tom snatched the last cookie up and popped it into his mouth. □ He snatched up the last piece of cake. 2. Fig. to collect or acquire as many of something as possible. □ The shoppers snatched the sale merchandise up very quickly. □ The shoppers snatched up the sale merchandise very quickly.

**snatch victory from the jaws of defeat** Cliché to win at the last moment. □ At the last moment, the team snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with a last-second full-court basket.

**snazz** something up¹ Sl. to make something classy or exciting. □ Come on, let's try to snazz this up. □ What can I do to snazz up my face?

**sneak around** (some place) to move about in a place in a sneaky or stealthy fashion. □ Please don't sneak around the house. It makes me nervous. □ Please stop sneaking around!

**sneak around** someone or something 1. Lit. to creep around or past someone or something. □ The cat snuck around and ran out the door. □ We had to sneak around the corner so we wouldn't be seen. 2. Fig. to circumvent the control or censorship of someone or some group. □ I think we can sneak around the board of directors and authorize this project ourselves. □ Yes, let’s sneak around the board.

**sneak away** (from some place) to go away from a place quietly and in secret. □ Jeff tried to sneak away from the party, but Judy saw him. □ They sneaked away together.

**sneak in(to some place)** to enter a place quietly and in secret, perhaps without a ticket or permission. □ The kids tried to sneak into the rock concert, but they were stopped by the guards. □ Never try to sneak in. Sometimes they arrest you for trespassing.

**sneak out** (of some place) to go out of a place quietly and in secret. □ I sneaked out of the meeting, hoping no one would notice. □ Jamie saw me and sneaked out with me.

**sneak up** on someone or something to approach someone or something quietly and in secret. □ Please don't sneak up on me like that. □ I sneaked up on the cake, hoping no one would see me. Someone did.

**sneak up to someone or something** to move close to someone or something quietly and in secret. □ I sneaked up to Don and scared him to death. □ Don sneaked up to the punch bowl and helped himself before the party began.

**sneer at someone or something** to make a haughty or deprecating face at someone or something; to show one's contempt for someone or something. □ I asked her politely to give me some more room, and she just sneered at me. □ Jamie sneered at the report that Ken had submitted.

**sneeze at someone** to sneeze in someone's direction. □ Please don't sneeze at me! Cover your nose and mouth! □ You should never sneeze at anyone. It is very bad manners.
**sneeze at something** Fig. to indicate one’s disapproval of something; to belittle someone or something. □ I wouldn’t sneeze at that amount of money if I were you. It’s better than nothing. □ I thought it was a good offer, but the customer just sneezed at it.

**sneeze into something** to aim a sneeze into something. □ You should always sneeze into a handkerchief. □ Please sneeze into a tissue or something.

**sneeze on someone or something** to aim a sneeze onto someone or something, probably by accident. □ Don’t sneeze on me! □ Don’t sneeze on anything. Cover your nose and mouth!

**sniff at someone or something 1.** Lit. to try to get the smell of someone or something by smelling. □ The dog sniffed at the visitor. □ The cat sniffed at almost every inch of the rug that the dog had walked on. **2.** Fig. to show one’s disapproval of someone or something by sniffing. (Sometimes this is figurative, the “sniffing” being expressed by tone of voice or gesture.) □ I made one suggestion, but Claire just sniffed at me. □ Gale just sniffed at the idea and would say nothing.

**sniff someone or something out** to locate someone or something by sniffing or as if by sniffing. □ The dog sniffed the intruder out and the police captured him. □ The dog sniffed out the mole in the lawn.

**snip something off** Go to sniff something off (of) something.

**snip something off** (of) something and **snip something off** to cut something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ She snipped a dead blossom off the rosebush. □ Jane snipped off a bud.

**snipe at someone or something 1.** Lit. to fire a weapon at someone or something from a concealed position. □ Someone with a rifle sniped at the troops as they went through the jungle. □ A rifleman was busy sniping at the platoon. □ Fig. to make petty complaints attacking someone or something. □ Stop sniping at me and everything I do. □ Ken is always sniping at my reports.

**snipe on someone or something** to tattle on someone or something.

**snoop around (something)** to look around in a place, trying to find out something secret or about someone else’s affairs. □ Why are you snooping around my house? □ I am not snooping around.

**snoop into something** to pry into something or someone else’s affairs. □ I wish you would stop snooping into my business! □ Whose affairs are they snooping into now?

**snort at someone or something** to show one’s displeasure with someone or something by snorting. □ The customer snorted at the waiter for his surliness. □ The customer snorted at the prices and walked out.

**snotnose(d) (kid)** *Inf.* a young child; a relatively young person. (Derogatory. Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ Some little snotnose swiped my wallet. □ A little snotnosed kid came in and asked for money.

**snow bunny 1.** someone learning to ski. □ This little slope is for snow bunnies. □ Most of the snow bunnies come here to socialize. **2.** a young, attractive female at a skiing lodge. □ Some cute little snow bunny came over and sat beside me.

**This place is swarming with snow bunnies who have never even seen a ski.**

**snow job** a systematic deception; a deceptive story that tries to hide the truth. □ You can generally tell when a student is trying to do a snow job. □ This snow job you call an explanation just won’t do.

**snow someone or something in** [for heavy snowfall] to block someone or something in a place. □ The sudden storm snowed us in. □ The storm snowed in most of the people in town.

**snow someone or something under with something and snow someone or something under** to burden someone or something with something. (Usually too much work.) □ The busy season snowed us all under with too much work. □ The heavy workload snowed under the office staff.

**snowball into something** Fig. [for something] to become larger or more serious by growing like a snowball being rolled. □ This whole problem is snowballing into a crisis very rapidly. □ The argument soon snowballed into a full-blown riot.

**snowed in** trapped (somewhere) because of too much snow. □ The snow was so deep that we were snowed in for three days. □ Being snowed in is no problem if you have enough food.

**snowed under** overworked; exceptionally busy. □ Look, I’m really snowed under at the moment. Can this wait? □ He really has been snowed under with work.

**snuff someone out** Sl. to kill someone. □ Max really wanted to snuff the eyewitness out, once and for all. □ Lefty wanted to snuff out his partner.

**snuff something out** to extinguish something, such as a flame. □ She snuffed out the candles and went to bed. □ Karen snuffed out the flames one by one.

*snow as a bug in a rug* *Cliché* wrapped up tight, warm, and comfortable. (Playful; often used when addressing a child. *Also: as ~.*) □ The bedroom in Aunt Jane’s house was cold, but after she wrapped me up in four or five quilts and put a stocking cap on my head, I was snug as a bug in a rug and ready to go to sleep. □ Alan: Are you warm enough? Jane: Yes, I’m as snug as a bug in a rug.

**snug down (some place)** to become comfortable and warm in a place. □ The cat snuggled down at the foot of the bed. □ Finally the children snuggled down and we could go to sleep.

**snuggle down (into something)** to nestle into something, such as a warm bed. □ Toby snuggled down into his nice warm bed. □ He got into bed and snuggled down.

**snuggle down (with someone)** to nestle [into something] with someone else. □ Billy snuggled down with his sister in the big feather bed. □ They snuggled down and went to sleep.

**snuggle down (with something)** to nestle [into something] with something, such as a blanket, doll, book, etc. □ The baby snuggled down with her blanket and was asleep in no time. □ Sally grabbed onto her favorite doll and snuggled down for the night.

**snuggle (up) against someone or something** to press or cuddle against someone or something, as if to keep warm. □ Tiffany snuggled up against Tad and asked him to give
her some chewing gum. □ He snuggled against the warm wall on the other side of the fireplace.

**snuggle up (to someone or something)** to cuddle up close to someone or something. □ Kelly snuggled up to Jeff. □ She snuggled up and said she wanted him to go pick up a pizza.

**so bad one can taste it** Fig. very much, indeed. (Typically: need ~; want ~; have to do something ~.) □ I want that car so bad I can taste it. □ He had to get to Philadelphia so bad he could taste it.

**So be it.** This is the way it will be. □ If you insist on running off and marrying her, so be it. Only don’t say I didn’t warn you! □ Mary has decided that this is what she wants. So be it.

**so clean you could eat off the floor** [of a room or a house] very clean. □ Her kitchen is so clean you could eat off the floor! □ It’s so clean here you could eat off the floor. I prefer a little mess, myself.

**so cold you could hang meat** Fig. very cold; as cold as a meat storage locker. □ Lord it was cold there! So cold you could hang meat. □ A: How cold was it? B: So cold you could hang meat.


**so far as** anyone knows Go to as far as anyone knows.

**so far as** someone is concerned Go to as far as someone is concerned.

**so far as** something is concerned Go to as far as something is concerned.

**So far, so good.** All is going well so far. □ We are half finished with our project. So far, so good. □ The operation is proceeding quite nicely—so far, so good.

**So gross!** Slang. How disgusting! □ He put chocolate syrup on his pie! So gross! □ He’s barfing! So gross!

**So help me, (God)!** I will do it. I really will, so help me, God!

**So it goes.** Inf. That is the kind of thing that happens.; That is life. □ Too bad about John and his problems. So it goes. □ I just lost a twenty-dollar bill, and I can’t find it anywhere. So it goes.

**So long.** Good-bye. □ So long, see ya later. □ It’s been good talking to you. So long.

**so long as** Go to as long as.

**so mad I could scream** very mad. □ I am just so mad I could scream! Why is he such a jerk? □ She makes me so mad I could scream.

**So many countries, so many customs.** Prov. People in different countries have different ways of behaving. □ In the last place I visited, it was considered rude to put your hands on the table at dinner, but here, it’s rude to keep them under the table. So many countries, so many customs.

**so much for someone or something** that is the last of someone or something; there is no need to consider someone or something anymore. □ It just started raining. So much for our picnic this afternoon. □ So much for John. He just called in sick and can’t come to work today.

**So much for that.** That is the end of that.; We will not be dealing with that anymore. □ John tossed the stub of a pencil into the trash. “So much for that,” he muttered, fishing through his drawer for another. □ Mother: Here, try some carrots. Child (brushing the spoon aside): No! No! Mother: Well, so much for that.

**so much the better** even better; all to the better. □ Please come to the picnic. If you can bring a salad, so much the better. □ The flowers look lovely on the shelf. It would be so much the better if you put them on the table.

**so quiet you could hear a pin drop** Go to so still you could hear a pin drop.

**So’s your old man!** Inf. The same to you! Drop dead! (Old. A catch phrase indicating basic disagreement or hostility.) □ Bill: You’re acting like an idiot! Tom: So’s your old man! □ I don’t know what you said, but so’s your old man!

**so soon** early; before the regular time; ahead of schedule. □ I got there early because my bus arrived so soon. □ Because the meeting ended so soon, I had some extra time.

**so still you could hear a pin drop** and so quiet you could hear a pin drop Fig. very quiet. (Also with can.) □ When I came into the room, it was so still you could hear a pin drop. Then everyone shouted, “Happy birthday!” □ Please be quiet. Be so quiet you can hear a pin drop.

**So, sue me.** If you are so angry, why don’t go ahead and sue me. (A rude way of brushing off an angry person.) □ A: You ran into my car! You didn’t even look where you were going! B: So, sue me.

**so to speak** as one might say; said a certain way, even though the words are not exactly accurate. □ John helps me with my taxes. He’s my accountant, so to speak. □ I just love my little poodle. She’s my baby, so to speak.

**So (what)?** Inf. Why does that matter? (Can be considered rude.) □ Bob: Your attitude always seems to lack sincerity. Mary: So what? □ John: Your car sure is dusty. Sue: So? (Old. A catch phrase indicating basic disagreement or hostility.) □ A: What else is new? Bob: Your car sure is dusty. Sue: So?

**Soak in (to something)** [for moisture] to penetrate something. □ The rain soaked into the parched ground as fast as it fell. □ I’m glad it soaked in. I was afraid it would run off.

**soak one’s face** slang. to drink heavily. □ They’re down at the tavern soaking their faces. □ Well, I guess I’ll go soak my face in a few beers.

**soak someone or something with something** to get someone or something thoroughly wet with some liquid. □ The rain soaked us all with icy cold drops of water. □ The storm soaked the land with much-needed moisture.

**soak someone to the skin** [for water, rain, or other liquid] to work its way through someone’s clothing to the skin. □ The storm soaked us all to the skin. □ She soaked herself to the skin in the storm.

**soak something in something** to leave something immersed in a liquid, intending for it to be absorbed. □ Soak your feet in Epsom salts to make them feel better. □ I had to soak my elbow in ice water to take down the swelling.
soak something off (of) something and soak something off† to remove something, such as a label or surface soil, from something by soaking in a liquid. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) She soaked the labels off the bottles and jars. Please soak off the label.

soak something out of something and soak something out† to remove something, such as a stain, from something by soaking in a liquid. Dan soaked the stain out of his shirt and then washed it. Dan soaked out the stain.

soak something up1 1. Lit. to gather up moisture or a liquid, using an absorbent cloth, paper, etc. Alice soaked the spill up with a sponge. She soaked up the spilled milk.

2. Lit. [for cloth, paper, or other absorbent material] to absorb moisture or a liquid. Please get some paper towels to soak the spill up. The sponge soaked up the orange juice. Fig. to learn or absorb some information; to learn much information. I can't soak up information as fast as I used to be able to. The tourists will soak up anything you tell them.

soak through something [for liquid] to work its way through something, such as cloth or paper. Please wipe up that mess before it soaks through the tablecloth. It's too late. The grape juice has soaked through the carpet into the mat.

soaked to the skin wet clear through one's clothing to the skin. I was caught in the rain and got soaked to the skin. Oh, come in and dry off! You must be soaked to the skin.

so-and-so a despised person. (This expression is used in place of other very insulting terms. Often modified, as in the examples.) You dirty so-and-so! I can't stand you! Don't you call me a so-and-so, you creep!

soap someone or something down† to cover someone or something thoroughly with soap or suds. Mother soaped Timmy down and rinsed him off in warm water. She soaped down the floor.

sob one's heart out Go to cry one's heart out.

sob oneself to sleep to cry until one falls asleep. He sobbed himself to sleep for days after his grandpa died. The child sobbed himself to sleep night after night.

sob something out† to speak something out while sobbing. Wally sobbed his story out while the police made notes. He sobbed out his sad tale.

sob something to someone to cry and tell one's troubles to someone. He is always sobbing his sad tale to anyone who will listen. Timmy sobbed his story to the teacher.

sob story Fig. a sad story that is likely to draw tears. I've heard nothing but sob stories today. Isn't anybody happy? She had quite a sob story, and I listened to the whole thing.

*sober as a judge 1. Cliché very formal, somber, or stuffy. (Also: as ~.) You certainly look gloomy, Bill. You're sober as a judge. Tom's as sober as a judge. I think he's angry. 2. Cliché not drunk; alert and completely sober. (Also: as ~.) John's drunk? No, he's as sober as a judge. You should be sober as a judge when you drive a car.

sober someone up1 1. Lit. to take actions that will cause a drunken person to become sober. Some coffee ought to sober him up. He tried to sober himself up because he had to drive home. They tried to sober up the guys who had been out all night. 2. Fig. to cause someone to face reality. The harsh reality of what had happened sobered him up immediately. The arrival of the police sobered up all the revelers.

sober up to recover from alcohol or drug intoxication. Barlow had one hour to sober up and get to the station. It took him a while to sober up.

sock it to someone 1. to punch someone; to punch one's fist at someone. Max really socked it to Lefty! Lefty socked it to Roger and knocked him down. 2. to tell bad news to someone in a straightforward manner. I can take it. Sock it to me! I don't care how bad it seems. Sock it to me!

sock someone or something in† [for fog] to cause someone or something to remain in place. The heavy fog socked us in for six hours. The fog socked in the airport for an hour.

sock something away† to place something, such as money, into reserve; to store something in a secure place. I tried to sock a little money away each month for my vacation. I will sock away some money.

socked in fogged in. The airport was completely socked in. We couldn't take off because we were socked in.

A soft answer turneth away wrath. Prov. If you speak softly and meekly to someone who is angry with you, that person will calm down. (Biblical.) It won't do any good for you to yell at John because he yelled at you. Remember that a soft answer turneth away wrath.

soft as a baby's backside Go to next.

*soft as a baby's bottom and soft as a baby's backside; *soft as down; *soft as silk; *soft as velvet Cliché very soft and smooth to the touch. (Also: as ~.) This cloth is as soft as a baby's bottom. The kitten's fur was as soft as down. Your touch is soft as silk. This lotion will make your skin soft as velvet.

soft as down Go to previous.

soft as silk Go to soft as a baby's bottom.

soft as velvet Go to soft as a baby's bottom.

soft in the head flattering talk; sweet talk. You're soft in the head if you think I'll go along with that.

soft money and easy money money obtained without much effort. Don't become dependent on soft money. In college he got spoiled by soft money—a check from his parents every week.

*soft on someone 1. Fig. romantically attracted to someone. (Typically: be ~; get ~.) Fred is soft on Martha, I've heard. He looked like he was getting a little soft on Sally. 2. Fig. not severe enough on someone; too easy on someone or a class of people. (Typically: be ~; get ~; grow ~.) The judge was viewed as being too soft on drug pushers. The cops are soft on speeders in this town.

soft sell a polite attempt to sell something; a very gentle sales pitch. Some people won't bother listening to a soft sell. You gotta let them know you believe in what you are selling. I tried the soft sell, but that didn't work.

soft soap 1. flattering talk; sweet talk. I don't mind a little soft soap. It won't affect what I decide, though. Don't waste my time with soft soap. I know you don't mean it. 2. (Usually soft-soap.) to attempt to convince someone
solid as a rock Cliché very solid; dependable. (*Also: as ~.) □ Jean has been lifting weights every day, and her arm muscles are solid as a rock. □ This company has always built power tools that are as solid as a rock.

soft touch 1. a gentle way of handling someone or something. □ Bess has a soft touch and can bring both sides together. □ Kelly lacks the kind of soft touch needed for this kind of negotiation. 2. a gullible person; a likely victim of a scheme. □ John is a soft touch. You can always ask him for a few bucks. □ Here comes the perfect soft touch—a nerd with a gleam in his eye.

soften one’s stance (on someone or something) Fig. to reduce the severity of one’s position regarding someone or something. □ If he would soften his stance on the matter, I could easily become more cooperative.

soften someone up Fig. to prepare to persuade someone of something. □ I will talk to Fred and soften him up for your request. □ I will soften up your father before you ask him about it.

soften something up† to take actions that will make something softer. □ Soften the butter up before you add it to the batter. □ Please soften up the ice cream before you try to serve it.

soften up 1. Lit. [for something] to become softer. □ The butter softened up in the heat of the day. □ The candles will probably soften up and bend over in this hot weather. 2. Fig. [for someone] to adopt a more gentle manner. □ After a while, she softened up and was more friendly. □ It was weeks before Ted softened up and treated us more kindly.

soft-pedal something to play something down; to de-emphasize something. (Alludes to the soft pedal on the piano, which reduces the volume.) □ Try to soft-pedal the problems we have with the cooling system. □ I won’t soft-pedal anything. Everyone must know the truth.

soil one’s diaper(s) [for a baby] to excrete waste into its diaper. □ The baby soiled his diapers. □ I detect that someone has soiled his diaper.

soil one’s hands Go to get one’s hands dirty.

sold on someone or something convinced of the value of someone or something. □ I’m not yet sold on your idea. □ The crowd was sold on Gary. Nothing he had done or could do would cool their enthusiasm.

sold out [of a product] completely sold with no more items remaining; [of a store] having no more of a particular product. □ The tickets were sold out so we couldn’t go to the concert. □ I wanted new shoes like yours, but they were sold out.

solicit for someone or something to seek money or other contributions for someone or something, such as a charitable cause. □ I am soliciting for crippled children. Would you care to contribute? □ Are you soliciting for a local cause?

solicit someone for something to attempt to persuade someone to give something, such as money, for a specific purpose. □ The school band solicited the owners of the business for a contribution. □ Fred solicited everyone in his department for at least a dollar.

*solid as a rock Cliché very solid; dependable. (*Also: as ~.) □ We couldn’t soft-soap her into it. □ Don’t try to soft-soap her. She’s an old battle-ax.

solid as a rock Fig. a firm understanding of something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Try to get a grasp of the basic rules. □ You don’t have a good grasp of the principles yet. □ John was unable to get a solid grasp of the methods used in his work, and we had to let him go.

some creature’s time has come Go to someone’s time has come.

*some elbow room Fig. room to move about in; extra space to move about in. (*Typically: allow ~; get ~; have ~; give someone ~; need ~.) □ This table is too crowded. We all need some elbow room.

*some loose ends Fig. some things that are not yet finished; some problems not yet solved. (*Typically: are ~; have ~; leave ~; tie ~ up; take care of ~.) □ I have to stay in town this weekend and tie up some loose ends.

(some) new blood and fresh blood Fig. new personnel; new members brought into a group to revive it. □ This company needs some new blood on its board to bring in new ideas. □ We’re trying to get some new blood in the club. Our membership is falling.

Some people (just) don’t know when to quit. and Some people (just) don’t know when to give up; Some people (just) don’t know when to stop. 1. You, or someone being talked about, should stop doing something, such as talking, arguing, scolding, etc. (Often directed toward the person being addressed.) □ Bill: I hate to say it again, but that lipstick is all wrong for you. It brings out the wrong color in your eyes, and it makes your mouth larger than it really is. Jane: Oh, stop, stop! That’s enough! Some people just don’t know when to quit. □ John: Those bushes out in the backyard need trimming. Sally: You keep criticizing! Is there no end to it? Some people (just) don’t know when to stop! 2. Some people do not know when to slow down and stop working so hard. □ Jane: He just kept on gambling. Finally, he had no money left. Sally: Some people don’t know when to quit.

some pumpkins and some pumpkins someone or something great or special. (Odl.) □ That chick is some punkins! □ Isn’t this little gadget really some pumpkins?

*some shut-eye some sleep. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; use ~; need ~.) □ I need to get home and get some shut-eye before I do anything else. □ We all could use some shut-eye.

Someone had better keep still about it. Go to Better keep still about it.

someone of note a person who is famous. □ We invited a speaker of note to lecture at the next meeting. □ The baseball player of note was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

the someone or something from hell Fig. someone or something that is terrible or unbearable. □ I just attended the meeting from hell! It was quite a strain on all of us. □ We live next to the neighbors from hell. They are constantly fighting and their vicious dog terrorizes our kids.

Someone or something is supposed to. Go to Supposed to.

someone’s ace in the hole Go to ace in the hole.

someone’s bread and butter Fig. someone’s basic income; someone’s livelihood—the source of one’s food. □ I can’t
someone's claim to fame

someone's reason for being well-known or famous. □ Her claim to fame is that she can recite the entire works of Shakespeare.

someone's dirty laundry

Fig. someone's unpleasant secrets. □ I don't want to hear about her dirty laundry. Why do you feel it necessary to gossip about things like this?

someone's fate is sealed

Fig. the destiny of someone has been determined. □ When the driver finally saw that the bridge was out, he knew his fate was sealed.

someone's hands are tied

Fig. someone is not able to help or intervene. (See also have one's hands tied.) □ I'm sorry. There's nothing I can do. My hands are tied.

someone's level best

one's very best effort. □ I will do my level best to find your husband. □ Don't go to a whole lot of trouble. Your level best is good enough.

(someone's) not supposed to

Go to (It's) not supposed to.

someone's point is well taken

someone's idea or opinion is accepted and appreciated. □ Your point is well taken and I will see that it is not forgotten.

someone's time has come

and some creature's time has come. Euph. someone or some creature is about to die. □ The poor old dog's time has come. □ My time has come. I'm ready to go.

someone's train of thought

Fig. someone's pattern of thinking or sequence of ideas; what one was just thinking about. (See also lose one's train of thought.) □ My train of thought is probably not as clear as it should be. □ I cannot seem to follow your train of thought on this matter. Will you explain it a little more carefully, please?

someone's true colors

Fig. a person's true attitude, opinions, and biases. □ When he lost his temper at his wife, I began to see his true colors.

(someone's) ups and downs

a person's good fortune and bad fortune. □ I've had my ups and downs, but in general life has been good to me. □ All people have their ups and downs.

someone's word is good

someone can be believed and trusted. □ You can believe her. Her word is good.

someone's word of honor

someone's trustworthy pledge or promise. □ He gave me his word of honor that he would bring the car back by noon today.

Someone will be with you in a minute.

Go to With you in a minute.

something about

someone or something something alluring or curious about someone or something. □ There is something about Jane. I just can't figure her out. □ I love Mexican food. There's just something about it.

something else (again)

something entirely different. □ Borrowing is one thing, but stealing is something else. □ Skindiving is easy and fun, but scuba diving is something else again.

Something is better than nothing.

Prov. It is better to get only some of what you want than to get nothing at all. (See also (It's) better than nothing.) □ Fred: I only got $50 for all those books I sold. Jane: Something is better than nothing. □ Jill: Is your camera very good? Jane: It's better than nothing.

something is killing

someone Fig. something is causing someone pain. □ Wow, my feet are killing me!

Something is rotten in (the state of) Denmark.

Prov. Something suspicious is going on. (From Shakespeare's play Hamlet.) □ Jim: Look, there's a light on in the office, even though it's way past the time everyone should have left. John: Something is rotten in the state of Denmark. □ Jane: I wonder why Fred is coming in so late every morning. Jane: Something is rotten in Denmark.

something never fails

a particular thing always works. □ My old folk remedy for hiccups never fails.

something of sorts

an inferior example of a kind of something. □ Well, it's a solution of sorts, I suppose. □ It was a novel of sorts, but not what I'd ever have chosen.

something of the sort

something of the kind just mentioned. □ The tree isn't exactly a spruce tree, just something of the sort. □ Jane has a cold or something of the sort.

something or other

something unspecified; one thing or another. □ I can't remember what Ann said—something or other. □ A messenger came by and dropped off something or other at the front desk.

Something's got to give.

Emotions or tempers are strained, and there is going to be an outburst. □ Alice: There are serious problems with Mary and Tom. They fight and fight. Sue: Yes, something's got to give. It can't go on like this. □ Bill: Things are getting difficult at the office. Something's got to give. Mary: Just stay clear of all the bickering.

something's up

something is going to happen; something is going on. □ Everybody looks very nervous. I think something's up. □ From the looks of all the activity around here, I think something's up.

*something to shout about

Fig. something that causes one to show pride or enthusiasm about someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; have ~.) □ Getting into med school is really something to shout about. □ She's something to shout about.

something to that effect

something like that just mentioned. □ She said she wouldn't be available until after three, or something to that effect. □ I was told to keep out of the house—or something to that effect.

(somewhere) in the neighborhood of

something Fig. approximately a particular amount or measurement. □ I take somewhere in the neighborhood of ten pills a day for my various ailments. □ My rent is in the neighborhood of $700 per month.

somewhere to hang (up)

one's hat

Fig. a place to live; a place to call one's home. □ What I need is somewhere to hang up my hat. I just can't stand all this traveling. □ A home is a lot more than a place to hang your hat.

son of a bachelor

Go to son of a gun.

son of a bitch

1. Inf. a very horrible person. (Use with caution. Usually intended as a strong insult. Never used casually.) □ Bill called Bob a son of a bitch, and Bob punched Bill in the face. □ This guy's a son of a bitch. He treats everybody rotten. 2. Inf. a useless thing. □ This car is a son of a bitch. It won't ever start when it's cold. □ This
bumpy old road needs paving. It’s a real son of a bitch.

**son of a gun** and **son of a bachelor** a worthless person. (A substitute for **son of a bitch.**) □ That tightfisted son of a gun won’t buy me a beer. □ He can be a real son of a bachelor when he’s in a bad mood.

**son of a sea biscuit** Euph. a person, usually a male. (Sometimes a substitute for **son of a bitch.**) □ Why, good to see you, you old son of a sea biscuit. □ You son of a sea biscuit! You make me so mad I could slug you.

*soon as possible* at the earliest time. (*Also: as ~.*) □ I’m leaving now. I’ll be there as soon as possible. □ Please pay me soon as possible.

**Soon ripe, soon rotten.** Go to **Early ripe, early rotten.**

**sooner or later** eventually; in the short term or in the long term. □ He’ll have to pay the bill sooner or later. □ She’ll get what she deserves sooner or later.

**Sooner than you think.** Eventually; in the short term or in the long term. *Also: soon as possible.* □ Early ripe, early rotten. □ Soon ripe, soon rotten. □ He’ll have to pay the bill sooner or later. □ She’ll get what she deserves sooner or later.

**sort of** and **kind of** almost something; somewhat; somehow. □ Isn’t it sort of cold out? □ That was kind of a stupid thing to do, wasn’t it?

**sort oneself out** to pull oneself together; to figure out what to do about one’s problems. (Fig. on sort **something out** ②.) □ I need a few days to sort myself out. □ I need some time to sort myself out.

**sort something out** ①. Lit. to sort something; to arrange according to class or category. □ Let’s sort these cards out. □ Would you please sort out your socks? ②. Fig. to study a problem and figure it out. □ I can’t sort this out without some more time. □ Let’s sort out this mess and settle it once and for all.

**(soul) brother** a black person’s male, black friend. □ Another brother took a fall last night. □ Terry’s a soul brother, and I’ll do anything for him.

**(soul) sister** a black person’s female, black friend. □ Many of the top singing groups of the ’60s featured soul sisters.

**sound as a barrel** Go to all oak and iron bound.

*sound as a bell* in perfect condition or health; undamaged. (*Also: as ~.*) □ The doctor says that the old man’s heart’s as sound as a bell. □ I thought the vase was broken when it fell, but it was sound as a bell.

**sound as a dollar 1.** Cliché very secure and dependable. (*Also: as ~.*) □ This investment is as sound as a dollar. □ I wouldn’t put my money in a bank that isn’t sound as a dollar. 2. Cliché sturdy and well-constructed. (*Also: as ~.*) □ This house is as sound as a dollar. □ The garage is still sound as a dollar. Why tear it down?

**sound as if** to seem, from what has been said, as if something were so. (Sound like is colloquial.) □ It sounds as if you had a good vacation. □ You sound like you are angry.

**sound asleep** completely asleep; in a deep sleep. □ I was sound asleep when the fire broke out.

a **(sound) grasp of** something Go to a (solid) grasp of something.

**sound like** Go to sound as if.

**sound like a broken record** to say the same thing over and over again. (Fig. on a scratch in a phonograph record causing the needle [or stylus] to stay in the same groove and play it over and over.) □ He’s always complaining about the way she treats him. He sounds like a broken record! □ I hate to sound like a broken record, but we just don’t have enough people on the payroll to work efficiently.

**sound off** to speak something loudly; to call out one’s name or one’s place in a numerical sequence. □ All right, sound off, you guys! □ Each one sounded off.

**sound off (about something)** 1. to complain about something; to gripe about something. □ You are always sounding off about something that grieves your soul. □ Just sound off if you’ve got a beef. 2. to speak out of turn about some-
sound someone out

ting. □ Who asked you to sound off about this? □ Don't just sound off without raising your hand.

sound someone out* to try to find out what someone thinks (about something). □ I don't know what Jane thinks about your suggestion, but I'll sound her out. □ Please sound out everyone in your department.

sound something out* to pronounce the letters or syllables of a word as a means of figuring out what the word is. (Usually said to a child.) □ This word is easy, Bobby. Try to sound it out.

Soup's on! Rur. The meal is ready to eat. (Said for any food, not just soup.) □ Tom: Soup's on! Bill: The camp chef has dished up another disaster. □ John: Soup's on! Come and get it! Mary: Well, I guess it's time to eat again.

soup something up to increase the power of something. □ He souped his car up so it will do nearly 120 miles per hour. □ If only I could soup up this computer to run just a little faster.

souped up made more powerful. □ That souped-up car of John's sure makes a lot of noise. □ Why do all cars driven by males under the age of twenty have to be souped up?

*sour as vinegar 1. [of something] very sour. (Also: as ~.) □ This milk is as sour as vinegar. □ The juice they gave us is sour as vinegar. 2. [of someone] ill-natured and disagreeable. (Fig. on ①. Also: as ~.) □ The old man greeted us ill-naturedly, his face as sour as vinegar. □ Jill: Is Mary in a bad mood today? Jane: Yes, sour as vinegar.

sour grapes Fig. something that one cannot have and so disparages as if it were never desirable. □ Of course you want to buy this expensive jacket. Criticizing it is just sour grapes, but you still really want it.

sow one's wild oats to do wild and foolish things in one's youth. (Often assumed to have some sort of sexual meaning.) □ Jack was out sowing his wild oats last night, and he's in jail this morning. □ Mrs. Smith told Mr. Smith that he was too old to be sowing his wild oats.

Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind Prov. to start some kind of trouble that grows much larger than you planned. (Biblical.) □ Our enemy has sown the wind by provoking this war, and they will reap the whirlwind when we vanquish them.

space out to become giddy or disoriented. □ Judy spaced out during the meeting and I didn't understand a word she said. □ I have a tendency to space out at the end of a hard day.

space someone out* to cause someone to become giddy. □ The circus clowns just spaced me out. □ The hilarious spectacle spaced out the entire audience.

spaced (out) silly; giddy. □ I have such spaced-out parents! □ He's so spaced!

spade something up* to turn over the soil in a garden plot with a spade. □ Please go out and spade the garden up so I can plant the potatoes and onions. □ I will spade up the garden when I have time.

spar with someone 1. Lit. to box with someone for practice. □ The champ needs someone to spar with every day. □ Ted was sparring with his brother when the phone rang and saved him from further exertion. 2. Fig. to argue or quibble with someone. □ I think you really enjoy sparring with people just to irritate them. □ Stop sparring with me! I am not here to argue.

spare someone something to exempt someone from having to listen to or experience something. □ I'll spare you the details and get to the point. □ Please, spare me the story and tell me what you want.

Spare the rod and spoil the child. Prov. You should punish a child when he or she misbehaves, because if you do not, the child will grow up expecting everyone to indulge him or her. □ Jane: How can you allow your little boy to be so rude? Ellen: It distresses me to punish him. Jane: I can understand that, but spare the rod and spoil the child.

spare tire 1. a thickness in the waist; a roll of fat around one's waist. □ I've got to get rid of this spare tire. □ The spare tire started when I was twenty-six. 2. an unneeded person; an unproductive person. □ Gary is a spare tire. Send him home. □ You spare tires over there! Get to work.

spark something off* 1. Lit. to ignite something flammable or explosive. □ The lightning sparked a fire off. □ The match sparked off a raging inferno. 2. Fig. to cause or start some violent or energetic activity. □ We were afraid there would be a riot and the speaker nearly sparked it off. □ The speaker sparked off quite a discussion.

sparkle with something to glitter or twinkle because of something. □ The crystal goblets sparkled with the light from the flickering candles. □ Her eyes sparkled with the reflection of the candles.

spatter on someone or something [for a liquid or something moist] to splash onto someone or something. □ When Kelly painted the hallway, a lot of paint spattered on the floor. □ The hot fat spattered on me.

spatter someone or something up* to get drops of a liquid or bits of something moist onto someone or something. □ The painter spattered his partner up when he dropped the paint bucket accidentally. □ The falling paint bucket spattered up the wall.

spatter someone or something with something to splash someone or something with drops of a liquid or bits of something moist. □ Frank spattered us with grapefruit juice as he was eating a half of grapefruit. □ He even spattered the wall with juice.

spatter something around to scatter bits or drops of a liquid or something moist here and there. □ Ted spattered paint around everywhere when he redecorated his kitchen. □ Don't spatter around the paint.

spatter something on(to) someone or something to scatter or splash bits or drops of a liquid or something moist onto someone or something. □ Who spattered barbecue sauce onto the wall? □ The paint can fell and spattered paint on everyone.

spaz around Sl. to waste time; to mess around. □ You kids are always spazzing around. Why don't you do something useful? □ We're just spazzing around. Leave us alone.

spaz down Sl. to relax. □ Spaz down, man! Chill out! □ We tried to get the crowd to spaz down, but they were very excited.

spaz out 1. Sl. to overreact to something; to become overly excited about something. □ I knew you would spaz out! But my grades are not that bad! □ Come on, don't spaz out! 2. Sl. an emotional display. (Usually spaz-out.) □

628
speak up

Hi, there. We were just talking about you. Speak of the devil and in he walks.

speak off-the-cuff Fig. to speak without preparing a speech; to speak extemporaneously; to render a spoken opinion or estimate. (As if one’s notes had been written hastily on one’s cuff.) □ She is capable of making sense and being convincing even when she speaks off-the-cuff. □ I find it very difficult to speak off-the-cuff.

speak one’s mind Fig. to say frankly what one thinks (about something). □ Please let me speak my mind, and then you can do whatever you want. □ You can always depend on John to speak his mind. He’ll let you know what he really thinks.

speak one’s piece Go to say one’s piece.

speak out to speak loudly; to speak to be heard. (See also speak out (about someone or something)). □ Please speak out. We need to hear you. □ They won’t hear you in the back row if you don’t speak out.

speak out (against someone or something) to express oneself about someone or something; to tell what one knows about someone or something. (See also speak out.) □ I could keep silent no longer. I had to speak out about the alleged accident. □ I had to speak out!

speak out (against someone or something) to speak negatively and publicly about someone or something; to reveal something negative, in speech, about someone or something. □ I don’t want to speak out against my friends, but I am afraid I have to. □ The citizens spoke out against corruption in government.

speak out of turn Fig. to say something unwise or imprudent; to say something at the wrong time. □ I am afraid I have to speak out of turn, but what you are proposing is quite wrong. □ Bob was quite honest, even if he was speaking out of turn.

speak out (on something) to say something frankly and directly; to speak one’s mind. □ This law is wrong, and I intend to speak out on it until it is repealed. □ You must speak out. People need to know what you think.

speak someone’s language Fig. to say something that one agrees with or understands. □ I gotcha. Now you’re speaking my language. □ Mary speaks Fred’s language. They get along fine.

speak the same language 1. Lit. [for two or more people] to communicate in a shared language. □ These two people don’t speak the same language and need an interpreter. 2. Fig. [for people] to have similar ideas, tastes, etc. □ Jane and Jack get along very well. They really speak the same language about almost everything. □ Bob and his father didn’t speak the same language when it comes to politics.

speak to someone to talk to someone. □ I am angry with him and I refuse to speak to him. □ Were you speaking to me?

speak to something [for something] to address, indicate, or signal something. □ This event speaks to the need for good communication. □ Your present state of employment speaks to your need for a better education.

speak up 1. Lit. to speak more loudly. □ They can’t hear you in the back of the room. Please speak up. □ What? Speak up, please. I’m hard of hearing. 2. Fig. to speak out (on
something). □ If you think that this is wrong, you must speak up and say so. □ I’m too shy to speak up.

**speak up** *(against someone or something)* to end one’s silence and speak negatively and publicly about someone or something. □ She finally spoke up against her cruel boss. □ We all felt like we had to speak up and denounce this tyrant.

**speak up for** someone or something to speak in favor of someone or something. □ If anybody says bad things about me, I hope you speak up for me. □ I want to speak up for the rights of students.

**speak (up)on** something to talk about a particular topic. *(Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)* □ This evening, I will speak upon the subject of Plato’s thoughts on the universe. □ What will you speak on today?

**speak volumes** Fig. [for something that is seen] to reveal a great deal of information. □ The unsightly yard and unpainted house speaks volumes about what kind of people live there.

**speak with a forked tongue** Fig. to tell lies; to try to deceive someone. □ Jean’s mother sounds very charming, but she speaks with a forked tongue. □ People tend to believe Fred because he seems plausible, but we know he speaks with a forked tongue.

**speak with someone (about someone or something)** 1. to talk with someone about someone or something; to discuss someone or something with someone. □ I was speaking with Fred about Don, who is a mutual friend. □ I need to know something about Don. I will speak with his friend Fred. 2. to reprimand one about one’s dealing with someone or something. □ He should not have insulted Kelly. I will speak with him about her. □ He did what? I will speak with him!

**speaking for oneself** an expression indicating that one is expressing only one’s own opinion. □ Speaking for myself, I am ready to cancel the contract. □ Sally is speaking for herself. She is not expressing our opinions.

**speaking (quite) candidly** an expression introducing a frank or forthright statement. □ “Speaking quite candidly, I find your behavior a bit offensive,” stated Frank, obviously offended. □ Mary: Tell me what you really think about this skirt. Sally: Speaking candidly, I think you should get your money back.

**(speaking) (quite) frankly** and *frankly* speaking a transitional phrase announcing that the speaker is going to talk in a more familiar and totally forthright manner. □ Tom: Speaking quite frankly, I’m not certain she’s the one for the job. Mary: I agree. □ Bob: We ought to be looking at housing in a lower price bracket. Bill: Quite frankly, I agree. □ “Frankly speaking,” said John, “I think you’re out of your mind!”

**spear something out** *(of something)* to bring something forth from something by sticking it with something sharp and pulling. □ Richard speared pickles right out of the jar with a fork. □ He speared out a pickle.

**specialize in** something to limit oneself to or be specially trained to practice one particular thing. □ I specialize in tropical medicine. □ What do you specialize in?

**speculate about** someone or something to make guesses about someone or something; to hypothesize about someone or something. □ I refuse to speculate about Sally. I don’t presume to guess what she will do. □ We don’t speculate about the future.

**speculate in** something to make risky business deals in the buying and selling of something. □ Jeff made a fortune speculating in cotton. □ I do not wish to speculate in anything. It is too risky.

**speculate on** something to make a hypothesis about something. □ I really don’t want to speculate on what might happen next. □ Would you care to speculate on what might happen if you quit your job?

**speed away** *(from someone or something)* to move or drive away very fast from someone or something. □ The taxi sped away from the passenger who had just alighted. □ The car sped away from the accident. □ The motorcycle sped away.

**speed someone or something up** *(to)* to cause someone or something to move faster. □ We tried to speed him up, but he is just a very slow person. □ We sped up the process, but it still took too long.

**speed up** to go faster. □ Please speed up. We are late.

*speeds of some amount* a variety of speeds (of movement) of a certain level. *(Typically: clock someone at ~; have ~; hit ~; reach ~.)* □ The cops clocked him at speeds of up to one hundred miles per hour.

**spell disaster** Fig. to indicate or predict disaster. □ What a horrible plan! It would spell disaster for all of us!

**spell someone (at something)** to take a turn at doing something while the person who was doing it can take a rest. □ I will spell you at selling tickets while you go and grab a bite to eat.

**spell someone down** *(to)* to win over someone in a spelling match. □ Frank spelled everyone else down and won the spelling bee. □ He spelled down almost everyone.

**spell something for someone** to spell a word or name for someone’s benefit. □ I don’t recognize that word. Would you please spell it for me? □ It is a difficult name. I will have to spell it for you.

**spell something out** *(1. Lit.)* to spell something (with letters). □ I can’t understand your name. Can you spell it out? □ Please spell out all the strange words so I can write them down correctly. *(2. Fig.)* to give all the details of something. □ I want you to understand this completely, so I’m going to spell it out very carefully. □ The instruction book for my computer spells out everything very carefully.

**spell trouble** to signify future trouble; to mean trouble. □ This letter that came today spells trouble. □ The sky looks angry and dark. That spells trouble.

**spend a king’s ransom** Go to a king’s ransom.

**spend money like it’s going out of style** and *spend money like there’s no tomorrow* Fig. to spend money recklessly; to spend money as if it were worthless or will soon be worthless. □ Extravagant! She spends money like it’s going out of style! □ I can’t control it. I spend money like there is no tomorrow.

**spend money like there’s no tomorrow** Go to previous.

**spend something for something** to pay out an amount of money for something. □ I spent nearly forty dollars for that

630
spill (out) into 1. [for someone or something] to scatter, flow, or drop out of something. 2. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something. 3. [for the contents of a container] to overflow. 4. [for the contents of a container] to overflow. 5. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something. 6. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something.

spill over 1. [for a container] to overflow. 2. [for the contents of a container] to overflow. 3. [for the contents of a container] to overflow. 4. [for the contents of a container] to overflow.

spill (over) into something Go to spill (out) into something.

spill over on(to) someone or something [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something. 2. [for the contents of a container] to overflow. 3. [for the contents of a container] to overflow. 4. [for the contents of a container] to overflow.

spill the works Fig. to give away a secret or a surprise. 2. There is a surprise party for Heidi on Wednesday. Please don't spill the beans. 3. Paul spilled the works about Heidi's party.

spill the beans 1. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something. 2. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something. 3. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something. 4. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something. 5. [for something] to scatter, flow, or drop (out of something) onto someone or something.

spin something off 1. [for a container] to overflow. 2. [for a container] to overflow. 3. [for a container] to overflow. 4. [for a container] to overflow. 5. [for a container] to overflow.

spin something on 1. [for something] to spin something. 2. [for something] to spin something. 3. [for something] to spin something. 4. [for something] to spin something.
spin something out to prolong something.  □ Was there really any need to spin the whole process out so long?  □ Why did they spin out the graduation ceremony for such a long time?

spin something out of something and spin something out‡ to remove liquid from something by spinning.  □ The washer spun the water out of the load of clothing.  □ The washer spun out all the water in the clothes.

spiral down to descend in a spiral path.  □ The ancient trail spiraled down the mountain peak.  □ A path spiraled down and at the bottom was a small refreshment stand.

spiral up to ascend in a spiral path.  □ The ancient trail spiraled up to the sky.  □ The trail spiraled up the slope to the top.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.  Prov. People cannot always do what they know they ought to do. People are not always physically capable of doing what they are willing to do. (Biblical.)  □ Alan: Have you started the diet your doctor recommended? Fred: The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

spirit someone or something away† (somewhere) to sneek someone or something away to another place.  □ The police spirited the prisoner away before the crowd assembled in front of the jail.  □ They spirited away the celebrity.

spirit someone or something off† (to some place) to hurry someone or something away, presumably unnoticed, to another place.  □ Aunt Jane spirited the children off to bed at half-past eight.  □ She spirited off the leftover roast beef.

*the spirit and image of someone and *the spitting image of someone the very likeness of someone; a very close resemblance to someone. (*The second version is a frequent error. Typically: be ~; look like ~.)  □ John is the spirit and image of his father.  □ At first, I thought you were saying spitting image.

spit and polish orderliness; ceremonial precision and orderliness.  □ I like spit and polish. It comes from being in the military.  □ There is no such thing as too much spit and polish.

spit at someone or something to expectorate on someone or something or in the direction of someone or something.  □ The angry crowd cursed and spit at the prisoner as he was being taken back to jail.  □ Max actually spit at the police station door as he was dragged in.

spit something in(to) something and spit something in† to expel something from the mouth into something.  □ He spit his gum into the toilet.  □ He opened the toilet and spit in his gun.

spit something on(to) something to expel something from the mouth onto something.  □ You shouldn’t spit your gum onto the sidewalk!  □ Don’t spit your gum on the pavement.

spit something out‡ 1. Lit. to cast something from the mouth.  □ The food was so terrible that I spit it out.  □ I spit out the sweet potatoes.  □ Fig. to manage to say something.  □ Come on! Say it! Spit it out!  □ Spit it out! Get it said!  □ Fig. to say something scornfully.  □ He spits out his words in utter derision.  □ She spit out the most unpleasant string of curse words I have ever heard from anyone.

spit something up† Euph. to vomit something.  □ She almost spit her dinner up.  □ Sally was afraid she was going to spit up her dinner.

spit up Euph. to vomit.  □ The food was so bad, she was afraid she would spit up.  □ Mommy, I have to spit up!

spit (up)on someone or something 1. to eject spit onto someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)  □ The angry crowd spit on the convict.  □ Don’t spit on the sidewalk. 2. to spew spittle onto someone or something while talking. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)  □ I always have a fear of accidentally spitting on someone in the first row while I am talking.  □ I regret spitting on you, but it was an accident.

the spitting image of someone Go to the spit and image of someone.

spit and polish

spit and polish

spit and polish

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spit something up

spit something up

spit something up

splatter someone or something up† to cover someone or something with drops of a liquid.  □ The painter splattered his coworker up with both red and blue.  □ Don’t splatter up the wall!

splay out to spread out; to extend out at an angle.  □ His feet splayed out so much that it was hard to see how he could stand up.  □ The legs of the table splayed out and gave it sturdy support.

spit and polish

spit and polish

spit and polish

spit and polish

spit and polish

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out

spin something out
splice something (in)to something to connect something to something; to cut and join something into something to connect the two. □ The workers spliced the small wires into the main cable. □ Let’s splice this rope into the larger one at the halfway point.

splice something together* to connect things together, usually by twisting or tying a joint between the two. □ I spent an hour splicing the two ends of the ropes together, and it didn’t hold for even a minute. □ He carefully spliced together the two ropes.

split off (from something) and splinter off (from something) [for a bit of something] to tear off or separate from something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ A piece of wood splintered off of the oak and dropped into the water. □ A tiny bit splintered off and stuck in my hand.

split a gut and bust a gut. 1. Fig. Inf. to laugh very hard. □ He laughed until he nearly split a gut. □ The clown made me bust a gut laughing. 2. Fig. Inf. to work very hard. □ I split a gut to get this place fixed up in a week. □ Don’t bust a gut cleaning up for me. I love things that are a bit messy.

split hairs Fig. to quibble; to try to make petty distinctions. □ They don’t have any serious differences. They are just splitting hairs. □ Don’t waste time splitting hairs. Accept it the way it is.

split in something to divide into a certain number of groups. (The something can be half, thirds, two, quarters, etc.) □ Lightning struck the big tree and the trunk split in half. □ The vase dropped and split in quarters.

split off (from something) to separate away from something; to sever connection with something; to divide or sever something to separate from something. □ A large iceberg split off from the glacier and made an enormous splash. □ A giant chunk of ice split off and floated away.

split one’s sides (with laughter) Fig. to laugh so hard that one’s sides almost split. (Always an exaggeration.) □ The members of the audience almost split their sides with laughter. □ When I heard what happened to Patricia, I almost split my sides.

split people up* to separate two or more people (from one another). □ If you two don’t stop chattering, I have to split you up. □ I will have to split up that twosome in the corner.

*a split second an instant; a tiny period of time. (Typically: for ~; in ~.) □ The lightning struck, and in a split second the house burst into flames. □ For a split second, it looked like she would fall.

split someone or something up* (into something) to divide people or things up into something, such as groups. □ I had to split the group up into two sections—there were so many who showed up. □ I split the class into two discussion sections.

split someone or something with someone or something to divide someone or something with someone or a group of people. □ I will split the campers with you. You lead your half on the hike, and I will lead my half. □ Will you split your candy bar with me?

split something between (someone and someone else) and split something between (something and something else) to divide something between two people or things. □ The cook split the last of the pie between Jane and Carla. □ We have to split the copies of the reports between the two committees.

split something fifty-fifty Go to divide something fifty-fifty.

split something into something to divide or sever something into something. □ Jeff split the log into four parts. □ Please split this log in half so it will burn better.

split something off (of) something and split something off† to sever connection with something; to separate from something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Dave split a piece of wood off the log to use for kindling. □ He split off a stick of wood.

split the difference to divide the difference evenly (with someone else). □ You want to sell for $120, and I want to buy for $100. Let’s split the difference and close the deal at $110. □ I don’t want to split the difference. I want $120.

split up (with someone) [for someone] to separate from someone; to break up a marriage or love affair. □ Jeff split up with Judy. □ I had heard that they had split up with each other.

a splitting headache Fig. a severe headache, as if one’s head were splitting open. □ I’m sorry, I can’t. I have a splitting headache. Maybe Fred will play bridge with you. □ This splitting headache has been going on for hours.

splurge on someone or something to spend a lot of money on someone or something. □ I really splurged on my wife for her birthday. □ Mary really splurged on that dinner!

spoiled rotten Fig. indulged in; greatly spoiled. □ This kid is spoiled rotten! □ I was spoiled rotten when I was a child, so I’m used to this kind of wasteful luxury.

spoiling for a fight argumentative; asking for a fight. □ They were just spoiling for a fight, and they went outside to settle the matter. □ She was grouchy, and you could tell she had been spoiling for a fight all day.

spoken for taken; reserved (for someone). □ I’m sorry, but this piece of cake is already spoken for. □ Pardon me. Can I sit here, or is this seat spoken for?

sponge someone or something down* to remove the [excess] moisture from someone or something; to wipe someone or something with a sponge. □ The fight manager sponged his boxer down. □ I will sponge down the countertop.

sponge something away* to absorb, wipe up, and wipe away something, as with a sponge. □ Try sponging the stain away with some soda water. □ I will sponge away the mess.

sponge something from someone to beg or borrow money or food from someone. □ Gary tried to sponge a few bucks from me. □ I can’t continue sponging food from my relatives.

sponge something from something to remove moisture from something, as with a sponge. □ Liz sponged the sauce from her blouse. □ We gently sponged the splattered paint from the carpet.

sponge something off of someone or something and sponge something off† to beg or borrow money or food from someone or a group. □ Please stop sponging food and money off your relatives! □ Stop sponging off food and money all the time!
sponge something up\(^1\) to absorb or take up moisture, as with a sponge. \(\Box\) I had to sponge the spilled milk up from the floor, the chair, the table, and the baby. What a mess! \(\Box\) Liz sponged up the water.

spook someone or something to startle or disorient someone or something. \(\Box\) A snake spooked my horse, and I nearly fell off. \(\Box\) Your warning spooked me, and I was upset for the rest of the day.

clean something up\(^2\) to serve something out, as with a spoon; to give something out, as with a spoon. \(\Box\) The cook spooned the beans out, giving plenty to each camper. \(\Box\) The cook spooned out the beans.

clean something up\(^1\) to serve something that requires finding and bringing up out of a pot with a spoon. \(\Box\) The cook spooned the hard-cooked eggs up one by one. \(\Box\) The cook spooned up chunks of meat from the stew.

spoon-feed someone Fig. to treat someone with too much care or help; to teach someone with methods that are too easy and do not stimulate the learner to independent thinking. \(\Box\) The teacher spoon-feeds the students by dictating notes on the novel instead of getting the children to read the books. \(\Box\) You mustn’t spoon-feed the new recruits by telling them what to do all the time. They must use their initiative.

the sport of kings horse racing. \(\Box\) The sport of kings has sure impoverished a lot of commoners.

sport with someone or something to tease or play with someone or something. \(\Box\) What a tease you are! You are just sporting with me! \(\Box\) The dog was sporting with a turtle down by the stream.

a sporting chance a reasonably good chance. \(\Box\) If you hurry, you have a sporting chance of catching the bus. \(\Box\) The firm has only a sporting chance of getting the export order.

spot someone as something to recognize someone to be something; to realize that someone is something. \(\Box\) I spotted you as a troublemaker from the very beginning. \(\Box\) The guard spotted Max as a potential thief; the moment he saw him.

spot someone (something) 1. Sl. to give an advantage to someone. \(\Box\) I’ll spot you twenty points. \(\Box\) No need to spot me. I’m the greatest! 2. Sl. to lend someone something. \(\Box\) Can you spot me a few bucks? \(\Box\) I can spot you a whole hundred!

spout from something [for a liquid] to gush from somewhere. \(\Box\) A plume of water vapor spouted from the blowhole of the whale. \(\Box\) Water spouted from the top of the fountain and flowed down the sides.

spout off (about someone or something) 1. to brag or boast about someone or something. \(\Box\) Stop spouting off about Tom. Nobody could be that good! \(\Box\) Alice is spouting off about her new car. 2. to speak out publicly about someone or something; to reveal information publicly about someone or something. \(\Box\) I wish you wouldn’t spout off about my family affairs in public. \(\Box\) There is no point in spouting off about this problem.

spout something out\(^1\) 1. Lit. to exude a liquid. \(\Box\) The hose spouted the cooling water out all over the children. \(\Box\) It spouted out cooling water. 2. Fig. to blurt something out; to speak out suddenly, revealing some important piece of information. \(\Box\) She spouted the name of the secret agent out under the effects of the drug. \(\Box\) She spouted out everything we wanted to know.

sprain one’s ankle to become pregnant. \(\Box\) She has, ah, sprained her ankle. \(\Box\) From the looks of her, she must have sprained her ankle some months ago.

sprawl about and sprawl around to slouch or lounge somewhere; to sprawl oneself out casually while lounging. (Usually refers to habitual action, perhaps in a number of places.) \(\Box\) He sprawled about, loafing the afternoon away. \(\Box\) When I came into the room, four teenage boys were sprawled around the furniture, watching television.

sprawl out to sprawl oneself out casually while lounging. (Usually done one time, not habitually. Compare this with sprawl about.) \(\Box\) He sprawled out and took up most of the space. \(\Box\) I need more room so I can sprawl out.

spray someone or something with something to coat someone or something with a mist or stream of liquid. \(\Box\) The elephant sprayed us with water. \(\Box\) I sprayed the fence with white paint. \(\Box\) He sprayed himself with some of the cologne.

spray something onto someone or something and spray something on\(^1\) to direct a mist or stream of a liquid onto someone or something. \(\Box\) Danny sprayed cold water onto the boys and cooled them off. \(\Box\) Dan sprayed on some cold water. \(\Box\) I sprayed the paint on and it dried almost immediately.

spread all over (some place) Go to all over (some place).

spread it on thick Go to lay it on thick.

spread like wildfire Fig. [for something] to spread rapidly. \(\Box\) Rumors spread like wildfire when people are excited. \(\Box\) This disease will spread like wildfire when it gets going.

spread oneself too thin Fig. to do so many things at one time that you can do none of them well. \(\Box\) It’s a good idea to get involved in a lot of activities, but don’t spread yourself too thin. \(\Box\) I’m too busy these days. I’m afraid I’ve spread myself too thin.

spread out to separate and distribute over a wide area. \(\Box\) The sheriff told the members of the posse to spread out and continue their search. \(\Box\) The wine spread out and stained a large area of the carpet.

spread over someone or something\(^2\) [for something] to cover someone or something gradually. \(\Box\) The shade slowly spread over the picnickers. \(\Box\) Dusk spread its final shadows over the land.

spread someone or something around\(^1\) to distribute people or things over an area. \(\Box\) Spread the good singers around so they can help the others in the choir. \(\Box\) Liz spread around the seeds so they would dry.

spread something around\(^1\) to distribute news or gossip. \(\Box\) Please don’t spread this around, but Don ran away from home! \(\Box\) Don’t spread around that story!

spread something on\(^1\) Go to spread something onto something.

spread something on thick\(^1\) to distribute a thick layer of something. \(\Box\) This paint will cover well if you spread it on thick. \(\Box\) If you spread the paint on thick, you will only need one coat. 2. Go to lay it on thick.
spread something onto something and spread something on to distribute a coating of something onto something.

Spread the butter onto the bread evenly. Spread the wet papers out so they will dry. Donna spread the paint on with a roller.

spread something out to open, unfold, or lay something over a wider area. Spread the wet papers out so they will dry. She spread out the papers to dry them.

spread something over someone or something to cause something to cover or be distributed over someone or something. The cloud spread its shadow over everyone at the picnic. We spread fertilizer over the prepared ground. He spread the work over a few weeks.

spread something under someone or something to extend or unfold something, such as a tarpaulin, beneath someone or something. Please spread some newspapers under Jimmy while he is working this clay. Would you spread some newspapers under your work, please?

spread something with something to cover something with a coat of something. Using the roller, Judy spread the wall with a thick coat of pink paint. Spread the lasagna with a layer of cheese mixture and cover that with another layer of lasagna.

spread the word to tell many people some kind of information. I need to spread the word that the meeting is canceled for this afternoon.

spread to someone or something to expand or extend to reach someone or something. The epidemic finally spread to me and my family. The business slowdown spread to the West Coast.

spring at someone or something to jump at someone or something. The cat sprang at me but could not sink in. The kid is not about to sprout wings, but he probably won’t get into jail again.

spring back (to some place) to jump, bounce, or recoil back to a place. The cat sprang back to its original place on the top of the table. The lid sprang back to a closed position.

spring for something and bounce for something to treat someone by buying something. I’m bouncing for pizza. Any takers? Ralph sprang for drinks, and we all had a great time.

spring (forth) from someone or something to come forth from someone or something; to burst out of someone or something, as with a spring of water; to jump from or out of someone or something. The best ideas spring forth from the mind of Mary! What new example of pure genius can we expect to spring from Mary today?

spring into action Fig. to suddenly begin moving or doing something. As soon as the boss came in the door, everyone sprang into action. Every morning, I jump out of bed and spring into action.

spring out at someone to jump out at someone. A grasshopper sprang out at me when I peered into the hollow log. I was afraid that something would spring out at me, so I opened the cellar door carefully.

spring out of something to jump out of something. The cat sprang out of the closet when I opened the door. The boys sprang out of the cold water as fast as they could.

spring something on someone 1. to surprise someone with something. I hate to spring this on you at the last moment, but I will need some money to travel on. Please don’t spring any other demands on me. 2. to pull a trick on someone. Let me tell you about the trick I sprang on Sally. What are you going to spring on her this time?

spring to attention to move quickly to assume the military posture of attention. The recruit sprang to attention.

spring to life Fig. to become suddenly alive or more alive. The party sprang to life after midnight. The city sprang to life at dawn.

spring to one’s feet Fig. to stand up quickly. He sprang to his feet and demanded that the chair recognize him. The audience sprang to its feet and cheered madly when the soprano finished.

spring to someone’s defense Fig. to go quickly to defend someone. (Can be against physical or verbal attack.) Fred was attacked and Ralph sprang to his defense. We sprang to Mary’s defense when she was accused of doing wrong.

spring up to appear or develop suddenly; to sprout, as with a seedling. We knew it was really spring when all the flowers sprang up. It seems as if the tulips sprang up overnight. The dog’s ears sprang up when the refrigerator opened.

spring (up)on someone, something, or an animal to jump on someone, something, or an animal; to pounce on someone, something, or an animal. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) The lion sprang upon him and knocked him down. The cat sprang on the mouse and captured it.

sprinkle something or something with something to lightly cover someone or something with something by scattering or sprinkling. The storm sprinkled us with a few droplets of water and then blew over. Larry sprinkled his grapefruit with powdered sugar.

sprinkle something on(to) someone or something and sprinkle something on to scatter or drip something onto someone or something. The minister sprinkled the water onto the baby. The cook sprinkled on a dusting of powdered sugar.

sprout up to grow upward quickly, as do newly sprouted seedlings. The seeds sprouted up in the warm rains. Many of the newly planted seeds failed to sprout up on time.

sprout wings Fig. to behave so well as to resemble an angel. The kid is not about to sprout wings, but he probably won’t get into jail again. He was so good and helpful, I thought he would sprout wings.

spruce someone or something up 1. Lit. to tidy up and groom someone or something. Laura’s mother took a few minutes to spruce her daughter up for the party. She spruced up her room each day. 2. Fig. to refurbish or renew someone or something. Do you think we should spruce this room up a little? Yes, let’s spruce up this room with new furniture and drapes.

spur someone on to urge someone onward; to egg someone on. (Fig. on applying spurs to a horse.) The crowd spurred the runners on throughout the race. The cheering spurred on the runners.

spurt out (of someone or something) and spurt (out) (from someone or something) to squirt out of someone or something.
something: to erupt in a stream out of someone or something. □ Hot lava spurted out of the volcano. □ The blood spurted out from Walter where he had been slashed. □ Blood spurted from the wound. □ The fountain had a carved fish with water spurtting from its mouth.

spurt something out1 to eject something in a stream. □ The octopus spurted its ink out as the scuba diver approached it. □ It spurted out all its ink.

sputter out [for a flame] to go out in little puffs. □ The candle flame flickered and sputtered out. □ The fire sputtered out after midnight and we all got very cold before dawn.

sputter something out1 to utter something while stuttering or faltering. (As when one is physically or mentally disoriented.) □ She was so excited she could hardly sputter her name out. □ He could only sputter out a few words.

spy (up)on someone or something to watch someone or something to learn secret or concealed information. (Upon one is formally and commonly used than on.) □ Are you spying upon me? □ I wasn’t spying on you! I was just trying to see who you were.

squabble about someone or something to quarrel and disagree about someone or something. □ Please stop squabbling about Jeff, or I’ll put him on my team so neither of you can have him. □ There is no need to squabble about the last piece of pie. There’s more in the kitchen.

squabble over someone or something to fight over someone or something. □ Please don’t squabble over me. I don’t want to be chosen by any of you! □ Stop squabbling over money and go out and get a job.

squabble with someone to argue with someone. □ Please don’t squabble with your sister! □ I wish that everyone would stop squabbling with me!

squabble with something to argue about something. □ I won’t squabble with what you said, but you are wrong. □ One political party will squabble with any issue the other party brings up.

squander something away1 to waste something; to use up something valuable wastefully. □ Where is all the money I gave you last month? Did you squander it all away? □ Frank squandered away all his assets.

squander something on someone or something to waste all of something on someone or something. □ I am tired of squandering money on this rickety old house. □ I squandered a fortune on Roger and what did it get me?

square accounts (with someone) 1. Lit. to settle one’s financial accounts with someone. □ I have to square accounts with the bank this week, or it’ll take back my car. □ I called the bank and said I needed to come in and square accounts. 2. Fig. to get even with someone; to straighten out a misunderstanding with someone. □ I’m going to square accounts with Tom. He insulted me in public, and he owes me an apology. □ Tom, you and I are going to have to square accounts.

square (meal) a good and nutritious meal. (Always with quantifier when square is used without meal.) □ I need three squares a day—at least. □ The old beggar looks like he could use a square meal.

square off (for something) to get ready for an argument or a fight. □ John was angry and appeared to be squaring off for a fight. □ When those two square off, everyone gets out of the way.

a square peg in a round hole Fig. someone who is uncomfortable or who does not belong in a particular situation. (Also the cliché: trying to fit a square peg into a round hole, trying to combine two things that do not belong or fit together.) □ I feel like a square peg in a round hole at my office. Everyone else there seems so ambitious, competitive, and dedicated to the work, but I just want to make a living. □ Trying to teach me math is like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. I’m convinced my brain is not built right to understand algebra.

square someone away1 to get someone or something arranged or properly taken care of. □ See if you can square Bob away in his new office. □ When you are squared away, come back and we’ll talk.

square something off1 to make something square; to trim something until it is square. □ You will have to square this corner off a bit so it will match the part it will be attached to. □ Please square off this corner.

square something up1 to cause something to have right angles. □ Please square the door frames up better before you nail them in. □ Can you square up this box a little better?

square something with someone to make certain that something is approved by a particular person. □ I am sure I can square this matter with Sally. □ Sam intended to square everything with Henry when he had time.

square up (for fighting) to get ready for an argument or a fight. □ John was angry and appeared to be squaring up for a fight. □ When those two square up, everyone gets out of the way.

square up to someone or something to face someone or something bravely; to tackle someone or something. □ You’ll have to square up to the bully or he’ll make your life miserable. □ It’s time to square up to your financial problems. You can’t just ignore them.

square up with someone to pay someone what one owes; to pay one’s share of something to someone. □ I’ll square up with you later if you pay the whole bill now. □ Bob said he would square up with Tom for his share of the gas.

square with someone 1. Lit. to settle a disagreement with someone. □ I will try to square with Fred before the end of the school year. □ Max refused to square with Lefty and they are still feuding. 2. Fig. to apologize to someone. □ I will try to square with Harold. I really am sorry, you know. □ Finally, Mary squared with Alice and they forgave each other.

square with something Fig. [for a statement] to agree, match, or correspond to something. □ Your answer doesn’t square with mine. □ The figures I have don’t square with those the government has.

squared away arranged or properly taken care of. □ Is Ann squared away in her dorm room yet? □ I will talk to you when I am squared away.
squeal someone or something up\(^1\) to grind someone or something up; to mash someone or something up.  \(\Box\) You had better stay out of the traffic, or some big truck will squash you up! \(\Box\) The truck squashed up the tiny car.

squash something down\(^1\) to crush something down; to pack something down.  \(\Box\) Squash the ice cream down so the air will be pressed out.  \(\Box\) Who squashed down my hat?

squash something in\(^1\) to crush or make something concave by squashing or mashing.  \(\Box\) The children squashed the Halloween jack-o'-lantern in and ruined it.  \(\Box\) Someone squashed in the lampshade.

squash something into something and squash something in\(^1\) to press or mash something into something.  \(\Box\) She squashed the clay into the mold.  \(\Box\) She squashed in the clay and started to make a bowl.

squash up against someone or something to press hard up against someone or something. (Usually said of something soft.)  \(\Box\) The egg squashed up against the window and splattered all over.  \(\Box\) The pumpkin squashed up against the side of the truck.

squawk about something to complain about something.  \(\Box\) Stop squawking about how much money you lost.  I lost twice as much.  \(\Box\) What are you squawking about now?

squeak by (someone or something) 1. Fig. to manage just to squeeze past someone or something.  \(\Box\) I squeezed by the fat man in the hallway only to find myself blocked by another.  \(\Box\) I just barely squeezed by.  2. Fig. to manage just to get past a barrier represented by a person or thing, such as a difficult teacher or an examination.  \(\Box\) Judy just squeaked by Professor Smith, who has a reputation for flunking students.  \(\Box\) I took the test and just squeaked by.

squeak something through Fig. to manage just to get something accepted or approved.  \(\Box\) I just managed to squeeze the proposal through.  \(\Box\) Tom squeaked the application through at the last minute.

squeak through (something) 1. Fig. to manage just to squeeze through an opening.  \(\Box\) The child squeaked through the opening and escaped.  \(\Box\) Sally squeaked through and got away.  2. Fig. to manage just to get past a barrier, such as an examination or interview. (Fig. on \(\Box\).) \(\Box\) Sally just barely squeaked through the interview, but she got the job.  \(\Box\) I wasn't too alert and I just squeaked through.

The squeaking wheel gets the oil. and The squeaky wheel gets the oil. Prov. People who complain the most will get attention or what they want.  \(\Box\) If you don't get good service at the hotel, make sure to tell the manager that you're dissatisfied. The squeaking wheel gets the oil.

squeal (on someone) (to someone) Fig. to report someone to someone.  \(\Box\) Max was afraid that the witness would squeal on him to the cops.  \(\Box\) Sally threatened to squeal to the boss.  \(\Box\) Please promise you won't squeal on me!

squeal with something Fig. to shriek or squeak, exhibiting some characteristic emotion or experience, such as delight, pain, glee, etc.  \(\Box\) The baby saw the bright picture and squealed with delight.  \(\Box\) Timmy squealed with excitement when he saw the presents and the birthday cake.

squeeeze by (someone or something) to manage just to press oneself past someone or something.  \(\Box\) The hall was crowded and I had to squeeze by a number of rotund gentlemen.  \(\Box\) I squeezed by the crowd and ran on to my appointment.

squeeeze someone or something up\(^1\) into something and squeeze someone or something in\(^1\) to press or push someone or something into something small.  \(\Box\) Let's see if we can squeeze everyone into the car.  \(\Box\) Let's squeeze in one more.

squeeeze someone or something through (something) to push and compress until someone or something passes through something.  \(\Box\) John's cellmate managed to squeeze John through the window just before the guards walked by.  \(\Box\) I squeezed some food through the crack and the trapped miner was glad to get it.

squeeeze someone or something together to press people or things together.  \(\Box\) The driver squeezed us together so he could get more people in the taxi.  \(\Box\) See if you can squeeze the vegetables together a little so we can get more in the basket.

squeeeze someone or something up\(^1\) to press people or things close together.  \(\Box\) The usher tried to squeeze us up so she could seat more people.  \(\Box\) Don't squeeze up the cars too tight in the parking area.

squeeeze something from something 1. Lit. to press something out of something; to press on something until something comes out.  \(\Box\) Betty squeezed some toothpaste from the tube.  \(\Box\) Don't squeeze so much mustard from the bottle.  2. Fig. to get a little more of something from something.  \(\Box\) Let's see if we can squeeze a few more miles from this tank of gas before we fill up again.  \(\Box\) I think I can squeeze another few minutes from this candle before I have to light a new one.

squeeeze something out of something and squeeze something out\(^1\) to press something until something is expelled from something.  \(\Box\) Claire squeezed some toothpaste out of the tube.  \(\Box\) She squeezed out some toothpaste.

squeeeze (themselves) together [for creatures] to press close together.  \(\Box\) The little pigs squeezed themselves together to get a better chance at some food.  \(\Box\) They squeezed themselves together and gobbled their dinner.  \(\Box\) They squeezed themselves together to keep warm.

squeeeze (themselves) up [for people] to press themselves closely together.  \(\Box\) Everyone squeezed themselves up in the tiny car so there would be room for one more.  \(\Box\) Let's squeeze up so Jamie can sit down.  \(\Box\) They squeezed themselves up so they would take less space.

squeeeze through something to manage to press oneself through an opening.  \(\Box\) I think I can squeeze through the window and get out of this place.  \(\Box\) The cat squeezed through a hole in the fence and got away.

squeeeze up against someone or something to press close up against someone or something.  \(\Box\) He squeezed up against me, trying to keep warm.  \(\Box\) The puppies squeezed up against their mother.

squeiff out Sl. to collapse from drink.  \(\Box\) Hank squiffed out at midnight, right on the dot.  \(\Box\) She kept from squiffing out and barely made it home.

squint at someone or something to look at someone or something with the eyes partly closed. (When squinting, the eyes are partly closed by pressing the upper and lower
squint out of something

eyelids toward one another.) □ Why are you squinting at me? □ I had to squint at the small print in order to read it.

squint out of something 1. to cast one’s gaze from something, such as a place of concealment, with one’s eyes partly closed. □ The prisoner squinted out of the little hatch in the door to his cell. □ You could see that many people were squinting out of the windows, trying to get a good view of the movie star who was visiting. 2. to cast one’s gaze through something, such as glasses, one eye, etc., with one’s eyes partly closed. □ She squinted out of one eye in the bright sun. □ Tony squinted out of his glasses and his mother decided that he needed to have his eyes checked again.

squirm in(to something) to press into something that is tight; to crawl or wiggle into something tight. (For people, this is often clothing that is too tight. For other creatures, it is more variable.) □ Dave squirmed into his jeans and pledged to himself that he would lose some weight. □ He squirmed in and knew he could never close the zipper.

squirm out of something 1. Lit. to crawl or wiggle out of something. □ The worm squirmed out of its hole and was gobbled up by a bird. □ The worm squirmed out. 2. Fig. to escape doing something; to escape the responsibility for having done something. □ He agreed to go but squirmed out at the last minute. □ You did it and you can’t squirm out of it by denying it!

squirm with something to fidget or move around restlessly, showing irritation of some type. □ The children squirmed with impatience, but they kept quiet. □ I squirmed with discomfort, hoping that the time on the aircraft would pass rapidly.

squirrel something away 1. Fig. to hide something or store something in the way that a squirrel stores nuts for use in the winter. □ I squirreled a little money away for an occasion such as this. □ Liz squirreled away a lot of money while she was working.

squirter something out of something for a liquid] to be ejected in a spurt from something. □ The water squirtered from the hose. □ Juice squirtered from the orange when I squeezed it.

squirter out of something (or someone or something) for something, especially a liquid] to gush or spurt forth from someone or something. □ In the horror movie, black stuff squirtered out of this guy whenever he got angry. □ A lot of blood squirtered out of the gash and I closed my eyes.

squirter something at someone or something 1. to direct a narrow stream of liquid onto someone or something. □ They squirtered the water at the cat and it ran away. □ Who is squirtereting catsup at people? 2. to direct a device for squirtereting liquid at someone or something. □ Tom squirtered the hose at the cat. □ Who is squirtereting the firehose at the front of the house?

squirter something out of something and squirter something out† to cause something to spurt out of something. □ He squirtereted a bit of the vaccine out of the syringe, making sure the needle was not clogged. □ He squirtereted a bit of the vaccine.

a stab at something Go to a try at something.

stab someone in something to stab someone in a particular place. □ Max stabbed a prison guard in the belly and left him to die. □ Tom stabbed himself in the thigh by accident.

stab someone in the back 1. Lit. to thrust a knife into someone’s back. □ Max planned to stab his hostage in the back if he screamed. □ The murderer stabbed his victim in the back and fled. 2. Fig. to betray someone. □ I wish you would not gossip about me. There is no need to stab me in the back.

stab something at someone or something to thrust something at someone or something. □ The stork stabbed a stick at the bear to see if there was any life at all left in it. □ The stork tried to stab its beak at me as I held it, but I held tight while the vet examined it.

stack something against someone or something to make a pile of something that leans against someone or something. (See also stack the deck (against someone or something).) □ Watch what you are doing! Why are you stacking the books against me? They will fall when I move. □ Stack the books against the wall.

stack something up† to make a stack of things. (Also without the up.) □ Where should I stack them up? □ Please stack up these boxes.

stack the cards (against someone or something) Go to next.

stack the deck (against someone or something) and stack the cards (against someone or something) to arrange things against someone or something. (Originally from card playing; stacking the deck is to cheat by arranging the cards to be dealt out to one’s advantage.) □ I can’t get ahead at my office. Someone has stacked the cards against me. □ Do you really think that someone has stacked the deck? Isn’t it just fate?

stack up [for something] to accumulate, as in stacks. □ Your work is stacking up. You will have to work late to finish it. □ I hate to let my work stack up. I have to do it sooner or later.

stack up to someone or something [for someone or something] to measure up favorably when compared to someone or something. □ How do you think I stack up to Liz? □ My car stacks up pretty well to yours.

stagger around to go about tottering or wobbling, especially as if drunk. □ The wounded man staggered around and then fell. □ A lot of people came out of the party and staggered around.

stagger from something to move out of a place, tottering. □ The drunk staggered from the tavern and fell into the gutter. □ The wounded man staggered from the door and called for help.

stagger in(to some place) to walk into some place, tottering. □ The old man staggered into the room and collapsed. □ He staggered in and fell down.

stagger out of some place to walk out of some place, tottering. □ The drunk staggered out of the tavern and fell down. □ She staggered out and sat on the curb.
stagger under something to struggle or totter under a serious burden, either a heavy object or a serious problem or responsibility.  □ The welfare budget is staggering under the burden of having to care for many people.  □ Sam staggered under the heavy load and finally fell.

stall something with something 1. to cause a delay intentionally.  □ Judy stalled the car with some grape juice. □ You will stall your clothing with that food if you drop any of it. 2. to affect the coloring of something through the use of a chemical stain. (A purposeful act, much the same as painting.) □ Walter stalled the house with a long-lasting reddish stain. □ We decided to stain the doors with a special varnish rather than paint them. 3. Fig. to injure or blemish someone's reputation. □ They stained his reputation with their charges. □ I don't want to do anything that would stain my reputation.

stake a claim to someone or something Fig. to state or record one's claim on someone or something. (Alludes to marking off an area by pounding in wooden stakes.) □ She staked a claim to Jeff and told all her rivals to stay away. □ The prospector staked a claim to the gold-rich area.

stake one's reputation on someone or something to risk harming one's reputation on someone or something. □ Of course Denise is great. I will stake my reputation on her! □ It may be so, but I wouldn't stake my reputation on it.

stake out a claim to something 1. to lay claim to something. (Alludes to marking off an area by pounding in wooden stakes.) □ Judy staked a claim on two seats at the side of the auditorium. □ The prospector staked a claim on a gold-rich area.

stake out something 1. to stake out or stake in (to) something. □ staked out a claim to something. □ The ox is staked out in the snow by the farmer. □ The victim wanted to stamp out the robbers without a trial.

stamper something out1 to manage to say something, but only haltingly. □ Fred stammered the words out haltingly. □ He stammered out the name of the winner.

stamped something out1 to extinguish a fire by stamping on it. □ Quick, stamp that fire out before it spreads. □ Tom stamped out the sparks before they started a fire.

stamped something off1 to mark out the boundaries of an area and land with stakes. □ The prospectors staked an area off for themselves. □ He staked his best operative in front of the building. □ We staked out two men to keep watch.

stamped something onto something 1. to stamp onto something or someone. □ Judy stamped onto her name and address onto all her books. □ Judy stamped her name and address onto all her books. □ Of course Denise is great. I will stake my reputation on her! □ It may be so, but I wouldn't stake my reputation on it.

stamped something out1 to affix a label onto someone or something with something; to apply a particular message or symbol onto someone or something, as with a rubber stamp. □ Judy stamped everyone who went into the dance with a symbol that showed that each had paid admission. □ Mary stamped the bill with the PAID symbol.

stamped something out1 to affix a label onto something with something; to apply a particular message or symbol onto something or someone, as with a rubber stamp. □ Judy stamped everyone who went into the dance with a symbol that showed that each had paid admission. □ Mary stamped the bill with the PAID symbol.

stamped something out1 to affix an informative label onto something, as with a rubber stamp. □ She stamped her name and address onto all her books. □ Tom stamped his identification onto all his papers and books.

stamped something out1 to eliminate something. (Fig. on stamp something out.) □ You just can't stamp somebody out on your own! □ The victim wanted to stamp out the robbers without a trial.

stamped something onto something 1. to affix an informative label onto something, as with a rubber stamp. □ She stamped her name and address onto all her books. □ Tom stamped his identification onto all his papers and books.

stamped something off1 to mark out the boundaries of an area and land with stakes. □ The prospectors staked an area off for themselves. □ The prospector staked a claim on a gold-rich area.

stamped something onto something 1. to stamp onto something or someone. □ Judy stamped onto her name and address onto all her books. □ Judy stamped her name and address onto all her books.

stamped something out1 to affix a label onto someone or something with something; to apply a particular message or symbol onto someone or something, as with a rubber stamp. □ Judy stamped everyone who went into the dance with a symbol that showed that each had paid admission. □ Mary stamped the bill with the PAID symbol.

stamped something out1 to affix a label onto something with something; to apply a particular message or symbol onto something or someone, as with a rubber stamp. □ Judy stamped everyone who went into the dance with a symbol that showed that each had paid admission. □ Mary stamped the bill with the PAID symbol.

stamped something out1 to eliminate something. (Fig. on stamp something out.) □ You just can't stamp somebody out on your own! □ The victim wanted to stamp out the robbers without a trial.

stamped something onto something 1. to affix an informative label onto something, as with a rubber stamp. □ She stamped her name and address onto all her books. □ Tom stamped his identification onto all his papers and books.

stamped something out1 to affix an informative label onto something, as with a rubber stamp. □ She stamped her name and address onto all her books. □ Tom stamped his identification onto all his papers and books.

stamped something off1 to mark out the boundaries of an area and land with stakes. □ The prospectors staked an area off for themselves. □ The prospector staked a claim on a gold-rich area.

stamped something onto something 1. to stamp onto something or someone. □ Judy stamped onto her name and address onto all her books. □ Judy stamped her name and address onto all her books.

stamped something out1 to affix a label onto someone or something with something; to apply a particular message or symbol onto someone or something, as with a rubber stamp. □ Judy stamped everyone who went into the dance with a symbol that showed that each had paid admission. □ Mary stamped the bill with the PAID symbol.

stamped something out1 to affix a label onto something with something; to apply a particular message or symbol onto something or someone, as with a rubber stamp. □ Judy stamped everyone who went into the dance with a symbol that showed that each had paid admission. □ Mary stamped the bill with the PAID symbol.

stamped something out1 to eliminate something. (Fig. on stamp something out.) □ You just can't stamp somebody out on your own! □ The victim wanted to stamp out the robbers without a trial.

stamped something onto something 1. to affix an informative label onto something, as with a rubber stamp. □ She stamped her name and address onto all her books. □ Tom stamped his identification onto all his papers and books.

stamped something out1 to eliminate something. (Fig. on stamp something out.) □ You just can't stamp somebody out on your own! □ The victim wanted to stamp out the robbers without a trial.

stamped something onto something 1. to affix an informative label onto something, as with a rubber stamp. □ She stamped her name and address onto all her books. □ Tom stamped his identification onto all his papers and books.
stand a chance (of doing something) to have a chance of doing something. □ Do you think I stand a chance of winning first place? □ Everyone stands a chance of catching the disease.

stand against someone or something Go to against someone or something.

stand and deliver to give up something to someone who demands it. (Originally used by highway robbers asking for passengers' valuables.) □ And when the tax agent says “Stand and deliver” you have to be prepared to pay what is demanded. □ The robber stopped the coach and demanded of Lady Ellen, “Stand and deliver!”

stand apart from someone or something 1. Lit. to stand, separated from someone or something. □ Please stand apart from the person next to you. We want to see the table between you. □ Stand apart. Leave some space between you. 2. Fig. to appear clearly different from other things or people. □ Alice really stands apart from her peers. □ This book really stands apart. It is much better than the others.

stand around to wait around, standing; to loiter. □ I have to stand by my brother even if he goes to jail. □ I'll stand by you no matter what.

stand back (from someone or something) 1. to stand in the vicinity of someone or something. □ I feel as though I have to stand back of Elaine. I trust her totally. □ I will stand back of Elaine. I trust her totally. □ The new singer is standing back of the president. □ Bob says he stands back of a big juicy steak. I think he's exaggerating.

stand between someone or something □ The police told them to stand between you.

stand behind someone or something □ The man stood behind the firehouse.

stand between someone or something and someone or something else □ I don't want to stand between you and your family.

stand by to wait and remain ready. (Generally heard in communication, such as broadcasting, telephones, etc.) □ Your transatlantic telephone call is almost ready. Please stand by. □ Is everyone ready for the telecast? Only ten seconds—stand by.

stand by someone to support someone; to continue supporting someone even when things are bad. □ Don't worry. I'll stand by you no matter what. □ I feel as though I have to stand by my brother even if he goes to jail.

stand by someone or something to stand next to someone or something. □ Jeff, please stand by Judy. I want to take your picture. □ Can I stand by the window and watch the birds?

stand clear of something Go to clear of something.

stand close to someone or something Go to close to someone or something.

stand corrected to admit that one has been wrong. □ I realize that I accused him wrongly. I stand corrected. □ We appreciate now that our conclusions were wrong. We stand corrected.

stand down 1. to step down, particularly from the witness stand in a courtroom. □ The bailiff told the witness to stand down. □ Please stand down and take your seat. 2. [for military forces] to move away from readiness for war. □ After the peace treaty was signed, troops on both sides stood down.

stand for something 1. to permit something; to endure something. □ The teacher won't stand for any whispering in class. □ We just can't stand for that kind of behavior. 2. to signify something. □ In a traffic signal, the red light stands for “stop.” □ The abbreviation Dr. stands for “doctor.” 3. to endorse or support an ideal. □ The mayor claims to stand for honesty in government and jobs for everyone. □ Every candidate for public office stands for all the good things in life.

stand head and shoulders above someone or something Fig. [for someone or something] to be considerably superior to someone or something. □ Alice stands head and shoulders above all the rest of the people we interviewed. □ Your proposal stands head and shoulders above the rest.

stand idly by Go to sit idly by.

stand in awe of (someone or something) □ I am standing in awe of a big juicy steak. I think he's exaggerating.

stand in (for someone or something) □ The ship stood in for her.

stand in someone's way Go to in someone's way.

stand knee-deep in something Go to knee-deep in something.

stand off from someone or something to be or remain at some distance from someone or something. □ Charles stood off from the group. □ Mary stood off from the fireside, where all the excitement was taking place.

stand off some place [for a ship] to wait some distance from a point on shore. □ The ship stood off at some distance, waiting for its berth. □ We stood off about a mile from shore and went to land in small boats called tenders.

stand on ceremony to hold rigidly to protocol or formal manners. (Often in the negative.) □ Please help yourself to more. Don't stand on ceremony. □ We are very informal around here. Hardly anyone stands on ceremony.
stand on one's dignity to remain dignified in spite of difficulties. □ I will stand on my dignity to the very end. □ She stood on her dignity and ignored all the nonsense going on around her.

stand on one's head 1. Lit. to stand or balance vertically with one's head and hands—rather than one's feet—touching the floor. □ Can you stand on your head? □ Todd stood on his head as a form of exercise. 2. Fig. to attempt to impress someone by hard work or difficult feats. □ You don't have to stand on your head to succeed in this office. Just do your assigned work on time.

stand on one's (own) two feet to act in an independent and forthright manner. □ I can stand on my own two feet without any help from you! □ Dave will be better off when he gets a job and can stand on his own feet.

stand on something 1. to step or tread on something, perhaps by accident. □ I didn't mean to step on the cat's tail. □ Please don't stand on the nice carpet with muddy shoes. 2. to elevate oneself by standing on something, such as a chair or stool. □ Tony stood on a stool so he could reach the cookie jar. □ Don't stand on that box. It won't hold you up.

stand one's ground and hold one's ground to stand up for one's rights; to resist an attack. □ The lawyer tried to confuse me when I was giving testimony, but I managed to stand my ground. □ Some people were trying to crowd us out of the line for tickets, but we held our ground.

stand out (against) someone or something to be prominent or conspicuous against a background of someone or something. □ Your red coat really stands out against all those dull brown ones. □ With that deep tan, you really stand out against the others.

stand out (from) someone or something to be prominent when compared to someone or something. □ As a programmer, she stands out from all the others. □ This entry stands out from all the rest in this show.

stand out (from) something to protrude from something. □ One very straight branch in particular stood out from the tree and looked suitable for a post. □ The branch stood out and made a perfect place to hang my shirt while I worked.

stand outside (of) something to remain outside of a place, standing. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Judy stood outside the shop, waiting for it to open. □ How long have you been standing outside the door in this cold wind?

stand over someone or something to hover over someone or something; to monitor or keep close watch on someone or something. □ Please don't stand over me while I work! □ Dave stood over the machine, making sure it did what it was supposed to do.

stand pat (on something) to stick firmly to one's position or opinions. □ I am going to stand pat on this issue. □ I thought you would stand pat in the absence of new information.

stand someone in good stead [for something] to be of great use and benefit to someone. □ I know that my large vocabulary will always stand me in good stead at college. □ Any experience you can get in dealing with the public will stand you in good stead no matter what line of work you go into.

stand someone or something off to repel the attack of someone or something; to defend against someone or something; to stave someone or something off. □ It was all we could do to stand them off. □ The soldiers stood off the attackers as long as they could.

stand someone to a treat to pay for a treat for someone.
□ Come on. Let's go out and eat. I'll stand you to a treat. □ It seems as if I am always standing someone to a treat.

stand someone up 1. to place someone into a standing position. □ I tried to stand him up, but he was just too tired. □ Let's try to stand up Timmy and get him awake. 2. to fail to show up for a meeting or a date. □ He stood her up once too often, so she broke up with him. □ Tom stood up Mary once, and she never forgave him.

stand something on its head Fig. to stir up, baffle, or surprise a group or organization. □ The new owners came into the company and stood it on its head. Nothing will ever be the same. □ The mayor set out to stand the town on its head, but after one month, it was business as usual.

stand still for something Go to hold still for something.

stand tall to be brave and proud. □ I can still stand tall. I'm innocent. □ Our athletes stand tall in the knowledge that they did their best.

stand the test of time Prov. to be well regarded; to last for a long time. □ Bill and Nancy just celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their marriage has stood the test of time. □ The singer’s work was not popular while she was alive, but it has stood the test of time.

stand there with one's bare face hanging out Bur. to stand some place looking helpless and stupid. □ Say something. Don't just stand there with your bare face hanging out. □ She just stood there with her bare face hanging out while they took away everything she owned.

stand to lose something to be likely to lose something or have it taken away. □ I stand to lose hundreds of dollars if I am not there on time.

stand to reason to seem reasonable. □ It stands to reason that it'll be colder in January than it is in November. □ It stands to reason that Bill left in a hurry, although no one saw him go.

stand together 1. to stand in a group. □ All the members of the family stood together for a photograph. □ Please stand together so I can count you. 2. to remain united. □ We must stand together if we want to defeat this enemy. □ If we don't stand together, we will be defeated one by one.

stand trial to be the accused person in a trial before a judge; to be on trial. □ He had to stand trial for perjury and obstruction of justice.

stand up 1. to arise from a sitting or reclining position. □ He stood up and looked across the valley. □ She had been sitting for so long that it was a pleasure to stand up. 2. to be in a standing position. □ I've been standing up all day and I'm exhausted. □ I stood up throughout the whole trip because there were no more seats on the train. 3. to wear well; to remain sound and intact. □ This material just doesn't stand up well when it's washed. □ Her work doesn't stand up under close scrutiny. 4. [for an assertion] to remain believable. □ His testimony will not stand up in court. □ When the police checked the story, it did not stand up.
stand up against someone or something to withstand or hold one’s own against someone or something. □ He’s good, but he can’t stand up against Jill. □ Can this tent stand up against the wind?

stand up and be counted to state one’s support (for someone or something). □ If you believe in more government help for farmers, write your representative—stand up and be counted. □ I’m generally in favor of what you propose, but not enough to stand up and be counted.

stand up before someone Go to up before someone.

stand up for someone or something to take the side of someone or something; to defend someone or something. □ I hope you will stand up for me if the going gets rough. □ We will have to stand up for our rights someday.

stand up in court [for a case] to survive a test in a court of law. □ Do you think that this case will stand up in court? □ These charges will never stand up in court. They are too vague.

stand up to someone or something to take a stand against someone or something; to hold one’s ground or principles in the face of a challenge by someone or something. □ He is a tough customer, and you have to learn to stand up to him. □ Can the witness stand up to questioning by the prosecution?

stand up with someone to attend someone who is being married. (Usually refers to males.) □ I agreed to stand up with my buddy at his wedding. □ Tom stood up with Harry when the latter got married.

stand (upon) someone or something to be on someone or something, standing. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ To help his back pain, he lay down on his tummy and Jill stood upon him, digging her toes into his back. □ Please don’t stand on the bed.

stand well with someone to be acceptable or agreeable to someone. □ That idea doesn’t stand well with the management. □ I hope my suggestions stand well with you.

stand with someone to unite with someone, as in defense. □ Don’t worry. I’ll stand with you to the end. □ He stood with her and they faced the threat together.

a standing joke a subject that regularly and over a period of time causes amusement whenever it is mentioned. □ Uncle Jim’s driving was a standing joke. He used to drive incredibly slowly. □ Their mother’s inability to make a decision was a standing joke in the Smith family all their lives.

star as someone or something [for someone] to be a featured performer, representing a particular person, or play in a particular role. □ Judy starred as Evita in the Broadway production of the same name. □ Mary starred as an aging countess.

star in something to be a featured actor in a play, movie, opera, etc. □ Roger starred in an off-Broadway play last season. □ Mary always wanted to star in her own movie, but it was not to be.

star-crossed lovers ill-fated lovers. □ I suppose that Romeo and Juliet are star-crossed lovers.

stare at someone or something to look fixedly at someone or something. □ Why are you staring at me? □ I was staring at the scenery behind you.

stare into something to gaze fixedly into something. □ She just sat there, staring into space. □ Tom stared into the water, hoping to see a fish or maybe a turtle.

stare out at someone or something 1. to be in a place staring outward at someone or something. □ I stayed in my little room and stared out at the others having fun in the crisp fall air. □ We stared out at the deep snow. 2. [for a face or eyes visible in a place] to be seen staring outward from that place. □ Two bright little cat eyes stared out at me from the basket. □ Her face stared out of the tiny window.

stare someone down! to pressure someone to capitulate, back down, or yield by staring. □ Don’t try to stare me down. I have nerves of steel. □ I tried to stare down my opponent, but it didn’t work.

stare someone in the face 1. Go to look someone in the face. 2. [for evidence] to confront someone directly. (Fig. on stare someone in the face; look someone in the face.) □ Finally, the truth stared me in the face, and I had to admit to myself what had really happened. □ When the facts in the case stared the jury in the face, there was nothing they could do but acquit.

stark raving mad Cliché totally insane; completely crazy; out of control. (Often an exaggeration.) □ When she heard about what happened at the office, she went stark raving mad. □ You must be stark raving mad if you think I would trust you with my car!

*stars in one’s eyes Fig. an obsession with celebrities, movies, and the theater. (Alludes to movie stars. *Typically: get ~; have ~; give one ~.) □ Many young people have stars in their eyes at this age. □ Anne has stars in her eyes. She wants to go to Hollywood.

* a start 1. and *a jump(start) battery power to help start someone’s car, etc. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ My car is stalled. I need to get a start. □ I got my car going. I got a jump from John. 2. help in beginning one’s career; a first opportunity in the beginning of one’s career. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ She got a start in show business in Cincinnati. □ She had a start when she was only four.

start a fire under someone Go to a fire under someone.

start an all-out effort Go to an all-out effort.

start as something to begin in some original condition or status. □ Every forest fire starts as a small spark. □ The argument started as a small disagreement.

start back (to some place) to begin the journey back to a place. □ When do we start back to Chicago? □ It’s time to start back.

start for some place to begin a journey to some place. □ When shall we start for Springfield? □ We will start for Detroit before dawn.

start from scratch to start from the very beginning; to start from nothing. □ Whenever I bake a cake, I start from scratch. I never use a cake mix in a box. □ I built every bit of my own house. I started from scratch and did everything with my own hands.

start from some place 1. [for someone] to begin a journey at some place. (The emphasis is on the location of the start of the journey.) □ We started from California. □ Where will you start from? 2. [for a journey] to begin from
start out (on something) to begin something, such as a trip, a career, an investigation, etc. □ When we started out on this investigation, I never dreamed we would uncover so much. □ What time did you start out this morning?  

start out with someone or something to begin something in association with someone or something. □ I started out the project with Jeff, but he had to be replaced. □ We started out with the Acme Corp., but they could not handle all our work.  

start over to begin again. □ I have messed this up so much that there is nothing to do now but start over. □ When you start over, try to do it right this time.  

start (over) with a clean slate Go to start (off) with a clean slate.  

start someone in (as something) and start someone out (as something) to start someone on a job as a certain kind of worker. □ I got a job in a restaurant today. They started me in as a dishwasher. □ I now work for the telephone company. They started me out as a local operator.  

start someone off† (on something) to cause someone to begin on a task or job. □ I have to start Jeff off on this task, then I will talk to you. □ I will start off my workers on the job tomorrow.  

start someone out (as something) Go to start someone in (as something).  

start someone out at an amount of money to start someone working at a particular salary. □ We will start you out at $30,000. □ I wanted to be started out at $35,000.  

start someone over to cause someone to begin again; to lead someone to begin again. □ The orchestra messed up the first few bars, so the conductor started them over again. □ I hope the conductor doesn’t start us over again. This is getting boring to play.  

start someone up† (in something) to help someone get a start in some enterprise. □ My uncle started me up in business. □ I started up my niece in the candy business.  

start something to start a fight or an argument. (Something can be replaced by anything or nothing with the negative.) □ Hey, you! Better be careful unless you want to start something. □ I don’t want to start anything. I’m just leaving.  

start something up† to start something, such as a car or some procedure. (Also without up.) □ It was cold, but I managed to start up the car without any difficulty. □ We can’t start the project up until we have more money.  

start something up† with something to use something in the process of starting something else. □ Do you have to start this old car up with a crank? □ Do you start up this car with a crank?  

start the ball rolling Go to get the ball rolling.  

start up to begin; to begin running, as with an engine. □ The car started up without a problem. □ The engines of the plane started up one by one.  

start up with someone or something to begin using someone or something. □ We will start up with two clerks and add more as we grow. □ We started up with one old cash register, and now we have six.  

startle someone out of something to frighten someone very badly. (The something that may be lost may be expressed as wits, senses, ten years’ growth, etc.) □ The explosion star-
starve for some food

ted Polly out of her senses. \(\Box\) I frightened myself out of ten years’ growth.

**starve for some food** to be very hungry for something. \(\Box\) I am just starved for some fresh peaches. \(\Box\) We were starved for dinner by the time we finally got to eat.

**starve for someone or something** Fig. to have a strong desire or need for someone or something. (Based on **starved for some food**.) \(\Box\) I am starved for Jane. I miss her so! \(\Box\) Claire was starved for affection.

**starve someone or an animal into something** to force someone or an animal to do something by starvation. \(\Box\) The torturers finally starved the prisoner into telling the battle plans. \(\Box\) They starved the water buffalo into a state of weakness.

**starve someone or an animal out of some place** and **starve someone or an animal out of** to force a living creature to come out of a hiding place or a place of security by starvation. \(\Box\) The attackers tried to starve the people out of the walled city. \(\Box\) We tried to starve out the mice.

**stash something away** to hide something; to set something aside for use at a later time. \(\Box\) Please stash this away somewhere. You may need it someday. \(\Box\) You should stash away some money for later.

**stash something in something** to put or shove something into something; to store or hide something in something. \(\Box\) You should stash your food in a place that is safe from bears when you go camping. \(\Box\) I stashed my clothes in my suitcase and called a taxi.

**state of mind** basic attitude or outlook at a point in time. \(\Box\) She was in a terrible state of mind when she was interviewed for a job.

**state of the art** using the most recent technology. (Hyphenated before nouns.) \(\Box\) Our company’s computer setup is strictly state of the art. \(\Box\) This state-of-the-art radio is capable of filling the whole room with sound.

**station someone at something** to position or place someone near something. \(\Box\) The manager stationed a receptionist at the door. \(\Box\) Would you station a guard at the back door to keep people out?

**stave someone or something off** to hold someone or something off; to defend against the attack of someone or something. (See also **stave something off**.) \(\Box\) The citizen was not able to stave the mugger off. \(\Box\) The army staved off the attackers for three hours without letup.

**stave something in** to crush something in. (The past tense is usually stave with ships, and otherwise, staved.) \(\Box\) The rocks on the reef staved the hull of the ship in. \(\Box\) The angry sailor staved in the cask of rum.

**stave something off** to delay or postpone something unwanted, such as hunger, foreclosure, death, etc. (See also **stave someone or something off**.) \(\Box\) He could stave his thirst off no longer. Despite the enemy sentries, he made a dash for the stream. \(\Box\) The lost hiker could not stave off her hunger any longer.

**stay abreast of someone or something** Go to **abreast of** someone or something.

**stay after someone (about something)** Go to **after someone (about something)**.
stay on a diet Go to on a diet.

*stay on (after someone or something) Go to linger on (after someone or something).

stay on course Go to on course.

*stay on (one’s) guard against someone or something Go to on (one’s) guard against someone or something.

stay on one’s toes Go to on one’s toes.

*stay on (some place) to remain at a place longer than had been planned. ☐ I stayed on in Paris for nearly two years. ☐ Mary liked it there and decided to stay on.

*stay on something 1. Lit. to remain on something, such as a horse, road, stool, etc. ☐ The first time I rode, I could hardly stay on the horse. ☐ It was so slippery that I had trouble staying on the road. 2. to continue to pursue something. ☐ I will stay on this problem until it is settled. ☐ She stayed on the matter for weeks until it had been dealt with.

*stay on the good side of someone Go to keep on the right side of someone.

stay on top of someone or something 1. Lit. to remain positioned on the top of someone or something. ☐ Please stay on top of the hill until we call you. ☐ The wind is blowing and this sheet of plastic will not stay on top of me, so I am getting soaked! 2. Fig. to keep well-informed about someone or something. ☐ You have to stay on top of her if you want her to do it right. ☐ I will stay on top of this project.

*stay one step ahead of someone or something Go to keep one step ahead of someone or something.

Stay out of my way. Go to Keep out of my way.

stay out of sight Go to out of sight.

stay out (of something) 1. Lit. to keep out of something or some place. ☐ Stay out of here! ☐ Please stay out until we are ready. 2. Fig. to remain uninvolved in some piece of business. ☐ I decided to stay out of it and let someone else handle it. ☐ My help wasn’t needed there, so I just stayed out.

*Stay out of this! Go to Keep out of this!

stay over (somewhere) to stay overnight in a dwelling other than one's own. ☐ Can I stay over at Jimmy’s tonight? ☐ No, you can’t stay over.

stay put not to move; to stay where one is. ☐ We’ve decided to stay put and not to move to Florida. ☐ If the children just stay put, their parents will come for them soon.

*stay to something to remain in a place for something, such as dinner. ☐ I hope you will stay to dinner. ☐ I stayed to lunch because they were having fried shrimp.

stay under (something) to remain concealed or protected beneath something. ☐ You had better stay under the blankets until I get the fire started in the fireplace. ☐ Stay under and keep warm.

stay up (for something) to remain awake and out of bed for some nighttime event. ☐ I will stay up for her arrival. ☐ I can’t stay up that late.

*stay up late to remain awake and out of bed later than usual. ☐ I am in the practice of staying up late. ☐ I can’t stay up late three nights in a row.

stay up until a particular time to remain awake and out of bed until a particular time. ☐ I stayed up until long past midnight last night. ☐ Do you think Susie should stay up until midnight?

*stay with someone or something to remain in the company of someone or something. ☐ Please stay with me for a little while. ☐ How long did you stay with the company?

stay within something to remain inside something. ☐ You will have to stay within the immediate area until things return to normal in the town. ☐ Our dog just can’t seem to stay within our yard.

stay young at heart Go to young at heart.

*steady as a rock Cliché very steady and unmovable; very stable. (*Also: as ~.) ☐ His hand was steady as a rock as he made each incision. ☐ You must remain as steady as a rock when you are arguing with your supervisor.

*steal a base Fig. to sneak from one base to another in baseball. ☐ The runner stole second base, but he nearly got put out on the way. ☐ Tom runs so slowly that he never tries to steal a base.

*steal a glance at someone or something Fig. to sneak a peek at someone or something. ☐ He stole a glance at his brother, who appeared to be as frightened as he was. ☐ Karen stole a glance at her watch and yawned.

*steal a march on someone or something to precede someone who has the same goal; to accomplish something before someone else does. ☐ Jeff stole a march on all of us when he had his story published. ☐ Our competitor stole a march on us and got the big contract.

*steal away (from someone or something) to sneak away from someone or something. ☐ The thief stole away from the policeman. ☐ We stole away from the boring lecture.

*steal from someone or something to rob someone or something. ☐ You wouldn't steal from a poor man, would you? ☐ Max didn’t feel bad about stealing from a bank.

*steal out of some place to sneak quietly out of some place. ☐ The critic stole out of the theater, unable to endure any more of the abysmal play. ☐ I stole out of the lecture and went back to my room.

*steal over someone or something 1. [for a covering of some sort] to move slowly over someone or something. (As with the sun or the shade of a cloud.) ☐ The shade stole over the sunbathers and ended their day. ☐ Darkness stole over the land. 2. [for a feeling] to spread through someone gradually. ☐ A feeling of gloom stole over the crowd. ☐ A sense of high excitement stole over the boys as they waited.

*steal someone’s heart Fig. to capture someone’s affections; to cause someone to fall in love with oneself. ☐ When I first met him, I knew he would steal my heart away. And he did.

*steal someone’s thunder Fig. to lessen someone’s force or authority. ☐ What do you mean by coming in here and stealing my thunder? I’m in charge here! ☐ Someone stole my thunder by leaking my announcement to the press.

*steal something from someone or something to take the property belonging to someone or something without permission; to commit the theft of something from someone or something. ☐ Max stole $50 from Henry. ☐ Lefty stole an apple from the fruit stand.
steal something off someone to rob something from someone. □ I think that guy who walked past me stole my wallet off me! □ Max stole a lot of money off tourists last season.

steal the show Go to next.

steal the spotlight and steal the show Fig. to give the best performance in a show, play, or some other event; to get attention for oneself. □ The lead in the play was very good, but the butler stole the show. □ Ann always tries to steal the spotlight when she and I make a presentation.

steal up on someone or something to sneak up on someone or something. □ We will steal up on Tony and give him a scare. □ The fox stole up on the hen and grabbed it.

steam across something [for a ship] to cross a body of water under power. (Originally referred to steam engines, but now can be any sort of engine.) □ How long does it take to steam across the Atlantic these days? □ We steamed across the bay in less than an hour.

steam in((to) something) [for a vehicle, usually a ship] to enter something under power. (Originally referred to steam engines, but now can be any sort of engine.) □ The ship steamed into the harbor and headed for the pier. □ Right on time, the ship steamed in.

steam out (of some place) [for a conveyance, usually a ship] to exit something under power. (Originally referred to steam engines, but now can be any sort of engine.) □ The huge diesel engines began to labor, and the ship steamed out of its berth. □ It shuddered a couple of times and steamed out.

steam someone's beam Sl. to make someone angry. □ Being stood up really steams my beam! □ Come on, don't steam your beam. Remember how hard times are now.

steam someone up! 1. Sl. to get someone excited. □ Steam yourselves up and get in there and win this game! □ The coach can really steam up those guys.

steam across something [for a ship] to cross a body of water under power. (Originally referred to steam engines, but now can be any sort of engine.) □ How long does it take to steam across the Atlantic these days? □ We steamed across the bay in less than an hour.

steam in((to) something) [for a vehicle, usually a ship] to enter something under power. (Originally referred to steam engines, but now can be any sort of engine.) □ The ship steamed into the harbor and headed for the pier. □ Right on time, the ship steamed in.

steam out (of some place) [for a conveyance, usually a ship] to exit something under power. (Originally referred to steam engines, but now can be any sort of engine.) □ The huge diesel engines began to labor, and the ship steamed out of its berth. □ It shuddered a couple of times and steamed out.

steam someone's beam Sl. to make someone angry. □ Being stood up really steams my beam! □ Come on, don't steam your beam. Remember how hard times are now.

steam someone up! 1. Sl. to get someone excited. □ Steam yourselves up and get in there and win this game! □ The coach can really steam up those guys. □ This whole mess steamed me up but good. □ The long critical statement simply steamed up my opponent in the debate.

steam something off (of) something and steam something off something] to loosen and remove something by an application of steam. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Toby steamed the old paper off the wall. □ Toby steamed off the old wallpaper.

steam something out of something and steam something out of something] to remove something embedded, through an application of steam. □ The cleaner was not able to steam the wrinkles out of my jacket. □ I tried to steam out the gum.

steam something up1 to cause something to be covered with water vapor due to the presence of steam. □ Our breaths steamed the windows up. □ The hot shower steamed up the mirror.

steam up 1. Lit. to become covered with a film of steam or water vapor. □ The windows steamed up and we had to wipe them so we could see out. □ The window has steamed up, and I can't see. 2. to drink heavily; to get drunk. □ Fred and Mike were steaming up in the back room.

steamed (up) angry. □ Now, now, don't get so steamed up! □ She is really massively steamed. 2. Sl. intoxicated and fighting. □ He was really steamed—and could hardly stand up. □ By midnight, Larry was too steamed to drive home, and he had to spend the night.

steaming (mad) Fig. very angry; very mad; very upset. □ The steaming coach yelled at the clumsy players. □ The principal was steaming mad when he found that his office had been vandalized.

steam oneself for someone or something to prepare oneself for someone or something difficult or unpleasant; to get ready to face someone or something. □ Aunt Helen is coming for a visit. We should steel ourselves for her. □ I think something is going wrong. We had better steel ourselves for a shock.

steam someone against someone or something to fortify someone against someone or something; to prepare someone to endure someone or something. □ I tried to steel Liz against Carl, who was bringing her some very bad news. □ We steel her against the bad news.

a steely gaze Cliché an intense, staring gaze. □ The principal turned a steely gaze toward the frightened student and suddenly smiled.

steam something into something to soak something in a liquid. □ I steamed the shirt in red dye. □ You have to steam these herbs in steamy hot water for five minutes.

steer away from someone or something to move or turn away from someone or something. □ You had better steer away from Jeff. He is in a terrible mood. □ Try to steer away from the potholes. The road is full of them.

steer clear of someone or something to avoid someone or something. □ John is mad at me, so I've been steering clear of him. □ Steer clear of that book. It has many errors in it.

steer into something to turn or drive into something. □ Try to steer into the right parking space this time. □ Poor Wally steered into the curb.

steer someone or something through something to guide someone or something through something that is confusing or treacherous. □ I tried to steer Judy through the registration procedure, but I really didn't know what I was doing. □ Should I try to steer my car through all this foot traffic or take a different route?

steer something for something to aim oneself or one's vehicle toward something. □ Jeff steered the car for the entrance to the tunnel and stepped on the gas. □ The driver steered the bus for the center lane just in time.

steer something toward someone or something to guide something in the direction of someone or something. □ The farmer steered the tractor toward the sheriff, who had come to talk to the farmer. □ Please steer the car toward the right side.

steer something through something to maneuver through something that is confusing or treacherous. □ Do you think you can steer through this flooded tunnel? □ I can't steer through this mess of leaves and mud on the road.

steer toward someone or something to turn or drive toward someone or something. □ He steered toward the empty
stem from something [for an event] to result from something.  □ These problems all stem from your mismanagement. □ Our difficulties stem from the bad weather we have been having.

step aside (for someone) 1. Lit. to move out of someone’s way. □ Would you step aside for my uncle and his walker? □ We had to step aside for the people in wheelchairs to get by. 2. Fig. to retire from an office so someone else can take over. □ The president retired and stepped aside for someone else. □ Walter stepped aside for a younger person to take over.

step away from one’s chair. □ Mayors stepped down from office last week.

step away from something/h17040/ to move away from someone or something; to alight from something. □ Please step back from the injured woman. Give her some air. □ Step back and give her some air.

step away from the mud! □ We had to step aside for the people in wheelchairs to get past.

step away from something to disconnect oneself from something; to minimize the relationship; to retreat from something; to disassociate; to retreat. □ Walter stepped aside for a younger person to take over.

step back (from someone or something) to move away from someone or something; to move back so as to provide space around someone or something. □ Please step back from the injured woman. Give her some air. □ Step back and give her some air.

step back on someone or something to move back and tread on someone or something in the process. □ Jeff stepped back on Judy and made her yelp with pain. □ Jeff stepped back on the cat.

step back out of line 1. Fig. to move out of a line of people. □ The volunteer stepped forward. □ I stepped forward and someone moved up behind me immediately.

step between someone or something and someone or something else to move between things or people. □ Jeff stepped between Judy and the gunman. □ He stepped between Judy and the wall.

step down (from something) 1. Lit. to come down from something; to alight from something. □ Please step down from the platform. □ She stepped down and went back to her chair. 2. Fig. to resign a job or a responsibility. □ The mayor stepped down from office last week. □ It’s unusual for a mayor to step down.

step forward 1. Lit. to move forward one step or several steps. □ The volunteer stepped forward. □ I stepped forward and someone moved up behind me immediately. 2. Fig. to volunteer to present important information. □ When I go into court, I will have to step forward and present evidence. It is my civic duty. □ If you have information to present, you should step forward and seek recognition to do so.

step in something Go to step into something.

step inside (some place) to walk into a place. □ Please step inside my office, and we will discuss this matter. □ Please step inside.

step inside someone’s shoes Fig. to take on the role of someone. □ I was prepared to step into the boss’s shoes, so there was no disruption when he left for another job. □ There was no one who could step into Alice’s shoes when she left, so everything came to a stop.

step into someone’s shoes Fig. to take over a job or some role from someone. □ I was prepared to step into the boss’s shoes, so there was no disruption when he left for another job. □ There was no one who could step into Alice’s shoes when she left, so everything came to a stop.

step into something 1. Lit. and step in something to step into something wet, messy, or dirty. □ Don’t step in the mud! □ What is that stinky stuff you stepped into? 2. Fig. to involve oneself in some matter; to intervene in an affair or dispute. □ I will have to step into the business and settle the problem. □ Please don’t step into something that does not concern you.

step in(to the breach) Fig. [for someone] to assume a position or take on a responsibility when there is a need or an opportunity to do so. □ The person who was supposed to help didn’t show up, so I stepped into the breach. □ The manager stepped into the breach when Jane got sick.

step off to come off something by taking a step. □ She came to the bottom step and stepped off. □ Ed was afraid to dive in from the side of the pool, so he just stepped off.

step off (of) something to leave something elevated with one’s first step. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ She stepped off the bottom step and walked down the street. □ Tony stepped off of the bank and waded across the stream.

step off on the wrong foot Go to start off on the wrong foot.

step off (to the side) with someone Go to off (to the side) with someone.

step on it Go to step on the gas.

step on someone or something to tread on someone or something. □ Ouch! You stepped on me! □ Don’t step on the flooring in that spot. It’s weak.

step on someone’s toes and tread on someone’s toes 1. Lit. to step down onto someone’s toes, causing pain. □ Please don’t step on my toes as you walk by. 2. Fig. to offend or insult someone, as if causing physical pain. □ You’re sure I won’t be stepping on her toes if I talk directly to her supervisor? □ I didn’t mean to tread on your toes.

step on the gas and step on it to hurry up; to make a vehicle go faster. (As if stepping on an automobile’s accelerator.) □ Step on the gas. We are going to be late! □ Step on it! Let’s go!

step out into something Go to go out from a place into a different set of conditions. □ Julie stepped out of her previous job into a whole new world. □ Wally stepped out into the bright sunlight.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of something to go out from a place into a different set of conditions. □ Julie stepped out of her previous job into a whole new world. □ Wally stepped out into the bright sunlight.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.

step out of line 1. Lit. to move out of a line of people. □ If you step out of line, you will lose your place in it. □ I had to step out of line to sit down on the curb and rest for a minute. 2. Fig. to misbehave; to deviate from normal, expected, or demanded behavior. □ If you step out of line again, I’ll slap you. □ Tom stepped out of line once too often and got yelled at.
was napping on the floor. \(\square\) Please step over the things on the floor. We are doing the spring cleaning.

**step over (to) some place** to move to a place a few steps away. \(\square\) Please step over here and I’ll show you some other merchandise. \(\square\) If you will step over to the display case, I will show you some earrings.

**step right up** to come right to where the speaker is; to come forward to the person speaking. (Used by people selling things, as at carnival sideshows.) \(\square\) Please step right up and buy a ticket to see the show. \(\square\) Don’t be shy! Step right up and buy one of these.

**step something down** to reduce the intensity or amount of something by one step or grade. \(\square\) See if you can step the lights down a little. \(\square\) Step down the lights just a little more.

**step something off** to measure a distance by counting the paces required to cover it. \(\square\) She stepped the distance off and noted it on her pad. \(\square\) Liz stepped off the number of feet from the window to the opposite wall.

**step something up** to make something more active. \(\square\) I hope we can step the pace of business up in the next few days. \(\square\) We can step up business considerably by putting out a larger sign. \(\square\) The engineer stepped the motors up and the production line moved even faster. \(\square\) Please step up the speed of your activity.

**step up** to increase. \(\square\) Industrial production stepped up a large amount this last quarter. \(\square\) Traffic has stepped up since the road was paved.

**step up to something** to walk to something, especially a counter or a bar. \(\square\) Jake stepped up to the ticket counter and bought a single ticket for the balcony. \(\square\) When Wally stepped up to the ticket window, he learned that the show was sold out.

**step up to the plate** Fig. [for a batter in baseball] to move near home plate in preparation for striking the ball when it is pitched. \(\square\) The batter stepped up to the plate and glared at the pitcher. \(\square\) Fig. to move into a position where one is ready to do a task. \(\square\) It’s time for Tom to step up to the plate and take on his share of work.

**step-by-step** Lit. [walking] one step at a time. \(\square\) The old man slowly moved across the lawn step-by-step. \(\square\) Fig. little by little. \(\square\) Just follow the instructions step-by-step, and everything will be fine.

**stew in one’s own juice** Fig. to be left alone to suffer one’s anger or disappointment. \(\square\) John has such a terrible temper. When he got mad at us, we just let him go away and stew in his own juice. \(\square\) After John stewed in his own juice for a while, he decided to come back and apologize to us.

**stick around** [for a person] to remain in a place. \(\square\) The kids stuck around for a time after the party was over. \(\square\) Oh, Ann. Please stick around for a while. I want to talk to you later.

**stick at something** to keep trying to do something; to stay on a task or job. \(\square\) I hope he can stick at this job. \(\square\) He doesn’t seem to be able to stick at anything for very long.

**stick by someone or something** and **stick with someone or something** to support someone or something; to continue supporting or committing to someone or something when things are bad. \(\square\) Don’t worry. I’ll stick by you no matter what. \(\square\) I feel as if I have to stick by my brother even if he goes to jail.

**Stick ‘em up!** Go to Hands up!

**stick in someone’s mind** to remain in someone’s thinking. \(\square\) The events of that day stuck in my mind for a very long time. \(\square\) The image of her smiling face stuck in Henry’s mind for a long time.

**stick in something** to remain embedded in something; to remain held in something. \(\square\) Do you think this will stick in the hole, or is it too small? \(\square\) A fish bone stuck in his throat for a while.

**stick it to someone** Inf. to give someone a problem; to confront someone. \(\square\) They stuck it to me about the stopped-up drain. \(\square\) He was late, and the boss really stuck it to him.

**stick man** Sl. a police patrol officer (who carries a stick). \(\square\) The stick man is due here in about three minutes. Hurry. \(\square\) I was a stick man for a few years till my feet went bad.

**stick one’s foot in one’s mouth** Go to put one’s foot in one’s mouth.

**stick one’s neck out (for someone or something)** Fig. to take a risk. \(\square\) Why should I stick my neck out to do something for her? What’s she ever done for me? \(\square\) He made a risky investment. He stuck his neck out for the deal because he thought he could make some big money.

**stick one’s nose in (where it’s not wanted)** Go to put one’s nose in (where it’s not wanted).

**stick one’s nose in (to something)** Go to poke one’s nose in (to something).

**stick one’s nose up in the air** Fig. to behave in a haughty manner. \(\square\) Jeff stuck his nose up in the air and walked out. \(\square\) Don’t stick your nose up in the air. Come down to earth with the rest of us.

**stick one’s oar in** Go to put one’s oar in.

**stick one’s tongue out** Fig. to cause one’s tongue to project outward. (A gesture of contempt.) \(\square\) Don’t stick your tongue out at me! \(\square\) She stuck out her tongue at me!

**stick out drain** Fig. to project outward. \(\square\) You can’t lock your suitcase because there is a bit of cloth sticking out. \(\square\) Some cloth stuck out of the top of the drawer.

**stick out a mile** Fig. to project outward very obviously. \(\square\) My nose sticks out a mile! I hate it! \(\square\) His stomach sticks out a mile. What do you suppose is in there?

**stick out against something** to be highly visible against a background of something. \(\square\) Your cold, red nose sticks out against your white, frozen face. \(\square\) The red vase sticks out against the pale blue wallpaper.

**stick out (from someone or something)** to project outward from someone or something. \(\square\) His right arm, which was in a cast, stuck out from him like a crane. \(\square\) His arm stuck out.

**stick out like a sore thumb** Fig. to be very obvious. \(\square\) That pimple really sticks out like a sore thumb. \(\square\) Do you think I would stick out like a sore thumb at the party if I wear this coat?

**stick out of (someone or something)** to protrude from someone or something. \(\square\) The arrow stuck out of him, wobbling as he staggered. \(\square\) A dollar bill stuck out of the book. What a strange bookmark.
stick shift 1. having to do with a nonautomatic transmission or a car that has one. □ I prefer a stick shift car— I don’t know why. □ The stick shift models are cheaper—that’s why. 2. a nonautomatic transmission. □ I can’t drive a stick shift! □ My husband took the other car and stuck me with the stick shift.

stick someone or something up1 to rob someone or a business establishment. (Presumably with the aid of a gun.) □ Max tried to stick the drugstore up. □ Max stuck up the store.

stick someone with someone or something to burden someone with someone or something. □ The dishonest merchant stuck me with a faulty television set. □ John stuck me with his talkative uncle and went off with his friends.

stick something down1 to fasten something down, as with glue or paste. □ Get some glue and stick down this wallpaper, please. □ Stick this wallpaper down, would you?

stick something into someone or something and stick something in1 to insert something into someone or something. □ The technician stuck a needle into my arm and took some blood out. □ She stuck in the needle.

stick something on(to) someone or something and stick something on to affix something onto someone or something. □ The baggage clerk stuck a label onto Jimmy as a joke. □ Jimmy stuck on the label.

stick something out2 to endure something; to stay with something. (The something can be vaguely expressed using it.) □ I will stick it out as long as I can. □ She stuck out the abuse as long as she could; then she started looking for another job.

stick something out2 to someone to hold something, such as one’s hand, out where someone can grasp it. □ She stuck her hand out to him, intending that he shake it. □ Ted stuck out his hand to Bill, but withdrew it suddenly.

stick something through someone or something to push something so that it penetrates someone or something. □ The good knight stuck his lance through the bad knight. □ I stuck my fist through the flimsy wall.

stick something together1 to glue or paste something together. □ Use glue to stick this pieces together. □ Please stick the pieces of the broken vase together with glue. 2. to assemble something, perhaps in haste. □ He just stuck the model plane together, making a mess of it. □ Don’t stick the parts together so fast. It won’t look good.

stick something up1 to fasten something to a place where it can be seen; to put something on display, especially by gluing, tacking, or stapling. □ Stick this notice up. Put a copy on every bulletin board. □ Please stick up this notice. 2. to raise something; to hold something up. □ She stuck her hand up because she knew the answer. □ The elephant stuck up its trunk and trumpeted.

stick to one’s guns Fig. to remain firm in one’s convictions; to stand up for one’s rights. (Fig. on a soldier remaining in place to fire a gun even when all appears to be lost.) □ I’ll stick to my guns on this matter. I’m sure I’m right. □ Bob can be persuaded to do it our way. He probably won’t stick to his guns on this point.

stick to one’s ribs Fig. [for food] to last long and fortify one well; [for food] to sustain one even in the coldest weather. □ This oatmeal ought to stick to your ribs. You need something hearty on a cold day like this. □ I don’t want just a salad! I want something that will stick to my ribs.

stick to someone or something 1. Lit. to adhere to someone or something; to remain affixed to someone or something. □ The tape stuck to me and I couldn’t get it off. □ This stamp won’t stick to the envelope. 2. Fig. to continue to accompany someone or something. □ Stick to me and I’ll lead you out of here. □ Stick to the group of us, and you’ll be okay. 3. Fig. to continue to use or employ someone or something. □ I’ll stick to Jill. She does a good job and she’s my friend. □ We decided to stick to our present supplier.

stick to someone’s fingers Fig. to remain in someone’s possession; to be stolen by someone. □ Other people’s watches tend to stick to Max’s fingers. □ Watch that clerk. Your change tends to stick to his fingers.

stick together1 Lit. to adhere to one another. □ The noodles are sticking together. What shall I do? □ You need to keep the pieces separate while you fry them or else they will stick together. 2. Fig. to remain in one another’s company. □ Let us stick together so we don’t get lost. □ They stuck together through thick and thin.

stick up to stand upright or on end; to thrust upward. □ The ugly red flower stuck up from the bouquet. □ Why is the worst-looking flower sticking up above all the rest?

stick up for someone or something to support someone or something. □ Everyone was making unpleasant remarks about John, but I stuck up for him. □ Our team was losing, but I stuck up for it anyway.

Stick with it. Do not give up. Stay with your task. □ Bill: I’m really tired of calculus. Father: Stick with it. You’ll be a better person for it. □ Bill: This job is getting to be such a pain. Sue: True, but it pays well, doesn’t it? Stick with it.

stick with someone or something Go to stick by someone or something.

stick-in-the-mud Fig. a dull and old-fashioned person. □ Don’t be such an old stick-in-the-mud. □ Some stick-in-the-mud objected to the kind of music we wanted to play in church.

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. Prov. You do not hurt me by calling me names. (A reply to someone who has called you names. Primarily used by children; sounds childish when used by adults.) □ Brother: You’re stupid and mean, and everybody hates you! Sister: Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.

*stiff as a poker rigid and inflexible; stiff and awkward. (Usually used to describe people. *Also: as ~. □ This guy’s dead. He’s cold and as stiff as a poker. □ John is not a very good dancer; he’s stiff as a poker.

stiffen something up1 to make something rigid or tense. □ He added a little starch to the rinse water to stiffen his collar up a bit. □ The cold draft has stiffened up my neck.

stiffen up to become stiff. □ The bread dough stiffened up as it got cold. □ My knees began to stiffen up after I sat still for an hour.

stigmatize someone as something to brand or label someone as something. □ The opposition will try to stigmatize you as a spendthrift. □ Tony was stigmatized as a poor loser.
**still as death** Cliché immobile; completely still. (The reference to death gives this expression ominous connotations. *Also: as —.*)

A **still tongue makes a wise head.** Prov. If you are wise, you do not talk very much; you should only speak when you have judged that it is appropriate to do so. □ Don’t chatter about whatever comes to your mind. A still tongue makes a wise head. □ Kathy really offended Mr. Parker by talking so much about his ex-wife. She needs to learn that a still tongue makes a wise head.

**Still waters run deep.** Prov. Quiet people are often very thoughtful. □ Jill: I get the impression that Nathan is not very smart. He never says anything. Jane: Don’t be so sure. Still waters run deep, you know.

**stimulate** someone or an animal into something to excite or cause someone or an animal to do something. □ The promises of bonuses stimulated the workers into higher productivity for the week. □ The morning light stimulates the birds into singing.

**sting** someone for something Sl. to cheat someone of a particular amount; to make someone pay for something. □ That guy stung me for twenty bucks! □ Toby was stung for the lunch bill.

**sting** someone with something to use something to sting someone. □ The bee stung me with its stinger. □ The wasp can sting you with its poisonous barb.

**stink on ice** Sl. to be really rotten. (So rotten as to reek even when frozen.) □ This show stinks on ice. □ The whole idea stank on ice.

**stink something up** 1 to make something or some place smell very bad. □ Your cooking really stunk the place up! □ The rotten eggs will stink up the whole house.

**stink to high heaven** and **smell to high heaven** Fig. to smell very bad. □ What happened? This place stinks to high heaven! □ This meat smells to high heaven. Throw it away!

**stink with** something to smell very bad with the smell of something. □ The room stinks with a garlicky smell. □ Our garden stinks with the smell of something rotting.

**stinking rich** Fig. very rich. □ I’d like to be stinking rich for the rest of my life. □ Tiffany is stinking rich, and she acts like it.

**stinking with** something Fig. having lots of something. □ Mr. Wilson is just stinking with cash. □ Those guys are stinking with jewelry.

**stir** someone (in)to something to excite someone into doing something. □ The events of the day stirred everyone into action. □ The danger stirred them to action.

**stir** something up 1 Fig. to get someone excited; to get someone angry. (Fig. on **stir** something up.) □ The march music really stirred the audience up. □ The march stirred up the audience.

**stir** something around to agitate or mix a liquid substance by moving it in a circular motion. □ Stir the mixture around to mix it up. □ You should stir the dressing around a bit before you serve it.
Stolen pleasures are sweetest. Go to previous.

stomp on someone 1. Lit. to stamp someone down. □ The angry crowd knocked him down and stomped on him. □ The crowd stomped on the mugger. 2. Fig. to repress someone. □ Every time I get a good idea, the boss stomps on me. □ Don’t stomp on her every time she says something.

stone dead Rur. dead; unquestionably dead; long dead. □ The cat was stone dead and stiff as a board by the time we got to him. □ Old Tom is stone dead and in the ground.

stone(-cold) sober and cold sober absolutely sober. □ I am stone-cold sober, or I will be by morning anyway. □ I found the secret to waking up cold sober. Don’t drink.

stop for something to halt one’s vehicle because of something or the need of something. □ I had to stop for a red light. □ We stopped for some gas.

stop in (some place) Go to stop by (some place).

stop, look, and listen to exercise caution, especially at street corners and railroad crossings, by stopping, looking to the left and to the right, and listening for approaching vehicles or a train. □ Sally’s mother trained her to stop, look, and listen at every street corner. □ It is a good practice to stop, look, and listen at a railroad crossing.

stop off (some place) (for a period of time) to halt or pause for a certain period of time. □ I need to stop off for a rest. □ Let’s find a little town and stop off. □ I have to stop off at the store for a minute. □ We stopped off for a while at the park.

stop on a dime Fig. to come to a stop in a very short distance. □ This thing will stop on a dime. □ Imagine a bus that could stop on a dime.

stop on something to go as far as something [on the floor or the ground] and then stop. □ Please stop on the line. □ You are supposed to stop on the white line or behind it.

stop one or something dead in one’s or something’s tracks Fig. to stop someone or something suddenly and completely. □ The gunshot stopped the killer dead in her tracks. □ The arrow stopped the deer dead in its tracks.

stop over (some place) to break one’s journey, usually overnight or even longer. □ On our way to New York, we stopped over in Philadelphia for the night. □ That’s a good place to stop over. There are some nice hotels in Philadelphia.

stop short of a place not to go as far as something. □ The bus stopped short of the end of the road. □ The speeding car stopped short of the sidewalk where children were playing.

stop short of doing something not to go as far as doing something. □ Fortunately Bob stopped short of hitting Tom. □ The boss criticized Jane’s work but stopped short of firing her. □ Jack was furious but stopped short of hitting Tom.

stop someone cold to halt someone immediately. □ When you told us the bad news, it stopped me cold.

stop someone from doing something to prevent someone from doing something. □ I can’t stop her from running away. □ They couldn’t stop themselves from eating.

stop something up1 (with something) to plug or clog something with something. □ Gary stopped the sink up with bacon grease. □ He stopped up the sink with bacon grease. □ Try not to stop the sink up.

Stop the music! and Stop the presses! Inf. Stop everything! Hold it! (Presses refers to the printing presses used to print newspapers. This means that there is recent news of such magnitude that the presses must be stopped so a new edition can be printed immediately.) □ John (entering the room): Stop the music! There’s a fire in the kitchen! Mary: Good grief! Let’s get out of here! □ “Stop the presses!” shouted Jane. “I have an announcement.”

Stop the presses! Go to previous.

stop up [for something] to become clogged. □ The sink stopped up again!
store something away\(^4\) to put something away for future use; to set something aside.  □ Store the extra rice away for use next week.  □ Please store away the extra food.

store something in something to set something aside in something.  □ Can I store my bicycle in your garage?  □ Do you mind if I store my coat in your locker?

store something up\(^4\) to build up and lay away a supply of something.  □ The bears will store fat up for the long winter.  □ They store up fat for the winter.

storm around Fig. to go about in a fury.  □ What is he storms around about?  □ Martin was storms around all morning because he lost his car keys.

storm at someone or something Fig. to direct one's anger at someone or something.  □ She stormed at him because he was late again.  □ Richard was storming at the cat again.

storm in(to some place) Fig. to burst into something or some place angrily.  □ The army stormed into the town and took many of the citizens as prisoners.  □ Leonard stormed in, shouting at everyone.

A storm is brewing. 1. There is going to be a storm.  □ Look at the clouds. A storm is brewing.  □ A storm is brewing in the west. 2. There is going to be trouble or emotional upset.  □ He looks angry. A storm is brewing.

storm out (of some place) Fig. to burst out of some place angrily.  □ Carol stormed out of the office in a rage.  □ She got mad and stormed out.

stow away to conceal oneself in a vehicle, originally a ship, in order to travel without paying.  □ Don got to this country by stowing away on a cargo ship.

stow something away\(^4\) to pack something away.  □ I have to stow my clothes away before I go to bed.  □ Please stow away your things and get right to work.

straddle the fence Fig. to support both sides of an issue. (As if one were partly on either side of a fence.)  □ The mayor is straddling the fence on this issue, hoping the public will forget it.  □ The legislator wanted to straddle the fence until the last minute, and that alone cost her a lot of votes.

the straight and narrow Fig. a straight and law-abiding route through life. (Referring to a morally rigid and correct course of behavior. Fixed order.)  □ You should have no trouble with the police if you stick to the straight and narrow.  □ Roger was the kind who followed the straight and narrow every day of his life.

*straight as an arrow 1. Cliché [of something] very straight.  (Also: as ~.)  □ The road to my house is as straight as an arrow, so it should be very easy to follow.  2. Cliché [of someone] honest or forthright. (Straight here means honest.  (Also: as ~.)  □ Tom is straight as an arrow. I'd trust him with anything.

straightaway and straight off right away; immediately, without thinking or considering.  □ We’ll have to depart straight off.  □ Straightaway I knew something was wrong.

the straight dope the true information; the full story.  □ He gave us the straight dope.  □ I want the straight dope. I can take it.

*straight face Fig. a face free from smiles or laughter.  (Typically: have ~; keep ~.)  □ It’s hard to keep a straight face when someone tells a funny joke.

(straight) from the horse's mouth Fig. from an authoritative or dependable source. (See also get something straight from the horse's mouth.)  □ I know it’s true! I heard it straight from the horse's mouth!  □ This comes straight from the horse's mouth, so it has to be believed.

straight from the shoulder Fig. very direct, without attenuation or embellishment.  □ Okay, I’ll give it to you straight from the shoulder.  □ Right straight from the shoulder: clean out your desk; you’re through.

straight low Sl. the absolute truth. (From lowdown = the story; the truth.)  □ Can you give me the straight low on this mess?  □ Nobody ain’t gonna tell no warden the straight low; you can be sure of that.

straight man someone who sets up jokes or gags so that someone else can say the punch line.  □ I need a straight man to set up all my jokes.  □ I’m tired of being a straight man for a has-been comic.

straight off Go to straightaway.

straight off the bat Go to right off the bat.

straight out frankly; directly.  □ Bob told Pam straight out that he didn’t want to marry her.  □ Jim was told straight out to start working harder.

straight shooter Fig. an honest person.  □ I trust Mike; he’s a straight shooter.  □ We need a straight shooter in office who will work for the people rather than some lobbyists.

straight talk direct and honest talk.  □ It’s about time for a little straight talk around here.  □ If they want straight talk and can handle straight talk, give ’em straight talk.

straight up 1. Sl. upright.  □ A fine guy—really straight up.  □ She is one of the most straight up brokers in town.  2. Sl. [of a drink] served without ice; neat.  □ I’ll have a bourbon, straight up, please.  □ No, not straight up. Just a little ice.  3. Sl. [of eggs] cooked sunny-side up; having to do with eggs cooked with the yolks facing up.  □ Two eggs, straight up, and a cup of coffee.  □ I like my eggs straight up, but the white part has to be cooked solid.

straighten out 1. to become straight.  □ The road finally straightened out.  □ The train tracks straightened out on the plain.  2. to improve one’s behavior or attitude.  □ I hope he straightens out before he gets himself into real trouble.  □ Fred had better straighten out soon if he wants to get a job.

straighten someone or something up\(^4\) 1. to put someone or something into an upright position.  □ The fence is tilted. Please straighten that post up when you get a chance.  □ Bill, you’re slouching again. Straighten up your back.  2. to tidy up someone or something.  □ We’ll have to depart straight off.  □ John straightened himself up a little before going out for dinner.  □ This room is a mess. Let’s straighten up this place, right now!

straighten someone out\(^4\) 1. to make someone’s body straight or orderly.  □ The undertaker straightened Sam out in his coffin.  □ Straighten out your body so I can massage your back.  2. to cause someone to behave better or to have a better attitude; to reform someone.  □ You are terrible. Someone is going to have to straighten you out!  □ The principal straightened out the troublesome boys.  3. to help someone become less confused about something.  □ Can you straighten me out on this matter?  □ I will do what I can to straighten out the office staff on this question.
straighten something out\textsuperscript{1} 1. to make something straighter. 2. I can't straighten these heavy boxes out. 3. Please straighten out this line of people. 4. to bring order to something that is disorderly. 5. See if you can straighten this mess out. 6. Will you straighten out your room, please?

straighten up 1. to sit or stand more straight. 2. Billy's mother told him to straighten up or he'd fall out of his chair. 3. John straightened up so he'd look taller. 4. Bill was acting badly for a while; then he straightened up. 5. Sally, straighten up, or I will punish you!

straighten up and fly right 1. Fig. to improve one's behavior or attitude and perform better. (Originally referred to an airplane.) 2. If you want to keep out of trouble, you had better straighten up and fly right. 3. Straighten up and fly right or I will send you to the principal.

strain after something [for a singer] to work very hard to reach a very high or a very low note. 2. Don't strain after the note. Let it come naturally, like a cooling breeze. 3. She was straining after each note as if it hurt her to sing, which it probably did.

strain at gnat\textsuperscript{1}s and swallow camels Prov. to criticize other people for minor offenses while ignoring major offenses. (Biblical.) 1. Jill: Look at that. Edward is combing his hair at his desk. How unprofessional. Jane: Don't strain at gnats and swallow camels. There are worse problems than that around here.

strain at the leash 1. Lit. [for a dog] to pull very hard on its leash. 2. It's hard to walk Fido, because he's always straining at the leash. 3. I wish that this dog would not strain at the leash. It's very hard on me. 4. Fig. [for a person] to want to move ahead with things, aggressively and independently. 5. She wants to fix things right away. She is straining at the leash to get started. 6. Paul is straining at the leash to get on the job.

strain away (at something) to work very hard, continuously, at doing something. 2. She strained away her weights, getting stronger every day. 3. She was straining away on the rowing machine when we came in.

strain for an effect to work very hard to try to achieve some effect. 2. The actors were straining so hard for an effect that they forgot their lines. 3. Don't strain for effect so much. The authors of this drama knew what they were doing, and it's in the lines already.

strain something off of something and strain something off\textsuperscript{1} to remove the excess or unwanted liquid from something. 2. The cook strained the grease off the cooking juices. 3. The cook strained off the grease.

stream down (on someone or something) [for a liquid or light] to flow downward onto someone or something. 2. The water streamed down on all of them. 3. The light broke through the clouds and streamed down on all of them. 4. The waterfall streamed down and soaked them all.

stream in(to something) to flow or rush into something. 2. The people streamed into the hall, each seeking the best possible seat. 3. Water streamed into the room from the broken pipe. 4. Complaints about the bawdy performance streamed in.

stretch a point and stretch the point Fig. to interpret a point flexibly and with great latitude. 2. Would it be stretching a point to suggest that everyone is invited to your...
stretch away (from something)

stretch away (from something) to extend away from something. □ A vast plain stretched away from the riverbank. □ The plain stretched away as far as we could see.

stretch away to some place to extend as far as some place. □ The forest stretched away to the horizon. □ The river stretched away to the sea.

stretch forth (from something) to extend out or forth from something. □ A path stretched forth from the cabin, leading deep into the woods. □ Outside the cabin door, a path stretched forth.

stretch it Go to stretch the truth.

stretch one's legs Fig. to walk around and loosen one's leg muscles after sitting down or lying down for a time. □ We wanted to stretch our legs during intermission. □ After sitting in the car all day, the travelers decided to stretch their legs.

stretch one's money and make one's money stretch Fig. to economize so that one's money lasts longer. □ We have to stretch our money in order to be able to buy groceries at the end of the month.

stretch out [for one] to extend and stretch one's body to its full length. □ She lay down, stretched out, and relaxed for the first time in days. □ I need a bigger bed. I can't stretch out in this one.

stretch out to someone or something to extend as far as someone or something. □ His arm stretched out to the guy next to him and established the correct amount of separation in the ranks. □ The beach stretched out to the horizon.

stretch someone or something out to extend or draw out someone or something. □ Molly stretched the baby out to reach. □ She stretched out the baby, who had rolled into a ball.

stretch something out (to someone or something) to reach something out to someone or something. □ Jeff stretched his hand out to Tiffany. □ He stretched out his hand to the visitor.

stretch the point Go to next.

stretch the truth and stretch the point; stretch it Fig. to exaggerate. □ When he claimed to have a Ph.D., he was stretching the truth. □ Sally tends to stretch the point when telling tales about her wild teenage years.

Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach. Prov. Do not spend more money than you have. □ Sue: I can get enough money for college if I take out several loans. Bill: I'd advise against it. Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach.

strew something (all) over something to sow or spread something over an area. □ Clean this place up! You have strewn your clothing all over the place. □ The wind strewn the leaves over the lawns.

strew something on someone or something to sow or spread something on someone or something. □ The wind strewn the dandelion seeds on Fred and his friends. □ A child went down the aisle, strewn flowers on the white walkway ahead of the bride.

strew something over someone or something to spread or scatter something over someone or something. □ The silo explosion strewn the grain over everyone in the vicinity. □ The explosion strewn wreckage over a two-block area.

strew something with something to cover something with bits of something. □ Who strewed the sidewalk with rice and confetti? □ The yards were strewn with leaves and branches after the storm.

*stricken with something afflicted or overwhelmed with something. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ Albert was stricken with a strange disease. □ Fred was stricken with remorse because of his rude remarks. □ Tom was stricken with the flu after his trip to Russia.

strictly business 1. a matter or issue that is all business and no pleasure. □ This meeting is strictly business. We don't have time for any leisure activity. 2. a person who is very businesslike and does not waste time with nonbusiness matters. □ Joe is strictly business. I don't think he has a sense of humor. At least I have never seen it.

(striktly) from hunger Sl. very mediocre; acceptable only when nothing else is available. □ This kind of entertainment is from hunger. □ The singer was strictly from hunger.

(striktly) on the level honest; dependably open and fair. □ How can I be sure you're on the level? □ You can trust Sally. She's strictly on the level.

(striktly) on the up-and-up honest; fair and straight. □ Do you think that the mayor is on the up-and-up? □ Yes, the mayor is strictly on the up-and-up.

stride in(to some place) to walk with long steps into some place. □ Jeff strode into the restaurant and demanded the best table. □ He strode in and ordered roast chicken.

stride out of some place to walk with long steps out of some place. □ The angry customer strode out of the shop without purchasing anything. □ We strode out of the restaurant, pledging never to go there again.

strike a balance (between two things) to find a satisfactory compromise between two extremes. □ The political party must strike a balance between the right wing and the left wing. □ Jane is overdressed for the party and Sally is underdressed. What a pity they didn't strike a balance between them.

strike a bargain and strike a deal to reach an agreement on a price or negotiation (for something). □ They argued for a while and finally struck a bargain. □ They were unable to strike a bargain, so they ended their meeting.

strike a chord (with someone) Fig. to cause someone to remember something; to remind someone of something; to be familiar. □ The woman in the portrait struck a chord with me, and I realized that it was my grandmother. □ His name strikes a chord, but I don't know why.

strike a deal Go to strike a bargain.

strike a happy medium and hit a happy medium; find a happy medium to find a compromise position; to arrive at a position halfway between two unacceptable extremes. □ Ann likes very spicy food, but Bob doesn't care for spicy food at all. We are trying to find a restaurant that strikes a happy medium. □ Tom is either very happy or very sad. He can't seem to hit a happy medium.

strike a match to light a match by rubbing it on a rough surface. □ Mary struck a match and lit a candle. □ When
Sally struck a match to light a cigarette, Jane said quickly, “No smoking, please.”

**strike a pose** to position oneself in a certain posture. □ Bob struck a pose in front of the mirror to see how much he had bulked up. □ Lisa walked into the room and struck a pose, hoping she would be noticed.

**strike a sour note** and **hit a sour note** Fig. to signify something unpleasant. □ Jane’s sad announcement struck a sour note at the annual banquet. □ News of the accident hit a sour note in our holiday celebration.

**strike at someone or something** to hit at or toward someone or something. □ She struck at him, but he parried the blows. □ The bear struck at the branch, hoping to break it and get at the honey.

**strike back (at someone or something)** to return the blows of someone or something; to return the attack of someone or something. □ The victim struck back at the mugger and scared him away. □ The victim struck back in the courts.

**strike for something** to conduct a work stoppage in order to gain something. □ The workers were striking for longer vacations. □ We are striking for higher pay.

**strike home** Go to get along with my business partner, so I decided to strike out on my own.

**strike the right note** (up)on something to set out on a journey for some place. □ He struck the right note when she wore a dark suit to the interview. □ The politician’s speech failed to strike the right note with the audience.

**strike out** 1. Lit. [for a baseball batter] to be declared out after making three strikes. (Baseball.) □ And so Drew Wilson struck out for his second time in this game! □ He struck out in the second inning, and the manager took him out then. 2. Fig. to fail. □ Well, we struck out again, but we’ll keep trying. □ I hear you struck out on that Acme proposal. Better luck next time.

**strike out (at someone or something)** to hit at someone or something with the intention of threatening or harming. □ Dave would strike out at anyone who came near him, but it was all bluff. □ He was mad, and when anyone came close, he struck out.

**strike out for some place** to begin a journey to some place; to set out on a journey for some place. □ We struck out for Denver, hoping to get there in a few hours. □ The hikers struck out for the cabin but were delayed by a sudden storm.

**strike out on one’s own** and **set out on one’s own** to start out to live, work, or travel by oneself. □ I couldn’t get along with my business partner, so I decided to strike out on my own.

**strike over something** to mark out printed words by putting x’s over them or a line through them. □ Please don’t strike over your errors. Erase them altogether. □ Betty struck over most of the misspellings.

**strike someone as something** 1. [for a thought or behavior] to affect someone a certain way. □ John’s rude behavior struck me as surprising. □ Mary’s attitude struck me as childish. 2. [for a person] to impress someone as something or a particular type of person. □ You strike me as thoughtful. □ You don’t strike me as the type of person to do something like that.

**strike someone funny** Fig. to seem funny to someone. □ Sally has a great sense of humor. Everything she says strikes me funny. □ Why are you laughing? Did something I said strike you funny?

**strike someone or something down** 1 to knock someone or something down by striking. □ Max struck Lefty down with one blow. □ He struck down the weeds with a scythe.

**strike someone or something from something** to remove something or something from something, such as a list. □ I will have to strike David from our rolls. He never shows up. □ We struck the red car from the list of eligible racers.

**strike someone or something on something** to hit someone or something on a particular place or part. □ The ball struck me on my elbow, causing a great deal of pain. □ I struck the bear on the paw, and that only made it madder.

**strike someone or something with something** to hit someone or something with something. □ Max struck Lefty with his fist. □ The mayor struck the table with his fist.

**strike someone’s fancy** to appeal to someone. □ I’ll have some ice cream, please. Chocolate strikes my fancy right now. □ Why don’t you go to the store and buy a CD that strikes your fancy?

**strike something down** 1 [for a court] to invalidate a ruling or law. □ The higher court struck the ruling of the lower court down. □ The court struck down the ruling.

**strike something into something** to knock something, such as a ball, into something. □ Johnny struck the ball into the side of the bed. □ He struck the red car into the vacant lot. □ Ted struck golf ball after golf ball into the water.

**strike something off (of) someone or something and strike something off** to knock something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ She accidentally struck John’s hat off of him. □ She struck off a chunk of ice.

**strike something out** to cross something out of a section of printing or writing. □ This is wrong. Please strike it out. □ Strike out this sentence.

**strike something up** to begin something; to cause something to begin. (Typically, the playing of a band, a conversation, or a friendship.) □ We tried to strike a conversation up—to no avail. □ I struck up a conversation with Molly.

**strike something (up)on someone** to hit or bang something on someone else. □ She struck her head upon the side of the bed. □ Mary struck her elbow on the doorjamb.

**strike the right note** Fig. to achieve the desired effect; to do something suitable or pleasing. □ Meg struck the right note when she wore a dark suit to the interview. □ The politician’s speech failed to strike the right note with the crowd.

**strike up a conversation** to start a conversation (with someone). □ I struck up an interesting conversation with someone on the bus yesterday. □ It’s easy to strike up a conversation with someone when you’re traveling.
strike up a friendship to become friends (with someone). • I struck up a friendship with John while we were on a business trip together. • If you’re lonely, you should go out and try to strike up a friendship with someone you like.

strike up the band 1. Lit. to cause a (dance) band to start playing. • Strike up the band, maestro, so we all can dance the night away. 2. Fig. to cause something to start. • Strike up the band! Let’s get this show on the road.

Strike while the iron is hot. Prov. When you have an opportunity to do something, do it before you lose your chance. • This is the best time in the last ten years to buy a house. Strike while the iron is hot. • Ask Lisa for a favor now, while she’s in a good mood. Strike while the iron is hot.

string along (with someone) 1. to follow with someone. • Do you mind if I string along with you? • I don’t mind if you string along. 2. to agree with someone’s policies and actions. • Okay. I will string along with you this time, but I don’t know about the future. • I would appreciate it if you would string along just this one time.

a string of bad luck Go to a streak of bad luck.

a string of good luck Go to a streak of good luck.

string someone along to maintain someone’s attention or interest, probably insincerely. • You are just stringing me along because you like to borrow my car. You are not a real friend. • Rachel strung her along for the sake of old times.

string someone up to hang someone. • The sheriff swore he would string Tex up whenever he caught him. • He never strung up Tex.

string something out 1. Lit. to unwind, stretch, or straighten something, such as wire, and extend it. • The workers strung the wires out before installing them. • They strung out the wires first. 2. Fig. to cause something to take more time than it ought to. • Is there any good reason to string this meeting out any longer? • Don’t string out the meetings so long.

string something together to connect things, such as beads, together, as with string. • I spent all afternoon stringing beads together. • My pearls broke and I had to take them to a jeweler to have them strung together again.

strip down to remove one’s clothing. • The doctor told Joe to strip down for his examination. • Joe stripped down for the examination.

strip for something to take off one’s clothing for something. • Todd went into the locker room and stripped for his shower. • All the recruits stripped for their medical examination.

strip someone or something down to something and strip someone or something down 1. to remove the covering of someone or something down to the lowest level. • The emergency room nurse stripped the unconscious patient down to his shorts. • He stripped down the patient to his underwear. • He stripped the patient down.

strip someone or something of something to take something, such as status or property, away from someone or something. • The court stripped him of all his property. • We stripped him of his rights when we put him in jail.

strip something away (from someone or something) to remove or peel something from someone or something. • The emergency room nurse stripped the clothing away from the burn victim.

strip something in to insert something into a line of print by gluing or a strip of paper. • You will have to strip the accent in. • Strip in a grave accent right here.

strip something off (of) someone or something and strip something off to tear something from someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) • The paramedic stripped the shirt off the burn victim and began to treat her burns. • The medic stripped off the patient’s shirt.

strip to something to take off one’s clothing down to a particular level, usually to one’s skin, the waist, or some euphemistic way of expressing nudity or near nudity. • Tom stripped to the waist and continued to labor in the hot sun. • Tom stripped to the bare essentials and got ready to be examined by the doctor.

strive after something to try very hard to obtain something. • I am always striving after perfection. • Ted was striving after a promotion and finally got it.

strive against something to work against something. • He worked hard, striving against failure at every turn. • Things were difficult. I had to strive against quitting almost every day.

strive for something to try to obtain or bring about something. • I am striving for the best possible result. • Mary strives for perfection in everything she does.

strive to do something to try hard to do something. • She strove very hard to do what she had set out to do. • Please strive to do it as best you can.

strive toward something to work toward a goal. • I always strive toward perfection. • Mary strives toward doing her best at all times.

a stroke of genius an act of genius; a very clever and innovative idea or task. • Your idea of painting the rock wall red was a stroke of genius.

a stroke of luck Fig. a bit of luck; a lucky happening. • I had a stroke of luck and found Tom at home when I called. • He’s not usually there. • Unless I have a stroke of luck, I’m not going to finish this report by tomorrow.

stroke someone’s ego Fig. to flatter and praise someone. • If you have trouble with him, just take a few minutes and stroke his ego. You’ll soon have him eating out of your hand.

stroll arm in arm Go to arm in arm.

stroll around to walk around casually. • I think I will stroll around a bit this evening. • Would you like to stroll around a little and see the sights?

stroll through something to walk casually through something or some place. • Would you like to stroll through the park with me? • Let’s stroll through a few shops and see what and see what the prices are like here.

*strong as a horse and *strong as an ox; *strong as a lion Cliché (of a living creature) very strong. (*Also: as ~). • Jill: My car broke down; it’s sitting out on the street. Jane: Get Linda to help you push it; she’s as strong as a horse. • The athlete was strong as an ox; he could lift his own weight with just one hand. • The football player was strong as a lion.
strong as a lion Go to previous.

strong as an ox Go to strong as a horse.

the strong, silent type a strong, quiet man. □ Clark looks like the strong, silent type. Actually he is slightly deaf and that’s fat, not muscle.

strong-arm tactics force; the use of force. □ No more strong-arm tactics. You need to be more subtle. □ Strong-arm tactics are out. The boss says be gentle and don’t hurt anybody.

struggle against someone or something to strive or battle against someone or something. □ There is no point in struggling against me. I will win out. □ He struggled against the disease for a year before he died.

struggle along under something to make do as well as one can under a particular burden. □ I will have to struggle along under these poor conditions for quite a while. □ I am sorry you have to struggle along under such burdens.

struggle along (with someone or something) to make do as well as one can with someone or something. □ I really need someone who can work faster, but I’ll struggle along with Walter. □ We struggled along the best we could.

struggle for something to strive to obtain something. □ I was struggling for a law degree when I won the lottery. □ I had to struggle for everything that came my way.

struggle on with something to make do as well as one can with something. □ I will have to struggle on with the car that I have. □ We will struggle on with what we have, hoping for better someday.

struggle through (something) to get through something in the best way possible. □ I am going to struggle through this dull book to the very end. □ The course was dull, but I struggled through.

struggle to do something to strive or battle to do something. □ She struggled hard to meet her deadlines. □ We had to struggle to make ends meet.

struggle to the death 1. Lit. a bitter struggle ending in death. □ The wolf and the elk fought in a struggle to the death. 2. Fig. a serious problem with someone or something; a difficult challenge. □ I had a terrible time getting my car started. It was a struggle to the death, but it finally started.

struggle with someone for something to fight with someone to obtain something. □ Max struggled with Lefty for the gun, and it went off. □ Timmy struggled with Bobby for the bicycle, and finally David took it away from both of them.

struggle with someone or something to fight with someone or something. □ Fred struggled with Tom for a while and finally gave in. □ Tom struggled with the disease for a while and finally succumbed to it.

strum something on something to brush or play with the fingers some stringed instrument, such as a guitar. □ She strummed a nice little melody on her guitar. □ He strummed the accompaniment on the guitar.

strung out 1. extended in time; overly long. □ Why was that lecture so strung out? She talked and talked. □ It was strung out because there was very little to be said. 2. Sl. doped or drugged. □ Bob acted very strangely—as if he were strung out or something. □ I’ve never seen Bob or any of his friends strung out.

strut around to stride around pompously. □ Stop strutting around in your new jeans and get to work! □ Tex was strutting around, showing off his new boots.

strut in(to some place) to stride pompously into a place. □ He strutted into the house as if he owned the place. □ Betty strutted in and sat down.

strut one’s stuff Sl. to walk proudly and show off one’s best features or talents. □ Get out there on that stage and strut your stuff! □ I’m going to strut my stuff and become a star.

strut out of some place to stride pompously or showily out of some place. □ The clowns strutted out of the tent and joined the parade through the big top. □ Tex strutted out of the saloon and got on his horse.

stub one’s toe against something and stub one’s toe on something to ram one’s toe accidentally against some hard object. □ Don’t stub your toe against that brick in the path. □ Claire stubbed her toe against one of the legs of the sofa. □ I stubbed my toe on the bottom step.

stub something out* to put out something, such as a cigarette or cigar, by crushing the burning end against a hard object. □ Max stubbed his cigar out and tossed it into the street. □ He stubbed out his cigar.

*stubborn as a mule and obstinate as a mule Cliché very stubborn. (*Also: as ~) □ I tried to convince Jake to go to the doctor, but he’s as stubborn as a mule. □ For four years, Henry pestered his parents to let him learn the trumpet. They tried to talk him into some other, quieter instrument, but he was stubborn as a mule, and now he has a trumpet.

(stuck) in a rut Fig. kept in an established way of living or working that never changes. □ David felt like he was stuck in a rut, so he went back to school. □ Anne was tired of being in a rut, so she moved to Los Angeles.

stick in traffic to be caught in a traffic jam. □ I am sorry I am late. I was stuck in traffic. □ Our taxi was stuck in traffic and I thought I would never get to the airport on time.

*stick on someone or something 1. Lit. attached, as if by glue, to someone or something. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ The gum is stuck on me. How do I get it off? □ The gum is stuck on the floor. 2. Fig. in love with someone or something; entranced with someone or something. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ Judy is really stuck on Jeff. □ She is stuck on herself.

stick on something 1. Fig. to be locked into an idea, cause, or purpose. □ Mary is really stuck on the idea of going to France this spring. □ You’ve proposed a good plan, Jane, but you’re stuck on it. We may have to make some changes. 3. Fig. to be confused by something, such as a puzzle or a task. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ I’m stuck on this question about the tax rates.

stick with someone or something burdened with someone or something; left having to care for or deal with someone or something. □ Please don’t leave me stuck with your aunt. She talks too much. □ My roommate quit school and left me stuck with the telephone bill.
study for something to try to learn in preparation for an examination. □ I have to study for my calculus exam. □ Have you studied for your exam yet?

study up on someone or something to learn all one can about someone or something. □ I have to study up on Abraham Lincoln in preparation for my speech. □ John studied up on seashells.

Stuff a sock in it! and Put a sock in it! Inf. Shut up! □ I’ve heard enough. Stuff a sock in it! □ Stuff a sock in it! You are a pain.

stuff and nonsense foolishness; foolish talk. □ Come on! Don’t give me all that stuff and nonsense! □ I don’t understand this book. It’s all stuff and nonsense as far as I am concerned.

stuff one’s face Go to fill one’s face.

stuff someone or something into someone or something and stuff someone or something in! to force someone or something into someone or something. □ The sheriff stuffed Tex into the tiny cell. □ He stuffed in some other prisoners, too. □ Donna got down her suitcase and stuffed her clothes in. □ The nurse stuffed the oatmeal into the old man faster than he could swallow it.

stuff someone or something with something to fill up someone or something with something. □ She stuffed the kids with pancakes and sent them to school. □ Dale stuffed the doll with fluffy material and gave it back to Timmy. □ He was afraid he would stuff himself with food as he usually did.

stuff someone’s head with something to fill someone’s brain with certain kinds of thoughts. □ Who has been stuffing your head with that nonsense? □ Tex thought that the government was stuffing peoples’ heads with all sorts of propaganda.

stuff something down someone’s throat Fig. to force someone to hear, learn, endure, etc., some kind of information. □ I don’t like the nonsense they are stuffing down our throats. □ Please don’t try to stuff those lies down our throats.

stuff something down something to force something down inside of something. □ Don stuffed the cauliflower leaves down the garbage disposal and turned it on. □ Timmy stuffed the leaves down the hole and covered them with dirt.

stuff something up! to plug something by stuffing something in its opening. □ He stuffed the hole up with old newspapers. □ Liz stuffed up the hole with paper.

stuff something up something to force something upward or up into something. □ He tried to hide the book by stuffing it up the chimney. □ Sam stuffed the money he found up the downspout, where he thought no one would find it.

stuff the ballot box to fill a ballot box with illegal votes or with more votes than the number of actual voters. □ The politician was charged with stuffing the ballot box. □ The ballot box was stuffed with lots of votes for the crooked politician.

stumble across someone or something and stumble (up)on someone or something; stumble into someone or something to find someone or something, usually by accident. (See also stumble into someone or something.) □ I stumbled across an interesting book yesterday when I was shopping. □ Guess who I stumbled into at the library yesterday? □ I got lucky and stumbled on the right answer.

stumble into someone or something to trip and lurch into someone or something. 1. □ Not seeing the brick in the path, Carl tripped and stumbled into Alice. □ Jamie stumbled into the wall. 2. Go to stumble across someone or something.

stumble on someone or something 1. Go to stumble across someone or something. 2. to trip over someone or something. □ There were three of us sleeping in the small tent. Each of us would stumble on the others whenever we went out or came in. □ I stumbled on the curb and twisted my ankle.

stumble over someone or something to trip over someone or something. □ Tom stumbled over Bill, who was napping on the floor. □ Don’t stumble over the laundry basket.

stumble through something to get through a sequence of something awkwardly and falteringingly. □ The cast stumbled through the first act and barely finished the second. □ Mary stumbled through her speech and fled from the stage.

stumble (up)on someone or something Go to stumble across someone or something.

a stumbling block Fig. something that prevents or obstructs progress. □ We’d like to buy that house, but the high price is a stumbling block. □ Jim’s age is a stumbling block to getting another job. He’s over sixty.

stump for someone to go about making political speeches in support of someone. □ The vice president was out stump ing for members of Congress who were running this term. □ Since all the politicians were out stump ing for one another, there was no one in the capital to vote on important legislation.

stump someone to confuse or puzzle someone. □ I have a question that will really stump you. When was the Achaean League established?

sub for someone or something to substitute for someone or something. □ I have to sub for Roger at work this weekend. □ Will pliers sub for the wrench you wanted?

sub someone for someone else and sub something for something else to substitute someone for someone else or something for something else. □ I will sub Chuck for Roger for this next play only. □ We will sub the red ones for the blue ones.

subdivide something into something to divide something into parts. □ They subdivided the land into several valuable parcels. □ Sam tried to subdivide his large lot into three smaller lots, but the zoning commission wouldn’t let him do it.

subject someone or something to something to cause someone to endure someone or something. □ I didn’t mean to subject you to Uncle Harry. □ I am sorry I have to subject you to all this questioning.

subject to something likely to have something, such as a physical disorder. □ The sick man was subject to dizzy spells. □ I am subject to frequent headaches.

subjugate someone to someone to suppress someone in someone else’s favor. □ The army sought to subjugate everyone to the king.
submerge someone or something in something to immerse someone or something in a liquid. □ The preacher submerged Jeff in the water of the river as part of the baptism ceremony. □ Submerge the fish in the marinade for at least two hours.

submerge someone or something under something to put someone or something below the surface of a liquid. □ The maid submerged her mistress under the surface of the water for a moment and brought her up and dried her off. □ They submerged themselves under the surface of the water and had a look around.

submit someone or something to something to allow someone or something to undergo the effects of something. □ I hate to submit you to all this questioning, but that is the way we do things here. □ Don’t submit your car to a lot of misuse.

submit to something to surrender to something; to agree to something. □ He submitted to the cross-examination. □ She will probably refuse to submit to surgery.

subordinate someone or something to someone or something else to put someone in an inferior position to someone else; to put something in an inferior position to something else. □ I am going to have to subordinate you to the other manager, because she has more experience. □ The first thing you learn is that you must subordinate yourself to your boss.

subpoena someone to do something to formally deliver a document forcing someone to do something for a legal process. □ The attorney subpoenaed a number of witnesses to testify. □ I subpoenaed four witnesses to appear but none of them showed up.

subscribe to something 1. to agree with a policy. □ I don’t subscribe to the scheme you have just described. □ You don’t have to subscribe to the policy to accept it. 2. to hold a standing order for a magazine or other periodical, or for a computer service. □ I subscribe to three magazines and I enjoy them all. □ I don’t subscribe to any of them anymore.

subsist on something to exist on something; to stay alive on something. □ We can barely subsist on this amount of money. We need more! □ They are able to do no more than subsist on what Mrs. Harris is paid.

substitute for someone or something to serve as a replacement for someone or something. □ I have to substitute for Roger at work this weekend. □ Do you think that this will substitute for the one you wanted?

substitute someone for someone else and substitute something for something else to exchange someone or something for someone or something else; to replace someone or something with someone or something else. □ Shall I substitute Fred for Mary in the front office? □ Please substitute fish for beef on my dinner order.

subtract something from something else to deduct or take away something from something else. □ Please subtract the cost of the meal from my fee. □ I demanded that they subtract the extra charge from my bill.

succeed as something to flourish or prosper as a type of person. □ I hope I succeed as a bank teller. □ Jamie succeeded as an investigator.

succeed at something to prosper or flourish in some task. □ I hope I can succeed at the task you have assigned me. □ I am sure you will succeed at it.

succeed in something to prosper or flourish in some position or office. □ I hope you succeed in your new job. □ We knew you would succeed in doing what you wanted to do.

succeed someone as something to take the place of someone as something; to supplant someone in something. □ Jeff will succeed Claude as president of the organization. □ You are not allowed to succeed yourself as president.

succeed to something to fall heir to something; to take something over. □ Carl will succeed to the throne when he is of age. □ Mary succeeded to the throne at the age of three months.

succumb to something to yield to something, especially a temptation, fatal disease, a human weakness, etc. □ He finally succumbed to his pneumonia. □ She did not succumb to the disease until she was very old.

such and such someone or something whose name has been forgotten or should not be said. □ Mary said that such and such was coming to her party, but I forgot their names. □ If you walk into a store and ask for such and such and they don’t have it, you go to a different store.

such as... for example. □ Bill enjoys many kinds of fruit, such as apples, pears, and plums. □ Mary has many hobbies, such as swimming, bowling, and running.

such as it is Cliché in the imperfect state that one sees it; in the less-than-perfect condition in which one sees it. □ This is where I live. This is my glorious home—such as it is. □ I’ve worked for days on this report, and I’ve done the best that I can do. It’s my supreme effort—such as it is.

Such is life! That is the way things happen! (Usually in reference to an unfortunate outcome.) □ Oh, well. Everything can’t be perfect. Such is life! □ So I failed my test. Such is life! I can take it again some time.

suck (some) brew and suck (some) suds SL to drink beer. □ Wanna go suck some brew? □ I’m tired of sucking suds. Got any whisky?

suck (some) suds Go to previous.

suck someone in! and take someone in! to deceive someone. □ I try to shop carefully so that no one can take me in. □ I think that someone sucked in both of them. I don’t know why they bought this car.

suck someone or something down! [for a vacuum or water currents] to pull someone or something downward. □ The savage currents sucked the swimmers down to their death. □ The current sucked down the floating trees.

suck someone or something into something and suck someone or something in! [for a vacuum] to draw someone or something into something. □ The whirlpool sucked the swimmers into the depths of the river. □ The whirlpool sucked in a swimmer. □ A whirlpool nearly sucked our canoe in.

suck someone or something under [for a current or waves] to pull someone or something beneath the surface of the water. □ The strong rip tide almost sucked me under! □ It almost sucked our boat under.

suck someone’s hind tit SL to be forced to do someone’s bidding no matter how unpleasant or impossible. (Fig. on
the idea of the last of a litter of animals to get its mother’s milk. Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) □ What am I supposed to do—suck his hind tit? □ She acts like everybody has to suck her hind tit to keep their jobs.

**suck something from something** to draw something out of something by the application of a vacuum. □ Freddie used his straw to suck the last of the cola from the can. □ The machine sucked the water from the bottom of the barrel.

**suck something in**
1. Lit. to draw something into one’s mouth by sucking. □ She sucked the milk shake in so hard she nearly collapsed the straw. □ Liz sucked in the fresh air.
2. Fig. to draw in one’s belly, gut, or stomach. □ Suck that belly in! □ Suck in that gut!

**suck something up**
1. to pick something up by suction, as with a vacuum cleaner, or through a straw. □ Will this vacuum suck all this dirt up? □ The vacuum cleaner sucked up all the dirt.

**suck up to someone** Sl. to attempt to gain influence with or favor from someone. □ In school, Richard was always sucking up to the teacher. □ Don’t suck up to me. It won’t do any good.

a **sucker for someone or something** someone who is prejudiced in favor of someone or something; someone who is drawn to someone or something. □ I’m a sucker for a pretty face. □ Ted is a sucker for any dessert with whipped cream on it. □ I don’t know why I volunteered for this job. I’m a sucker for punishment I guess.

**sucker list** Fig. a list of potential dupes; a list of people who might be taken in by deception. □ I’m sure on their sucker list. They are trying to get me to give a lecture and receive a free clock or something. □ Here’s the sucker list. Call them all and try to get them interested.

**sucker someone into something** and **sucker someone in**
Sl. to deceive someone into some sort of scam or confidence game; to play someone for a fool. □ Surely you don’t think you can sucker me into doing something as stupid as that, do you? □ The con artist suckered in an unsuspecting tourist.

**suddenly the fat hit the fire** Go to the fat hit the fire.

**sue for something** to file a lawsuit in order to get something. □ If you so much as harm a hair on my head, I will sue for damages. □ Ted sued for back pay in his dispute with a former employer.

**sue someone for something** to file a lawsuit against someone in order to get something. □ I will sue you for damages if you do anything else to my car! □ She sued her employer for failure to provide a safe workplace.

**sue the pants off (of) someone** Sl. to sue someone for a lot of money. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ If they harm me in any way, I’ll sue the pants off of them. □ He sued the pants off his landlord.

**suffer a setback** to have a minor or temporary failure. □ We suffered a setback when much of our vineyard was damaged by a fungus.

**suffer an attack (of an illness)** Go to an attack (of an illness).

**suffer from something** to endure or experience unpleasantness, a disease, or a health condition. □ Jeff is suffering from the flu. □ I’m afraid that you must suffer from the disease until it has run its course. □ Toby is really suffering from the cold.

**suffer under someone** to endure the punishments or bad treatment of someone. □ The citizens suffered badly under the rule of the cruel king. □ We suffered under Carlos and we will suffer under his successor.

**suffice for someone or something** to be sufficient for someone or something. □ This serving will suffice for me. Did you get enough? □ Will this suffice for you?

**Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.** Prov. You should not worry about things that might happen in the future.; It is enough to worry about things that are happening today. (Biblical.) □ Jane: I can’t get to sleep; I keep thinking about the interview I have to do tomorrow. Alan: If the interview is tomorrow, worry about it tomorrow. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

**suffix something onto something** to add an inflection or other part of a word onto another word. □ The students were told to suffix the correct plural marker onto all the nouns in the list. □ What do you get when you suffix -ed onto a verb like talk?

**suffuse something with something** to saturate something with something, usually a color. □ The sun suffused the afternoon sky with orange and yellow. □ The bright light suffused the leaves with a golden glow.

**suggest itself to someone** [for an idea] to seem to present itself to someone. □ A new scheme suggested itself to Alice as she looked at the records of the last attempt. □ As you read this, does anything suggest itself to you?

**suggest something to someone** to make a suggestion of something to someone. □ The waiter suggested the roast beef to all his customers. □ What did you suggest to the people at the other table? They look quite pleased with their meal.

**suggestive of something** reminiscent of something; suggesting something. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ Bill’s homemade soup is suggestive of his mother’s. □ The new movie was suggestive of an old one I had seen on TV.

**suit one’s actions to one’s words** to behave in accordance with what one has said; to do what one has promised or threatened to do. □ Mr. Smith suited his actions to his words and punished the children. □ John threatened to quit, and when he didn’t get his way, he suited his actions to his words.

**suit oneself** to do something one’s own way; to do something to please oneself. □ If he doesn’t want to do it my way, he can suit himself.

**suit (oneself) up** to get into one’s uniform, especially an athletic uniform. □ The coach told the team to suit up for the game by three o’clock. □ It’s time to suit up! □ She suited herself up and went out on the court.

**suit someone or something to something** to match someone or something to something. □ I am sorry, but we don’t suit the worker to the job. We find a job that suits the worker. □ Let’s try to suit a new sports jacket to the slacks you have on.

**suit someone’s fancy** to appeal to someone’s imagination, fantasy, or preferences. □ Does this handbag suit your fancy, or would you prefer something larger? □ I think a big bowl of ice cream would suit my fancy quite nicely.
suit someone to a T and fit someone to a T to be very appropriate for someone. □ This kind of job suits me to a T. □ This is Sally’s kind of house. It fits her to a T.

Suit yourself. Inf. You decide the way you want it. □ Have it your way. □ Mary: I think I want the red one. Tom: Suit yourself. □ John (reading the menu): The steak sounds good, but it’s hard to pass up the fried chicken. Sally: Suit yourself. I’ll have the steak.

*suited for something appropriate for something. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ Do you think I am suited for this kind of work? □ Those clothes are not suited for outdoor work.

sulk about someone or something and sulk over someone or something to pout or be sullen about someone or something. □ What are you sulking about now? □ There is no need to sulk over Mary.

sum and substance a summary; the gist. □ Can you quickly tell me the sum and substance of your proposal? □ In trying to explain the sum and substance of the essay, Thomas failed to mention the middle name of the hero.

sum (something) up to give a summary of something. □ I would like to sum this lecture up by listing the main points I have covered. □ It is time for me to sum up. □ She summed up the president’s speech in three sentences.

summon someone before someone or something to request or order someone to appear before someone or a group. □ The president summoned the committee before her. □ The judge summoned Donna before the court.

summon someone to someone or something to order or request someone to come to someone or something. □ Uncle Fred summoned the waitress to him. □ He summoned her to our table.

summon something up† to call forth particular qualities, such as strength, courage, wisdom, etc. □ She summoned her courage up and went into the room. □ Liz summoned up all her courage.

the sun belt Fig. the southern U.S. states, where it is generally warm and sunny. □ I want to retire to the sun belt. □ The population of the sun belt is exploding.

Sunday best one’s best clothing, which one would wear to church. (See also Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes.) □ We are in our Sunday best, ready to go. □ I got mud on my Sunday best.

Sunday driver a slow and leisurely driver who appears to be sightseeing and enjoying the view, holding up traffic in the process. (Also a term of address.) □ I’m a Sunday driver, and I’m sorry. I just can’t bear to go faster. □ Move over, you Sunday driver!

Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes Rur. one’s best clothes. (See also Sunday best.) □ John was all dressed up in his Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes. □ I hate to be wearing my Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes when everyone else is casually dressed.

sunny-side up Fig. [of eggs] with yolks facing up and not turned over or cooked through; straight up. □ I’ll have my eggs sunny-side up, with toast and coffee. □ People who like sunny-side up eggs wouldn’t dream of eating a whole raw egg.

superimpose something on(to) someone or something to cover an image of someone or something with an image of something. □ We superimposed a mustache onto Toby’s face, and he looked just like the suspect. □ When we superimposed the mustache on him, we knew he was guilty.

supply and demand the availability of things or people as compared to the need to utilize the things or people; the availability of goods compared to the number of willing customers for the goods. □ Sometimes you can find what you want by shopping around and other times almost no store carries the items you are looking for. It depends entirely on supply and demand. (Alludes to a principle of market economics.) □ Sometimes customers ask for things we do not carry in stock and other times we have things in abundance that no one wants to buy. Whether or not we can make money off of a product depends entirely on supply and demand.

supply someone or something with something to provide something to someone or something. □ We will supply you with all the pencils you need. □ We supplied the committee with ice water.

supply something (to someone or something) (from something) to provide someone or something with something from some source. □ I supplied ice cream to the new restaurant from a very expensive source. □ We supplied nuts from a pushcart. □ Frank supplied nothing at all to them.


Suppose I don’t? and Supposing I don’t? Inf. And what will happen if I don’t? (Said as a sort of threat. Not usually with question intonation.) □ Bill: You’d better get yourself over to the main office. Tom: Suppose I don’t? □ Father: You simply must do better in school. Tom: Supposing I don’t? Father: Your clothing and personal belongings will be placed on the curb for the garbage pickup, and we will have the locks changed. Next question.

Supposed to. and Someone or something is supposed to. Someone or something is meant to do something. (Frequently, in speech, supposed is reduced to s’posed. The words someone or something can be replaced with nouns or pronouns, or used themselves.) □ Mary: They didn’t deliver the flowers we ordered. Sue: Supposed to. Give them a call. □ Sally: This screw doesn’t fit into hole number seven in the way the instructions say it should. Bill: It’s supposed to. Something’s wrong.

supposed to do something expected or intended to do something; obliged or allowed to do something. □ You’re supposed to say “excuse me” when you burp. □ Mom says you’re supposed to come inside for dinner now.

Supposing I do? Go to Suppose I do?

Supposing I don’t? Go to Suppose I don’t?

sure as eggs is eggs Go to sure as God made little green apples.

sure as fate Go to next.

*sure as God made little green apples and *sure as eggs is eggs; *sure as fate; *sure as I’m stand-
**sure as hell**

**surround** someone or something with someone or something to encircle or enclose someone or something with people, something, or things. □ We surrounded him with his friends as he lay in the hospital bed. □ We surrounded the tree with wire netting to protect it against rabbits. □ They surrounded the display of jewels with guards.

**survival of the fittest** the idea that the most able or fit will survive (while the less able and less fit will perish). (This is used literally as a principle of the theory of evolution.) □ In college, it’s the survival of the fittest. You have to keep working in order to survive and graduate. □ I don’t give my houseplants very good care, but the ones I have are really flourishing. It’s the survival of the fittest, I guess.

**susceptible to something** 1. easily persuaded; easily influenced. □ The students were susceptible to the allure of drugs. □ The young revolutionaries were susceptible to propaganda. 2. likely to contract a sickness; likely to become sick. □ People with AIDS are susceptible to pneumonia. □ Infants and the elderly are more susceptible to illness than other people.

**suspect** someone of something to think or believe that someone has done something. □ I suspect the clerk of stealing. □ Ted was suspected of leaving the door unlocked when he left last Friday.

**suspend** someone from something to prevent someone from participating in something. (Usually as a form of discipline.) □ The principal suspended the student from classes for a week. □ Ted was suspended from school for three days.

**suss** someone out1 Sl. to try to figure someone out. □ I can’t seem to suss Tom out. □ I had to swallow my pride and admit that I was wrong. □ When you’re trying to master a
new skill, you find yourself swallowing your pride quite often.

**swallow** someone or something up^1 1. Lit. to eat or gobble up someone or something. □ The fairy-tale wolf threatened to swallow the pig up in one bite. □ The wolf swallowed up the meat in one bite. 2. Fig. to engulf or contain something. □ The vast garage seemed to swallow the cars up. □ The huge sweater swallowed up the tiny child.

**swallow** something down^1 to swallow something. □ Here, take this pill and swallow it down. □ Liz swallowed down the pill.

**swallow** something hook, line, and sinker Fig. to believe something completely. (These terms refer to fishing and fooling a fish into being caught.) □ I made up a story about why I was so late. The boss swallowed it hook, line, and sinker. □ I feel like a fool. I swallowed her lies hook, line, and sinker.

**swamp** someone or something with something to cover or deluge someone or something with something. □ The flood swamped our property with river water. □ The many orders for their product swamped the small business with too much to do.

**swan song** the last work or performance of a playwright, musician, actor, etc., before death or retirement. □ His portrayal of Lear was the actor’s swan song. □ We didn’t know that her performance last night was the singer’s swan song.

**swap** (on someone or something) to share information on someone or something. □ The two girls sat around swapping notes on rude customers they had dealt with in the last month.

**swap** someone or something for someone or something else to trade someone or something for someone or something else. □ I will swap my shortstop for your second baseman. □ There are times when I would gladly swap you for a new car—even an old car!

**swap** someone or something with someone to exchange a person or thing for someone else’s person or thing. □ The representatives of the two countries swapped spies with each other. □ Can I swap jackets with you?

**swap** with someone to exchange something or something with someone. □ I like yours better. I’ll swap with you. □ If you don’t want the sandwich you have, I will swap with you.

**swarm (all) over someone or something** to gather and move all about on someone or throughout something or some place. □ The ants swarmed all over our picnic table. □ The children swarmed over the furniture.

**swarm around someone or something** to gather or crowd around someone or something, in the manner of a swarm of bees. □ The little children swarmed around the lady with the candy. □ The bees swarmed around the flowers.

**swarm in (to something)** [for a throng] to crowd into something or some place. □ People were swarming into the auditorium to hear the guitarist. □ They swarmed in and ran for the best seats.

**swarm out of something** to move out of something in great numbers. □ The bees swarmed out of the hive. □ People swarmed out of the park at the end of the game.

**swarm through something** to gather in a crowd and move through something or some place. □ The shoppers swarmed through the store, buying everything in sight. □ The locusts swarmed through the field, eating the entire harvest.

**swarm with someone or something** to be abundant or crowded with moving people or things. □ The playground was swarming with children, and I couldn’t find my own. □ The picnic blanket swarmed with ants.

**swathe** someone or something in something to wrap or drape someone or something in something. □ Molly swathed her children in sheets to turn them into ghosts on Halloween. □ She swathed the statue in black velvet for the unveiling ceremony.

**swathe** someone or something with something to wrap or drape someone or something with something. □ The sculptor swathed his unfinished pieces with heavy drapes. □ The designer swathed the window with billows of taffeta.

**sway back and forth** to swing or bend from one direction to another. □ The pendulum swayed back and forth, counting off the seconds. □ Mary was swaying back and forth, keeping time to the music.

**sway from side to side** to swing or bend from one side to the other. □ The car swayed from side to side as we started out, indicating that something was seriously wrong. □ He swayed from side to side with the rhythm of the music.

**sway someone to something** to convince someone to do something. □ I think I can sway her to join our side. □ We could not sway Ted to our position.

**swear at someone or something** to curse and swear with great facility. (The trooper here refers to a soldier.) □ Mrs. Wilson was known to swear like a trooper on occasion. □ The clerk started swearing like a trooper, and the customer started crying.

**swear off something** to pledge to avoid or abstain from something. □ I’ve sworn off desserts. I am on a diet. □ No dessert for me. I’ve sworn off.

**swear on a stack of Bibles and swear on one’s mother’s grave** to state something very earnestly, pledging to tell the truth. ( ~ a stack of Bibles refers in an exaggerated way to swearing to tell the truth in court by placing one’s hand on a Bible.) □ I swear on a stack of Bibles that I am telling the truth. □ Of course, I’m telling the truth. I swear on my mother’s grave!

**swear someone in (as something)** to administer an oath to someone who then officially begins in office. □ The
sweep in (from some place) and breeze in (from some place) to arrive suddenly from some place. □ Tom just swept in from his vacation to face a pile of work on his desk. □ Max breezed in from Vegas and asked about Lefty.

sweep in(to some place) to dash or run into some place. □ The kids swept into the candy store and bought little bits of things. □ They swept in and spent all of a dollar before they left.

sweep off to exit quickly. □ He stopped only briefly, then swept off again. □ Mary swept off, leaving Ted standing there confused.

sweep one off one’s feet and knock one off one’s feet 1. Lit. to knock someone down. □ The wind swept me off my feet. □ Bill punched Bob playfully, and knocked him off his feet. 2. Fig. to overwhelm someone (figuratively). □ Mary is madly in love with Bill. He swept her off her feet. □ The news was so exciting that it knocked me off my feet.

sweep out of some place to exit from some place quickly with style or grace. □ The famous actress swept out of the room in a grand fashion. □ She swept out of her dressing room and walked on stage just as her cue was uttered.

sweep over someone 1. Lit. to pass over and cover someone. □ The waves swept over us and nearly drowned us. □ The flood swept over the farmers who would not leave their homes. 2. Fig. [for something] to overwhelm someone. □ A wave of nausea swept over me and I guess I slumped to the floor. □ The need for fresh air swept over all of us trapped in that room.

sweep someone into something and sweep someone in† to place someone into an elective position decisively. □ The decisive victory swept all the candidates of the reform party into office. □ The victory swept in the candidates.

sweep someone or something aside† to push or brush something aside. □ The guards swept the spectators aside as the king’s coach approached. □ They swept aside the spectators.

sweep someone or something away† to dispose of something or by pushing or brushing away. □ The waves nearly swept us away. □ The waves caused by the storm swept away all the debris on the beach.

sweep someone or something out of something and sweep someone or something out† to remove or brush something or something aside. □ The guards swept the crooks out of office. □ We swept out the dirt.

sweep something back† to push or move something backward in the shape of a curve. □ He took the brush and swept his hair back in a huge wave. □ She swept back her hair in a striking arrangement.

sweep something down† to clean something by sweeping. □ Please sweep this floor down whenever you make a mess here. □ Jeff will sweep down the floor before he goes home.

sweep something into something and sweep something in† to move something into something or some place by sweeping. □ Liz swept the crumbs into the dish. □ Liz held the dish and swept in the crumbs.

sweep something off (of) something and sweep something off† to remove something by sweeping. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The waiter swept the crumbs off the tablecloth. □ He swept off the crumbs.
sweep something out<sup>1</sup> to clean something out by sweeping.  □ Someone has to sweep the garage out.  □ Don’t sweep out this room. I’ll do it.

sweep something under the carpet<sup>1</sup> 1. Lit. to hide dirt by brushing it away under the edge of a carpet.  □ He was in such a hurry with the cleaning that he just swept the dirt under the carpet.  □ She swept the dirt under the carpet, hoping no one would find it.  2. Fig. to hide or ignore something.  □ You made a mistake that you can’t sweep under the carpet.  □ Don’t try to sweep it under the carpet. You are wrong!

sweep something up<sup>1</sup> 1. Lit. to clean up and remove something, such as dirt, by sweeping.  □ Please sweep these crumbs up.  □ Can you sweep up these crumbs?  2. Lit. to clean up some place by sweeping.  □ Please sweep this room up.  □ Can you sweep up this room, please?  3. Fig. to arrange something, such as hair, into a curve or wave.  □ The hairstylist swept her hair up over the top. No one liked it.  □ Sweep up my hair this way it looks in this picture.

sweep through (something)<sup>1</sup> 1. Lit. to move through something or some place quickly and with grand flourishes.  □ She swept through the room, speaking to no one.  □ She swept through in a great hurry.  2. Fig. to perform some task quickly.  □ She swept through the musical number and ran offstage.  □ It required a slower tempo, but she just swept through.

sweep up to clean up by sweeping.  □ Would you sweep up this time?  □ Please give me a few minutes to sweep up before you come to visit.

sweep up after someone to clean up the dirt left on the floor by someone.  □ Do you mind sweeping up after the kids?  □ I had to sweep up after your party and I am not happy about it!

sweet and sour a combination of fruity sweet and sour, but not necessarily salty, flavors. (Typically referring to certain Chinese-American foods.)  □ I prefer sweet-and-sour pork to anything else on the menu.  □ Alice does not care for sweet-and-sour dishes, but she will usually eat whatever we serve her.

*sweet as honey and sweeter than honey; sweet as sugar very sweet; charming. (*Also: as ~.)  □ Larry’s words were sweeter than honey as he tried to convince Alice to forgive him.  □ Jill: Is Mary Ann nice? Jane: Yes, indeed. She’s as sweet as honey.  □ Your little girl is darling! Just as sweet as sugar.

sweet nothings affectionate but unimportant or meaningless words spoken to a loved one.  □ Jack was whispering sweet nothings in Joan’s ear when they were dancing.  □ The two lovers sat in the cinema exchanging sweet nothings.

*sweet on someone Rur. fond of someone. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.)  □ Tom is sweet on Mary. He may ask her to marry him.  □ Mary’s sweet on him, too.

sweeten someone up<sup>1</sup> to make someone more pleasant.  □ I had hoped that a week in the Caribbean would sweeten him up.  □ The trip sweetened him up, but not for long.

sweeten something up<sup>1</sup> to make something taste sweeter.  □ Where is the sugar? I need to sweeten this up a little.  □ A little sugar will sweeten up the coffee.

sweeten the pot Fig. to increase the amount of money bet in a card game with hopes of encouraging other players to bet more enthusiastically.  □ John sweetened the pot hoping others would follow.

sweeten (up) the deal Fig. to make a bargain or a business transaction more appealing by adding value to the transaction.  □ The dealer sweetened the deal by throwing in free car washes.  □ He wasn’t willing to do anything to sweeten the deal, so I left.  □ She sweetened up the deal with a little extra money.

sweeter than honey Go to sweet as honey.

sweetheart agreement and sweetheart deal a private agreement reached between a public agency or government official and a private company that includes illicit payments or special favors.  □ They found that the mayor was involved in a number of sweetheart agreements.  □ Most of the building contractors in town would be out of business if they didn’t have sweetheart deals with the local politicians.

sweetheart deal Go to previous.

sweet-talk someone Rur. to talk convincingly to someone with much flattery.  □ I didn’t want to help her, but she sweet-talked me into it.  □ He sweet-talked her for a while, and she finally agreed to go to the dance with him.

swell out to bulge outward; to expand outward.  □ The sides of the box swelled out because it was too full.  □ The west wall of the garage swelled out just before the building collapsed.

swell up to enlarge; to inflate; to bulge out.  □ I struck my thumb with a hammer and it swelled up something awful.

swift as thought

swift and sure fast and certain. (As with the flight of a bird.)  □ The response of the governor to the criticism by the opposing party was swift and sure.  □ The boxer’s punch was swift and sure and resulted in a quick knockout and a very short match.

*swift as an arrow and *swift as the wind; *swift as thought very fast. (*Also: as ~.)  □ The new inter-city train is swift as an arrow.  □ You won’t have to wait for me long; I’ll be there, swift as thought.

swift as lightning Go to quick as a wink.

swift as the wind Go to swift as an arrow.

swift as thought Go to swift as an arrow.
swindle something down to drink something, especially an alcoholic drink, in great gulps. The guy took a quart of beer and swilled it down in a few seconds. He swilled down a quart of beer.

swim against the current Go to next.

swim against the tide and swim against the current. Lit. to swim in a direction opposite to the flow of the water. She became exhausted, swimming against the tide. If you really want strenuous exercise, go out in the stream and swim against the current. Fig. to do something that is in opposition to the general movement of things. Why can't you cooperate? Do you always have to swim against the tide? You always seem to waste your energy swimming against the current.

swim around to swim here and there. I just like to get into the pool and swim around. I saw only one fish swimming around in your aquarium.

swim before someone's eyes Fig. [for something, such as spots or visions] to appear in one's field of vision. I was getting feverish and spots swam before my eyes. Visions of total destruction swam before my eyes as the bus was getting around somewhere.

swim for it to escape by swimming. (See also run for it.) I escaped from the guard, dived into the river, and swam for it. Max swam for it, but he didn't get away.

swim for someone or something to travel toward someone or something by swimming. I swam for George, who was farther out, holding onto a float. I am going to swim for the island.

swim in something 1. Lit. to swim in a body of water. Is it safe to swim in this water? Can we swim in your pool? (Not directly related to 1.) We are just swimming in orders right now. Business is good. Mr. Wilson is swimming in money.

swim into something to enter something swimming. They swam into a lovely grotto. Ted swam into the cave, where my pursuer couldn't see me.

swim like stink Go to like stink.

swim toward someone or something to swim in the direction of someone or something. Jeff swam toward the drowning man and helped him. I swam toward the boat.

swim with something to swim in the same direction as the movement of water. Fred had no trouble swimming with the current. Please swim with the current and not against it.

swimming in something Fig. having lots of something. Right now we are swimming in merchandise. In a month it will be gone. The Wilmington-Thorpes are just swimming in money.

swimming with someone or something Fig. engulfed with someone or something. The scene of the crime was swimming with cops and reporters. The hotel was swimming with out-of-town visitors.

swindle someone out of something and swindle something out of someone to cheat someone out of something. The crooks tried to swindle her out of her inheritance. The crooks swindled $3,000 out of the old woman.

swim around (to something) to move one's body or view around to another position. She swung around to the left, where she could see better. The bear suddenly swung around and charged.

swim at someone or something to strike at someone or something. Max swung at the cop—a serious mistake. The batter swung at the ball and missed.

swim for something Fig. [for someone] to die by hanging for committing a crime. The sheriff swore that Tex would swing for the killing. Max said he would not swing for something that Lefty had done.

swim from something to hang or dangle from something. The child was swinging from an exercise bar on her swing set. Ted was swinging from the edge of the cliff, waiting to be rescued.

swim into action Go to go into action.

swim into high gear to begin operating at a fast pace; to increase the rate of activity. During the winter season we swim into high gear around here. The chef swims into high gear around six o'clock in preparation for the theater crowd.

swim into something to enter something by swimming. The monkey swung into its cage, and I quickly locked the cage door. I grabbed a rope and swung into the cave, where my pursuer couldn't see me.

swim like stink Fig. to make something happen. I hope I can swing a deal that will make us all a lot of money. We all hope you can swing it.

swim to something to change to a different position or attitude. The mood of the country is swinging to conservatism. Soon the attitudes of the people will swing to the opposite side.

swim with someone or something Sl. to appreciate someone or something. Man, I can really swing with that color. Glorious! I can really swing with John. He and I are real close.

swirl about someone or something [for something, such as dust or a fluid] to circle and wind about someone or something. The snow swirled about me as I walked along. The smoke swirled about the tiny campfire.

swirl around [for dust or a fluid] to circle around. The liquid swirled around in the flask as Toby shook it up. Dust swirled around the room in the sunlight.

swish around [for a fluid] to slosh or rush around. All that water I drank is swishing around in my stomach. I can hear the water swishing around in the pipes.

swish something off (of) someone or something and swish something off brush something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) The barber swished the loose hairs off of Paul's collar. The barber swished off the loose hairs.

switch around to change, swing, or turn around. The horse switched around and ran the other way. I switched around and sat looking the other way for a while.

switch (around) (with someone or something) to exchange or trade with someone or something. (The optional elements cannot be transposed.) I liked Jill's lunch, and she liked mine, so I switched around with her.
I liked Jill’s, and she liked mine, so we switched around with each other.

**switch back (to something)** 1. to return to using or doing something. □ I decided to switch back to my old shampoo. □ I switched back and was glad I did. 2. [for a road] to reverse upon itself. □ The mountain road switched back twenty times in three miles. □ It switched back every now and then.

**switch from someone to someone else** to change one’s choice from one person to another. □ I had chosen Jeff, but I will switch from him to Judy. □ Tom wanted to try a new barber, so he switched from Nick to Bruno.

**switch from something to something else** to change one’s choice from one thing to another. □ We switched from oil to gas heat in our house. □ I don’t like to switch from one brand to another.

**switch into something** to change [one’s clothes] into something else. □ Let me switch into something a little more dressy if we are going to a nice restaurant. □ I have to switch into something more comfortable.

**switch off** 1. Lit. [for something] to turn itself off. □ At midnight, all the lights switched off automatically. □ The television switched off after I went to sleep. 2. Fig. [for someone] to stop paying attention; to become oblivious to everything. □ I got tired of listening and switched off. □ You could see that the audience was switching off.

**switch on** 1. [for something] to turn itself on. □ Exactly at midnight, the lights switched on. □ The radio switched on early in the morning to wake us up. 2. Sl. [for someone] to become alert or excited. □ The wild music made all the kids switch on and start to dance. □ About midnight, Ed switches on and becomes a real devil.

**switch over (to someone or something)** to change to or choose someone or something else. □ That newscaster is too contentious. Switch over to another station. □ Okay, I’ll switch over.

**switch someone or something around** 1. to cause someone or something to be quiet or stop doing something. □ I got tired of listening to her, so I punched the button and switched her off. □ I switched off the television set.

**switch someone or something off** 1. to cause someone or something to transfer electronically a signal from someone or something to someone or something else. □ Tom is on the line. Shall I switch him over to Jeff? □ Please switch the call over to my other line.

**switch someone or something over to something** to transfer electronically a signal from someone or something to someone or something else.

**switch something (from something) (into) something** to change or convert something from one thing into another. □ The magician switched the silk scarf from red into green. □ I would love to be able to switch lead into gold.

**switch something on** 1. to close an electrical circuit that causes something to start functioning or operating. □ Please switch the fan on. □ I switched on the fan.

**switch something out** 1. to remove something from an electrical circuit to turn it off. □ Please switch the light out. □ I switched out the light.

**switch something over (to something)** to convert something to something else. □ We are switching our furnace over to gas. □ We switched over our furnace to gas.

**switch something to something else** to change something to something else. □ It was hot so I switched the thermostat from heating to cooling. □ Mary switched the controls to automatic so she wouldn’t have to worry about them constantly.

**switch to something** to change to something. □ I am going to switch to a cheaper brand of tissues. □ We switched to a different long-distance telephone company to save some money.

**switched on** 1. Sl. alert and up-to-date; with it. □ My brother is switched on and has lots of friends. □ I’m not switched on. In fact, I am pretty dull. □ Sl. excited. □ I get switched on by that kind of music. □ I am never switched on by raucous music.

**swoon over something** to seem to faint or pass out about someone or something. □ The kids swooned over the rock star like the kids of thirty years ago. □ Evangeline swooned over the frightful news.

**swoop down (up) on something** 1. Lit. to dive or plunge downward on someone or something. □ The eagle swooped down upon the lamb. 2. Fig. [for someone] to pounce on and consume something. □ The children swooped down on the ice cream and cake.

**sympathize with someone (about something)** to share someone else’s sorrow or anger about someone or something; to comfort someone who is sad or angry (about someone or something). □ I sympathize with you about what you are going through. □ I really sympathize with you.

**synchronize something with something else** to set or adjust something to coordinate its timing with something else. □ Would you please synchronize your watch with mine? □ We could never synchronize our schedules so that we could get together.
tab someone for something to choose someone for something. □ The director tabbed Sam for a walk-on part. □ I wanted her to tab me for a part.

table a motion to postpone the discussion of something during a meeting. □ Mary suggested that they should table the motion. □ The motion for a new policy was tabled until the next meeting.

tack something down1 to fasten something down with small nails. □ Someone had better tack this carpet down. □ Please tack down this carpet.

tack something onto something and tack something on2 to add something onto something. □ The waiter kept tacking charges onto my bill. □ He tacked on charge after charge.

tack something up2 to fasten something onto something with tacks. □ The drapes started to fall, so we tacked them up again. □ Please tack up these posters.

tag along (after someone) and tag along (behind someone) to follow along after someone; to go along with someone. □ The family dog tagged along after the children wherever they went. □ Can I tag along? □ Do you mind if I tag along behind you?

tag someone out1 [in baseball] to touch with the ball, and thereby put someone out. □ The shortstop tagged the runner out and retired the side. □ He tagged out the runner.

tail after someone Fig. to follow after someone. □ Why do you always have to tail after me? □ There is someone tailing after you.

tail off to dwindle to nothing. □ The number of people filing for unemployment insurance is beginning to tail off. □ As the storms tailed off, we began to realize how much damage had been done.

the tail wagging the dog a situation where a small part is controlling the whole of something. □ John was just hired yesterday, and today he is bossing everyone around. It’s a case of the tail wagging the dog. □ Why is this small matter taking so much time? Now it’s the tail wagging the dog!

tailor someone or something to someone or something to fit or revise someone or something to fit someone or something. □ The coach tailored his defensive team to the opposition. □ We can tailor service to your company very easily. □ I will tailor this suit to your specifications for no extra charge.

taint something with something to spoil or debase something with something. □ The food had been tainted with germs.

take a backseat (to someone or something) Fig. to become less important than someone or something else. □ My homework had to take a backseat to football during the playoffs. □ Jimmy always took a backseat to his older brother, Bill, until Bill went away to college.

take a bath Go to take a shower.

take a bath (on something) Sl. to accumulate large losses on a business transaction or an investment. (Alludes to getting soaked, a slang expression meaning “being heavily charged for something.”) □ Sally took a bath on that stock that she bought. Its price went down to nothing. □ I’m afraid that I will take a bath on any investment I make.

take a beating to be beaten, bested, or defeated. □ The candidate took a beating in the primaries. □ The team took quite a beating.

take a bow to bow and acknowledge credit for a good performance. □ At the end of the concerto, the pianist rose and took a bow. □ The audience applauded wildly and demanded that the conductor come out and take a bow again.

take a break and take one’s break to have a short rest period in one’s work. □ It’s ten o’clock—time to take a break. □ I don’t usually take my break until 10:30.

take a chance and take a risk to try something where failure or bad fortune is likely. □ Come on, take a chance. You may lose, but it’s worth trying. □ I’m not reckless, but I don’t mind taking a risk now and then.

take a chance on someone or something to gamble that something good might happen or that someone might do well; to take a risk that something would go wrong or that someone would do badly. □ I just couldn’t take a chance on Walter, so I picked David. □ I would never take a chance on that horse!

take a collection up1 (from someone) (for someone or something) to collect money from people for someone or something. □ Karen took a collection up from everyone in the office for Bill. □ Karen took up a collection for Bill from everyone in the office.

take a course (in something) to enroll in a course and do the required work. □ I decided to take a course in history. □ Bob drives into the city where he is taking a course.

take a crack at someone Go to a crack at someone.

take a crack at something Go to a try at something.

take a dig at someone and take a jab at someone; take digs at someone Fig. to insult or pester someone. □ Why did you take a jab at Sam? □ You’re always taking digs at people who think they’re your friends. □ Jane is always taking digs at Bob, but she never really means any harm.

take a dim view of someone or something to disapprove of someone or something. □ Of all the boys, the teacher likes Dave the least. She takes a dim view of him. □ I take a dim view of that law.

take a dirt nap Sl. to die and be buried. □ I don’t want to end up taking a dirt nap during this operation. □ Isn’t Tom a little young to take a dirt nap?

take a dive Go to take a fall.
take a drag (on something)  Go to a drag (on something).

take a fall and take a dive to fake being knocked out in
a boxing match.  Wilbur wouldn’t take a fall. He doesn’t
have it in him.  The boxer took a dive in the second round
and made everyone suspicious.

take a fancy to someone or something and take a liking
to someone or something; take a shine to someone or
something to develop a fondness or a preference for some-
one or something.  John began to take a fancy to Sally
late last August at the picnic.  I’ve never taken a liking
to cooked carrots.  I think my teacher has taken a shine to
me.

take a firm grip on someone or something 1. Lit. to grasp
someone or something tightly.  The police officer took
a firm grip on Fred and led him to the squad car.  Mary took
a firm grip on the handle and pulled hard.  2. Fig. to gain
control of someone or something.  You will have to take
a firm grip on Andrew. He has a mind of his own.  Some-
one needs to take a firm grip on this department and get it
organized.

take a (firm) stand on something to express and main-
tain a strong opinion of something.  I hope you take a
firm stand on the need for more office security.  Yes, I will
take a stand on it.

take a gander (at someone or something) to look at
someone or something.  Wow, take a gander at that new car!
I wanted to take a gander at the new computer before they
started using it.

take a go at someone Go to a go at someone.

take a go at something Go to a try at something.

take a guess and hazard a guess; make a guess to
take a guess.  Even if you don’t know, please take a guess.  If
you don’t know the answer, hazard a guess.

take a hand in something to help with something; to par-
ticipate in something.  Would you take a hand in this
work? We need your efforts.  Ted refused to take a hand
in the preparations for the evening meal.

take a hard line (with someone) Fig. to be firm with
someone; to have a firm policy for dealing with people.
The manager takes a hard line with people who show up
late.  This is a serious matter. The police are likely to take
a hard line.

take a hike and take a walk 1. Fig. to go on a hike; to
do hiking.  It’s a beautiful day. Let’s take a hike in the
woods.  We took a hike through the forest to visit John’s
cabin.  2. Fig. to leave; to beat it.  Okay, I’ve had it with
you. Take a hike! Beat it!  I had enough of the boss and
the whole place, so I cleaned out my desk and took a walk.
3. Go to take a walk.

take a hint to understand a hint and behave accordingly.
I said I didn’t want to see you anymore. Can’t you take a
hint? I don’t like you.  Sure I can take a hint, but I’d rather
be told directly.

take a jab at someone 1. and take a punch at someone
to hit at someone; to poke someone.  Max took a jab at
Lefty and missed.  Lefty took a punch at Max.  2. Go to
take a dig at someone.

take a leaf out of someone’s book and take a page
from someone’s book Fig. to behave or to do something
in a way that someone else would.  When you act like
that, you’re taking a leaf out of your sister’s book, and I don’t
like it!  You had better do it your way. Don’t take a leaf
out of my book. I don’t do it well.

take a leak Inf. to urinate. (Crude. Use caution with the
topic. Usually in reference to a male.) I gotta go take a
leak. Back in a minute.  He just went out to take a leak.

take a licking Go to a licking.

take a liking to someone or something Go to take a fancy
to someone or something.

take a load off (of) someone’s mind and take a lot off
(of) someone’s mind Fig. to relieve one’s mind of a prob-
lem or a worry. (Of) is usually retained before pronouns.
I’m glad to hear that. It sure takes a load off of my mind.
This will take a load off her mind.

take a load off one’s feet Go to a load off one’s feet.
Take a long walk off a short pier.  Go play in the
traffic. Inf. Get out of here! Do something that will
give you permanently out of here! Get out of here! Take
a long walk off a short pier.  You bother me. Go play in
the traffic.

take a look at someone or something and have a look
at someone or something to observe or examine someone or
something.  I asked the doctor to take a look at my cut.
Would you please have another look at your work? It is
not complete.

take a look for someone or something and have a look
for someone or something to make a visual search for some-
one or something; to look for someone or something.
Please go to the library and have a look for a book about
snakes.  Take a look for a man in a black suit. He is your
guide.

take a lot of nerve Go to a lot of nerve.

take a lot off (of) someone’s mind Go to take a load
off (of) someone’s mind.

take a lot out of someone to drain a lot of energy from
someone.  This kind of workout takes a lot out of the team.
Hot days like this take a lot out of me.

take a nap to have a brief period of sleep.  I took a short
nap just after lunch.  The baby takes a long nap each after-
noon.

take a new turn [for something] to begin a new course
or direction.  When I received the telegram with the excit-
ing news, my life took a new turn.  I began taking the med-
icine at noon, and by evening the disease had begun to take
a new turn. I was getting better!

take a nosedive Go to go into a nosedive.

take a page from someone’s book Go to take a leaf out
of someone’s book.

take a poke at someone Go to next.

take a pop at someone and take a poke at someone
to punch at someone.  Willie took a pop at me, but I ducked.
The drunk took a poke at the cop—which was the wrong
thing to do.

take a potshot at someone or something 1. Lit. to shoot
at someone or something, as with a shotgun. (A potshot
refers to the type of shooting done to provide meat for the
cooking pot.) The hunters were taking potshots at each
other in the woods. □ Someone has been taking potshots at my mailbox! 2. Fig. to criticize or censure someone or something, often just to be mean. □ Why are you taking potshots at me? What did I do to you? □ Everyone in the audience was taking potshots at the comedian's toupee.

take a pound of flesh Go to a pound of flesh.

take a powder Sl. to leave; to leave town. (Underworld.) □ Why don't you take a powder? Go on! Beat it! □ Willie took a powder and will lie low for a while.

take a punch at someone Go to take a jab at someone.

take a rain check (on something) Go to a rain check (on something).

take a risk Go to take a chance.

take a running jump (in the lake) Sl. Go away!; Get away from me! □ You know what you can do? You can take a running jump. Beat it! □ You can just take a running jump in the lake, you creep!

take a shine to someone or something Go to take a fancy to someone or something.

take a shot at someone or something 1. to fire a shot at someone or something. □ The hunter took a shot at the deer. □ Who took a shot at my mailbox? 2. Go to a try at something.

take a shower and take a bath to bathe. □ I take a shower every morning. □ John takes a hot bath to relax.

take a spill to have a fall; to tip over. (Also with bad, nasty, quite, etc. Also with have.) □ Ann tripped on the curb and took a nasty spill. □ John had quite a spill when he fell off his bicycle.

take a stab at someone Go to a stab at someone.

take a stab at something Go to a try at something.

take a stand (against someone or something) to take a position in opposition to someone or something; to oppose or resist someone or something. □ The treasurer was forced to take a stand against the board because of its wasteful spending. □ The treasurer took a stand, and others agreed.

take a swing at someone to attempt to punch someone. □ He took a swing at me! □ Tom took a swing at Bob, but Bob ducked out of the way.

take a swipe at someone or something 1. Sl. to hit at someone or something. □ Max took a swipe at the cop by mistake. □ Lefty took a swipe at the punching bag—and missed. 2. Sl. to have a try at someone or something. □ I think I can persuade him. I'll take a swipe at him and see. □ I will probably fail, but I'll take a swipe at it.

take a try at someone Go to a try at someone.

take a try at something Go to a try at something.

take a turn for the better to start to improve; to start to get well. □ She was very sick for a month; then suddenly she took a turn for the better. □ Things are taking a turn for the better at my store. I may make a profit this year.

take a turn for the worse to start to get worse. □ It appeared that she was going to get well; then, unfortunately, she took a turn for the worse. □ My job was going quite well; then last week things took a turn for the worse.

take a vacation to go somewhere for a vacation; to stop work to have a vacation. □ Sue took a vacation at the Grand Canyon last year. □ I need to take a vacation and relax.

take a walk Go to take a hike.

take a weight off one's mind Go to a load off one's mind.

take a whack at something Go to a try at something.

take a whiff of something Go to a whiff of something.

take account of someone or something to pay attention to someone or something. □ You should take account of Tom. He has some good advice. □ Do I have to take account of the new policies?

take action against someone or something to begin activity against someone or something. □ The city council vowed to take action against the mayor. □ I will take action against the company for its negligence.

take action on someone or something to act on someone or something; to do what has to be done on someone or something. □ We still have to discuss what to do with Sam. I hope we can take action on him today. □ Do we still have time to take action on this proposal?

take advantage of someone 1. to deceive someone. □ I knew that you wouldn't take advantage of me! I trusted you. □ Please don't take advantage of me the way you took advantage of Carl. 2. to impose on someone. □ I am glad to have your help. I hope I am not taking advantage of you. □ I am glad to do it. You are not taking advantage of me.

take advantage of someone or something to utilize someone or something to the fullest extent. □ Try to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. □ Please take advantage of the consultant while she is here in the office.

take after someone to resemble a close, older relative. □ Don't you think that Sally takes after her mother? □ No, Sally takes after her Aunt Ann.

take (a)hold of someone or something Go to (a)hold of someone or something.

take aim at someone or something Fig. to prepare to deal with someone or something; to focus on someone or something. (Based on take aim at someone, something, or an animal.) □ Now we have to take aim at the problem and try to get it solved. □ The critics took aim at the star of the musical and tore her to pieces.

take aim at someone, something, or an animal to aim [something] at someone, something, or an animal. □ The hunter took aim at the deer and pulled the trigger. □ You must take aim carefully before you shoot.

take an amount of money for something to charge a certain amount for something. □ I'll take four thousand for that car there. □ How much will you take for a big bag of flour?

take an interest in someone or something to become concerned or interested in someone or something. □ Do you take an interest in your children? □ You should take an interest in everything your child does.

take an oath to make an oath; to swear to something. □ You must take an oath that you will never tell anyone about this. □ When I was a witness in court, I had to take an oath that I would tell the truth.
take attendance to make a record of persons attending something. □ I took attendance before starting the class. □ I will attend each day.

take away from someone or something to lessen the value or esteem of someone or something; to detract from someone or something. □ The fact that she is quiet does not take away from her one bit. □ The huge orange spot in the center of the painting takes away from the intense green of the rest of the work.

Take care. Go to Take care (of yourself).

take care of number one and take care of numero uno to take care of oneself. □ Mike, like everybody else, is most concerned with taking care of number one. □ If you don’t take care of numero uno, who will?

take care of numero uno Go to previous.

take care of someone 1. to tip someone. □ Did you remember to take care of the waiter? 2. Euph. to kill or dispose of someone. □ Max said he was going to take care of Lefty once and for all. □ The crime king ordered Max to take care of a certain private detective.

take care of someone or something to oversee and protect someone or something; to care for someone or something. □ Please take care of my child while I am away. □ I will take care of everything for you.

take care of something to deal with something; to handle or manage a problem or detail. □ Would you please take care of this little problem? □ This is an easy thing to take care of. I will fix it immediately.


take charge (of someone or something) to take (over) control of someone or something. □ The president came in late and took charge of the meeting. □ When the new manager took charge, things really began to happen.

take cold Go to catch cold.

take control of someone or something to get the power and right to direct someone or something. □ I will take control of him and see that he does what I want. □ Will you take control of the Wilson project?

take cover to seek shelter from gunfire or other projectiles. □ As soon as the firing started, we took cover behind a huge boulder.

take credit for something to allow people to believe that one has done something praiseworthy, whether or not one has actually done it. □ I can’t take credit for the entire success. Toby helped a lot. □ Mary took credit for everything that Dave did.

take digs at someone Go to take a dig at someone.

take effect Go to go into effect.

take exception (to something) 1. to take offense at something. □ I must take exception to your remark. □ Sue took exception to Fred’s characterization of Bill as a cheapskate.

2. to disagree with something. □ I have to take exception to the figure you quoted. □ The manager took exception to the statement about having only three employees.

take first crack at something Go to first crack at something.

take five Sl. to take a five-minute rest period; to take a short break. □ Okay, everybody. Take five! □ Hey, Bob. I’m tired. Can we take five?

take forty winks Go to catch forty winks.

take fuel on † to refuel; to be refueled. (Usually said of a car or plane.) □ We need to land at the next major airport to take fuel on. □ We will land somewhere to take on fuel.

take (great) pains (to do something) Fig. to make a great effort to do something. □ Tom took pains to decorate the room exactly right. □ We took great pains to get there on time.

take heart (from something) to receive courage or comfort from some fact. □ I hope that you will take heart from what we told you today. □ Even though you did not win the race, take heart from the fact that you did your best. □ I told her to take heart and try again next time.

take heed of something □ He took heed of the child, which frightened her very much. □ Terry took heed of the doorknob and turned it.

take ill Go to take sick.

take into account someone or something Go to take someone or something into account.

take inventory to make an inventory list. □ They are taking inventory in the warehouse, counting each item and writing the number on a list. □ The hardware store closed once a year in order to take inventory.

take issue with someone to argue with someone. □ I heard your last statement and I have to take issue with you. □ Tom took issue with Maggie about the cost of the house.

take issue with something to disagree with or argue about something. □ I have to take issue with that statement. □ I want to take issue with the last statement you made.

take it to endure something, physically or mentally. (Often negative.) □ I just can’t take it anymore. □ If you can’t take it, quit.

Take it away! Inf. Start up the performance! Let the show begin! (Typically a public announcement of the beginning of a musical performance.) □ And now, here is the band playing “Song of Songs.” Take it away! □ Sally will now sing us a song. Take it away, Sally!

take it easy. 1. Inf. Good-bye and be careful. □ Mary: Bye-bye. Bill: See you, Mary. Take it easy. □ Sue: Take it easy, Tom. Tom: Bye, Sue. See you soon. 2. Inf. Be gentle; Treat someone carefully. □ Sue: Then I want you to move the piano and turn all the mattresses. Andy: Come on. Take it easy! I’m not made of steel, you know. □ Henry: Oh, I’m
take it easy on someone, something, or an animal to be gentle on someone, something, or an animal. (See also Take it easy!; take it easy on something.)

take it to mean to understand it to be thus...

take it slow

take it out on someone, something, or an animal because one is angry or disturbed about something; to notice someone or something.

take it on the nose

It has to last us many years.

take it like a man

Bob: Aw, come on! Take off a few bucks.

Mary. She's been sick.

Please take it on the furniture. It has to last us many years.

Lit. to stand up to something adverse, such as criticism. (Fig. on taking a direct punch to the head in boxing.)

They laid the conductor stopped the band and had the players take it from the top again.

Let's take it from the top and play it a bit softer this time.

Fig. to receive the full brunt of something.

If you did it, you have to take it.

I knew he could take it like a man.

Fig. to go from the top again. Let's take it from the top and play it a bit softer this time.

Take this one or none; you have a choice. (See also Take it easy on someone, something, or an animal.)

It is time for me to take leave of all of you. It saddened me to take leave of the city I grew up in.

Spend a little on yourself.

The soldiers' orders were The boss is madder than hell, and he's taking names.

Gary is coming by to talk about the little riot last night, and I think he's taking names.

take name to make a list of wrongdoers. (Often figuratively, referring to a schoolteacher making a list of the names of misbehaving students to be sent to the principal.)

The boss is madder than hell, and he's taking names.

Gary is coming by to talk about the little riot last night, and I think he's taking names.

take no prisoners 1. Lit. to kill the enemy rather than seize the enemy as prisoners.

The soldiers' orders were to take no prisoners.

2. Fig. to be extremely ruthless with the opposition.

The new manager takes no prisoners. He is ruthless and stern.

take no stock in something; not put (a lot) of stock in something to pay no attention to someone; not to believe or accept something.

I take no stock in anything John has to say. He doesn't take stock in your opinions either.

take notice of someone or something Fig. to notice someone or something; to commit something about someone or something to one's memory, possibly by making a note on paper.

I took note of her when she came in. I thought she had left the company.

Please take note of the hour. It is late.
take on a new significance

The eagles took off and headed toward the mountains. Fig. to leave the ground and begin to fly. (As with a bird or an airplane.) Fig. [for someone] to leave in a hurry. Fig. [for something] to start selling well. Fig. to become active and exciting. Fig. to offer praise for someone or something. Fig. to begin a discussion of something. Fig. to stop being calm or civil and to let go of something; to salute or pay an honor to someone. Fig. to say goodbye to someone or something. Fig. to start out speaking on something; to begin a discussion of something. Fig. to offer praise for someone's good accomplishments. Fig. to take flight from something or someone or something. Fig. to reduce expenditures; to live or operate a business more economically. (As if one were going to have to eat less.) Fig. to take their belts in a notch budgetarily speaking. Fig. to accept the consequences or the bad fortune that one deserves. (Alludes to having to take unpleasant-tasting medicine.) Fig. to accept what someone says and act accordingly. Fig. to take notice of me, so I left. Fig. to take the amount of the bill. Fig. to take notice of the bill.

didn't take notice of me, so I left.

She told me to go jump in the lake, and I took her at her word. You shouldn't take her at her word. She frequently says things she doesn't really mean.

take on a new meaning

She has done an excellent job. We took off for Moscow early in the evening.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

We took off from the airport on one side of town, fly across the city, and land at our destination within 15 minutes.

Please take your medicine.

He pulled his belt in a notch and smiled at his success at losing weight.

The eagle took off and headed toward the mountains.

we all ought to take off our hats. She is our best mayor ever.

The peo-ple at city hall will have to pull in their belts a notch unless they want to raise taxes.

They had to pull in their belts a notch unless they want to raise taxes.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

I knew I did wrong, and I know I have to take my medicine.

It's late. I have to take off.

Did the party ever take off, or was it dull all night?

I will have to take off my hat to you! What an excellent job!

Did you see that police car take off?

She really took off from her job.

I'm sorry you took offense. I meant no harm.

I took her at her word.

They had to take their belts in a notch budgetarily speaking.

The eagle took off and headed toward the mountains.

I couldn't take my eyes off the usher.

I couldn't take his eyes off Judy.

The gloves are off.

I couldn't take my eyes off the usher.

Get your hands off of me!

Please take your hands off the cake plate.

I took off my hat to Mayor Johnson. She has done an excellent job.

I'm sorry you took off your hat. I meant no harm.

I took off my hat to you! What an excellent job!

I hate taking my lumps. I'd rather pretend nothing had happened.

I took off from the airport right after the robber.

Almost everyone took their belts in a notch and wished he had something to eat.

The bank guard took off after the robber.

I had to take off early.

I'll have to take off my hat to the mayor. She did an excellent job.

I don't take notice of me, so I left.

I want to take some time off from work and paint the house.

I had to take off early.

I went off for Moscow early in the evening.

We took off from the airport on one side of town, fly across the city, and land at our destination within 15 minutes.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

I'm sorry you took offense. I meant no harm.

I took her at her word.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

I wish you wouldn't take on about this matter.

I know I did wrong, and I know I have to take my medicine.

I had to take off early.

I couldn't take my eyes off the usher.

I couldn't take his eyes off Judy.

The gloves are off.

I couldn't take my eyes off the usher.

Get your hands off of me!

Please take your hands off the cake plate.

I took off my hat to you! What an excellent job!

I hate taking my lumps. I'd rather pretend nothing had happened.

I took off from the airport right after the robber.

Almost everyone took their belts in a notch and wished he had something to eat.

The bank guard took off after the robber.

I had to take off early.

I'll have to take off my hat to the mayor. She did an excellent job.

I don't take notice of me, so I left.

I want to take some time off from work and paint the house.

I had to take off early.

I went off for Moscow early in the evening.

We took off from the airport on one side of town, fly across the city, and land at our destination within 15 minutes.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

I'm sorry you took offense. I meant no harm.

I took her at her word.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

I wish you wouldn't take on about this matter.

I know I did wrong, and I know I have to take my medicine.

I had to take off early.

I couldn't take my eyes off the usher.

I couldn't take his eyes off Judy.

The gloves are off.

I couldn't take my eyes off the usher.

Get your hands off of me!

Please take your hands off the cake plate.

I took off my hat to you! What an excellent job!

I hate taking my lumps. I'd rather pretend nothing had happened.

I took off from the airport right after the robber.

Almost everyone took their belts in a notch and wished he had something to eat.

The bank guard took off after the robber.

I had to take off early.

I'll have to take off my hat to the mayor. She did an excellent job.

I don't take notice of me, so I left.

I want to take some time off from work and paint the house.

I had to take off early.

I went off for Moscow early in the evening.

We took off from the airport on one side of town, fly across the city, and land at our destination within 15 minutes.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

I'm sorry you took offense. I meant no harm.

I took her at her word.

Stop crying. Please don't take on so.

I wish you wouldn't take on about this matter.

I know I did wrong, and I know I have to take my medicine.
take one's own life to kill oneself; to commit suicide. □ Bob tried to take his own life, but he was stopped in time. □ Later, he was sorry that he had tried to take his own life.

take one's pick of something to be able to have one's choice of someone or something. □ Can I take my pick of anyone in the group? □ Please take your pick of desserts.

take one's time to go as slow as one wants or needs to; to use as much time as is required. □ There is no hurry. Please take your time. □ Bill is very careful and takes his time so he won't make any mistakes.

take one's turn [when playing a game] to make one's move or play one's cards; [when alternating with someone, waiting for one's opportunity or place in a sequence] to perform one's task. □ Somebody please wake Max up so he can take his turn.

take oneself off some place to go away to some place more private. □ I need to take myself off someplace and think all this over. □ She kept her sanity by taking herself off to her bedroom for a few hours each day.

take out a loan to get a loan of money, especially from a bank. □ Mary took out a loan to buy a car. □ We will have to take out a loan to remodel the kitchen.

take out (after someone or something) Go to take off (after someone or something).

take over (from someone) to assume the role or job of someone. □ I take over for the manager next month. □ Liz takes over and will be in charge.

take pains over something Fig. to deal with something with great care. (See also take pains with someone or something.) □ She certainly takes pains over her work. □ You will have to take pains over this if you want it to be done right.

take pains with someone or something Fig. to deal with someone or something with great care. □ He really took pains with me to make sure I understood it all. □ Ken took pains with the model plane.

take part in something to participate in something. □ Bill refused to take part in the game. □ Everyone is asked to take part in the celebration.

take pity on someone or an animal to feel sorry for someone or an animal. □ We took pity on the hungry people and gave them some hot food. □ She took pity on the little dog and brought it in to get warm.

take place to happen. □ When will this party take place? □ It's taking place right now.

take possession of something to assume ownership of something. □ I am to take possession of the house as soon as we sign the papers.

take precedence over someone or something Go to precedence over someone or something.

take pride in someone or something to be proud of someone or something. □ I take a great deal of pride in my children. □ She takes pride in her work and it shows in her products.

take (quite) a toll on someone or something to cause damage or wear by using something or by hard living. □ Years of sunbathing took a toll on Mary's skin. □ Drug abuse takes quite a toll on the lives of people.

take refuge in something to hide in something; to seek safety or the comfort of being safe in something. □ The rabbits took refuge in a hole in the ground. □ The children took refuge in the house as soon as the storm began.

take revenge (against someone) and seek revenge (against someone); get revenge against someone; take revenge on (someone) for (something) to get even with someone. □ Linda planned to take revenge against Ellen. □ I intend to take revenge on Paul for what he did. □ I will not seek revenge.

take root 1. Lit. [for a plant] to develop roots in soil or some other growing medium. □ The new plants should take root in a few weeks and start growing. 2. Fig. to begin to take hold or have effect. □ Things will begin to change when my new policies take root. □ My ideas began to take root and influence other people.

take shape [for something, such as plans, writing, ideas, arguments, etc.] to begin to be organized and specific. □ My plans are beginning to take shape. □ As my manuscript took shape, I started showing it to publishers.

take sick and take ill to become ill. □ I took sick with a bad cold last week. □ I hope I don't take ill before final exams.

take sides to choose one side of an argument. □ They were arguing, but I didn't want to take sides, so I left. □ I don't mind taking sides on important issues.

take sides against someone or something to join a faction opposing someone or something; to establish a faction against someone or something. □ Both of them took sides against me. It wasn't fair. □ We took sides against the bank.

take solace (in something) to console oneself with some fact. □ I am inordinately impoverished, but I take solace in the fact that I have a splendid vocabulary.

take some doing to require considerable effort and care. □ It'll take some doing, but it'll get done. □ It's not impossible. It'll just take some doing.

take some heat Go to take the heat.

take (some) time off Go to time off.

take ((some) time) off from work Go to take off from work.

take someone apart¹ 1. Sl. to beat someone up. (See also take something apart.) □ Don't talk to me that way, or I'll take you apart. □ He was so mad that I thought he was going to take apart all of us. 2. Inf. to criticize or defame someone or something. □ They really took me apart, but I just ignore bad reviews. □ The editorial took apart the entire city government.

take someone around² to show someone the premises; to introduce someone to the people on the premises. □ Mr. Franklin needs a plant tour. Would you take him around? □ Would you kindly take around our guests?

take someone as someone to assume that someone is someone or a type of person. □ I took her as some sort of crank. □ She didn't want to be taken as some sort of busybody.

take someone aside³ to remove someone temporarily from the group for the purposes of discussing something privately. □ I'm sorry he insulted you. I'll take him aside and
talk to him about it.  □ I took aside my secretary and explained the procedure.

take someone below to guide someone to a lower deck on a ship.   □ The captain told the first mate to take the passengers below.   □ Please take Mr. Wilson below, where he will not be in the way.

take someone by surprise and catch someone by surprise to startle someone; to surprise someone with something unexpected.   □ Oh! You took me by surprise because I didn’t hear you come in.   □ Bill caught his mother by surprise by coming to the door and pretending to be selling something.

take someone down a notch (or two) Go to next.

take someone down a peg (or two) and take someone down a notch (or two); knock someone down a peg (or two); knock someone down a notch (or two) Fig. to reprimand someone who is acting too arrogant.   □ The teacher’s scolding took Bob down a notch or two.   □ He was so rude that someone was bound to knock him down a peg or two.

take someone down (to size) Go to cut someone down (to size).

take someone for a fool Go to take someone for an idiot.

take someone for a ride 1. Lit. to carry someone about, usually for recreation, in a car, plane, boat, etc.   □ Would you take us for a ride in your boat?   □ Please take me for a ride in your new car.  2. Fig. to deceive someone.   □ You really took those people for a ride. They really believed you.   □ I was taken for a ride on this matter.  3. Fig. to take away and murder a person. (Underworld.)   □ Mr. Big told Mike to take Fred for a ride.   □ The gang leader had said he thought Mike had better take Walter for a ride.

take someone for an idiot and take someone for a fool to assume that someone is stupid.   □ I wouldn’t do anything like that! Do you take me for an idiot?   □ I don’t take you for a fool. I think you’re very clever.

take someone for dead to assume that someone who is still alive is dead.   □ When we found her, we took her for dead, but the paramedics were able to revive her.   □ He was taken for dead and abandoned.

take someone for someone or something to perceive someone as someone or something.   □ I took you for a fairly even-tempered person. You aren’t.   □ Alice took Tim for a gentleman—which he was.

take someone for something 1. Lit. to escort someone to and through some activities, such as a walk, a swim, a ride, etc.   □ Can I take you for a ride?  2. Inf. to cheat someone by a certain amount of money.   □ That crook took me for a hundred bucks.   □ How much did he take you for?

take someone hostage to kidnap or seize someone to be a hostage.   □ The terrorists planned to take the ambassador hostage.   □ The entire family was taken hostage by the robber.

take someone in 1. to give someone shelter. (See also take something in.)   □ Do you think you could take me in for the night?   □ I don’t take in strangers.  2. Go to suck someone in.

take someone in1 as something to make someone a member of an organization.   □ We took her in as an associate at first.   □ I took in Karen as an associate.

take someone in hand Fig. to take control of someone; to assume the responsibility of guiding someone.   □ Someone is going to have to take Tim in hand and help him out.   □ Alice decided that she would take the new worker in hand.

take someone into one’s confidence to trust someone with confidential information; to tell a secret to someone and trust the person to keep the secret.   □ We are good friends, but I didn’t feel I could take her into my confidence.   □ I know something very important about Jean. Can I take you into my confidence?

take someone off 1. Sl. to kill someone. (Underworld.)   □ The mob took the witness off a week before the trial.   □ Barlowe didn’t want to have to take off Lefty, but he was afraid he might talk.

take someone on 1. to enter into a fight or argument with someone.   □ I pretended to agree because I really didn’t want to take him on.  2. to employ someone.   □ I think we could take you on as an assistant editor, but it doesn’t pay very well.

take someone or an animal in1 to provide shelter for someone or an animal.  □ When I needed a place to live, my uncle took me in.   □ Mrs. Wilson took in the lonely little dog and gave it a loving home.

take someone or an animal into one’s heart Fig. to grow to love and trust someone or an animal; to receive a newcomer graciously and lovingly.   □ He was such a cute little boy. We took him into our hearts immediately.   □ We loved the puppy instantly and took her into our hearts at once.

take someone or something aboard to load someone or something onto a ship.   □ The ship was in her berth, taking passengers aboard.   □ The ship took many tons of cargo aboard.

take someone or something across (something) to carry or lead someone or something across something.   □ Tim took Liz across the bridge.   □ We took a lot of food and medicine across before the flooded river washed the bridge out.

take someone or something along1 to bring someone or something along with one.  □ Can I take my friend along on the hike?   □ You should take along your own drinking water.

take someone or something at face value to accept someone or something just as it appears; to believe that the way things appear is the way they really are.   □ He means what he says. You have to take him at face value.   □ I take everything he says at face value.

take someone or something away1 (from someone or something) to remove someone or something to some distance away from someone or something else; to remove someone or something from the possession of someone or something else.   □ Take her away from me!   □ Take away that horrible food.

take someone or something before someone or something to bring someone or something in front of someone or a group for judgment.   □ I will have to take Tom before the manager and let Tom tell his story.   □ I took the invention before the committee.
**take someone or something by something** to grasp someone or something by holding on to some part. □ She took him by the hand and helped him up. □ Tom took the dog by the collar and led it out.

**take someone or something by storm** 1. Fig. to conquer someone or something in a fury. □ The army took city after city by storm. □ They crashed in and took the general by storm. 2. Fig. to succeed overwhelmingly with someone, some place, or a group. □ The singing star took the audience in each town by storm. □ The star took the critics by storm.

**take someone or something by surprise** to startle or surprise someone or something. □ She bolted into the room and took them by surprise. □ I took the little bird by surprise, and it flew away.

**take someone or something down** to move someone or something to a lower position or level. □ The boss is downstairs and wants to meet our visitor. Will you take her down? □ The way down to the lobby is confusing. Let me take down our visitor. □ Let me take the sandwiches down.

**take someone or something for granted** to expect someone or something to be always available to serve in some way without thanks or recognition; to value someone or something too lightly. □ I wish you didn't take me for granted. □ I guess that I take a lot of things for granted.

**take someone or something into account** and **take into account someone or something** to remember to consider someone or something. □ I hope you'll take Bill and Bob into account when you plan the party. □ I'll try to take into account all the things that are important in a situation like this.

**take someone or something off**! Sl. to rob someone or something. (Underworld.) □ Weren't you in that bunch that took the bank off in Philly? □ No, we never took off no bank, did we, Lefty?

**take someone or something off someone's hands** Fig. to relieve someone of the burden or bother of someone or something. □ I would be happy to take your uncle off your hands for a few hours. □ Will you please take some of this food off my hands?

**take someone or something off something** to remove someone or something from the surface of something. □ Bob helped take his children off the merry-go-round. □ Please take your books off the table.

**take someone or something on** to accept the task of handling a difficult person or thing. □ I'll take it on if nobody else will do it. □ Nobody wanted to take on Mrs. Franklin, but it had to be done.

**take someone or something out of something** and **take someone or something out** to carry, lead, or guide someone or something out of something or some place. (See also **take something out**.) □ He was becoming quite ill from the smoke, and I had to take him out of the room. □ They took out the injured people.

**take someone or something over** to take charge (of someone or something); to assume control of someone or something. □ The new manager will take the office over next week. □ Will you please take over your children? I can't seem to control them.

**take someone or something over (to someone or something)** to deliver someone or something to someone or something. □ Would you take this over to Tiffany? □ Would you take Tiffany over to the office?

**take someone or something with one** to take away someone or something when one leaves. □ When you go, take Liz with you. □ Please take your dog with you.

**take someone or something wrong** to misunderstand someone or something. □ Please don't take me wrong, but I believe that your socks don't match. □ You'll probably take this wrong, but I have to say that I've never seen you looking better.

**take someone out**! 1. to date someone. □ I hope he'll take me out soon. □ She wanted to take out her guest for the evening. 2. to block out a player in football. □ You take Joe out and I'll carry the ball. □ Who was supposed to take out that huge guy? 3. Sl. to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ Mr. Gutman told Lefty to take Max out. □ One more word out of you, and I'm going to take you out.

**take someone out to dinner** to take someone as one's guest to a meal at a restaurant. □ Can I take you out to dinner sometime? □ We will take out the visitors to dinner tonight.

**take someone's blood pressure** to measure a person's blood pressure. □ The doctor takes my blood pressure every time I am in the office. □ Bob takes his blood pressure at home every day.

**take someone's breath away** 1. Lit. to cause someone to be out of breath due to a shock or hard exercise. □ Running this fast takes my breath away. □ Mary frightened me and took my breath away. 2. Fig. to overwhelm someone with beauty or grandeur; to surprise or astound someone. □ The magnificent painting took my breath away. □ Ann looked so beautiful that she took my breath away.

**take someone's head off** Fig. to scold or berate someone severely. □ There is no need to take his head off about such a simple matter.

**take someone's life** to kill someone. (Can include oneself.) □ It's the executioner's job to take people's lives.

**take someone's life in one's hands** Fig. to risk someone's life. □ If you go into the war zone, you will be taking your life in your hands. □ Ted didn't want to take his life in his hands by going there alone.

**take someone's part** Fig. to take a side in an argument; to support someone in an argument. □ My sister took my mother's part in the family argument. □ You are always taking the part of the underdog!

**take someone's pulse** to measure the frequency of the beats of a person's pulse. □ I can take my own pulse. □ The nurse took my pulse and said I was fine.

**take someone's temperature** to measure a person's body temperature with a thermometer. □ I took my temperature and I found that I am running a fever. □ The nurse took my temperature and said I was okay.

**take someone's word for something** and **take someone's word on something** to believe what someone says about something without seeking further information or proof. □ It's true! Take my word for it. □ I can't prove it. You will have to take my word on it.
take someone’s word on something Go to previous.

take something away (from someone or something) to detract from someone or something. □ The bright costume on the soprano takes a lot away from the tenor, who is just as important. □ The main subject of the picture is good, but the busy background takes away a lot.

take something at face value to accept something exactly the way it appears to be. □ I don’t know whether I can take her story at face value, but I will assume that she is not lying. □ The committee took the report at face value and approved the suggested changes.

take something away (from someone or something) to detract from someone or something. □ The bright costume on the soprano takes a lot away from the tenor, who is just as important. □ The main subject of the picture is good, but the busy background takes away a lot.

take something back1 to retract a statement; to rescind one’s remark. □ You had better take back what you said about my sister. □ I won’t take what I said back! She’s a twit!

take something back1 (from someone) to take possession of something that one had previously given away. □ I took my sweater back from Tim, since he never wore it. □ I took back my money from the child.

take something back1 to someone or something to carry or transport something from someone or something. □ Please take this report back to Liz. □ Take back this book to Karen.

take something down to write something down in something. □ Please take these figures down in your notebook. □ Take down these figures in your record of this meeting.

take something for a drive Go to for a spin.

take something from someone 1. Lit. to remove something from someone’s possession. □ Jimmy took Tim’s cookie from him. □ Please don’t take my money from me. 2. Fig. to endure abuse from someone. □ I cannot take any more from you! □ Tom could not take any more bad treatment from Alice.

take something from something to subtract something from something; to remove something from something. □ Take ten from twenty and see what you have left. □ If you take the lettuce out of the salad, what do you have left?

take something home (with oneself) 1. Lit. to carry something to one’s home. □ We took a lot of souvenirs home with us. 2. Fig. to take a thought, idea, or concept away [to one’s home] from a meeting or conference. □ Take this idea home with you—diversify your investments.

take something in 1. to reduce the size of a garment. □ This is too big. I’ll have to take it in around the waist. □ I’ll have to take in these pants. 2. to view and study something; to attend something involving viewing. □ The mountains are so beautiful! I need an hour or so to take it all in. □ I want to sit here a minute and take in the view. □ Would you like to take in a movie? 3. to receive money as payment or proceeds. □ How much did we take in today? □ The box office took nearly a thousand dollars in within just the last hour. 4. to receive something into the mind, usually visu-
take something in (one's) stride 
Fig. to accept advances or setbacks as the normal course of events.  5. to inhale, drink, or eat something.  7. I think I'll go for a walk and take some fresh air in.  8. Jane was very ill, but she managed to take in some fresh air from the open window.  6. Go to take something into some place.

**take something in (one's) stride**
**take something of someone's hands**
**take something out of someone's hands**
**take something out on someone or something**
**take something personally**
**take something public**
**take something public on**
**take something the wrong way**
**take something to heart**
**take something to pieces**
**take something under advisement**
**take something up**

ally.  2. Could you take those explanations in? I couldn't.  3. I could hardly take in everything she said.  5. to take in someone or something because of something, such as anger, hurt feelings, frustration, etc.  6. I know you're angry, but don't take it out on me!  7. Don't take out your anger on me.

dings in (one's) stride.  4. We were afraid that success would spoil her, but she just took it in stride.

take something into account and take something into consideration to consider something to be an important factor in some decision.  6. We will take your long years of service into account when we make our final decision.  7. You can be certain that we will take it into consideration.

take something into one's head Fig. to get an obsession or overpowering idea into one's thinking.  5. George took this strange idea into his head about fixing the car himself.  6. I don't know why she took that strange idea into her head.

take something lying down Fig. to endure something unpleasant without fighting back.  4. He insulted me publicly. You don't expect me to take that lying down, do you?  5. I'm not the kind of person who'll take something like that lying down.

take something off† to remove something, such as an article of clothing.  4. Please take your coat off and stay awhile.  6. Please take off your coat.

take something on faith to accept or believe something on the basis of little or no evidence.  4. Please try to believe what I'm telling you. Just take it on faith.  5. Surely you can't expect me to take a story like that on faith.

take something on the chin 1. Lit. to absorb a blow on the chin.  4. The boxer tried to duck but took the blow on the chin.  5. Fig. to experience and endure bad news or other trouble.  6. The bad news was a real shock, but John took it on the chin.  7. The worst luck comes my way, and I always end up taking it on the chin.

take something on trust to accept that something is true through trust.  5. I don't know if it's so, but I'll take it on trust.  6. You will have to take it on trust because I can't prove it.

take something out† 1. Lit. to carry something outside.  3. Please take the trash out.  4. I'll take it out.  5. Inf. to bomb or destroy something.  6. The enemy took out one of the trucks, but not the one carrying the medicine.  7. The last mission took two enemy bunkers out.

take something out in trade Fig. to accept someone's goods or services in payment of a bill.  4. The grocer told the plumber that he would pay the plumber by allowing him to take his bill out in trade.  5. I don't have any cash right now. Can you take what I owe you out in trade?

take something out of context Go to out of context.

take something out of someone or something and take something out† to remove something from the inside of some-
take up more. 6. to adopt something new. □ I see you’ve
taken a new lifestyle up. □ Toby took up the life of a farmer.

take something up to someone to deliver something to a
person on a higher level. □ I will take this up to the boss
and try to get it approved. □ Please take this up to Sue on
the next floor and see what she thinks about it.

take something up1 (with someone) to raise and discuss a
matter with someone. □ This is a very complicated prob-
lem. I’ll have to take it up with the office manager. □ She’ll
take up this problem with the owner in the morning.

take something (up) on oneself to accept the entire burden
of something on oneself. (Upon is formal and less com-
monly used than on.) □ You didn’t need to take it all upon
yourself. There are others here who can help, you know. □
Jan takes too much on herself.

take something with a pinch of salt and take some-
thing with a grain of salt Fig. to listen to a story or
an explanation with considerable doubt. □ You must take
anything she says with a grain of salt. She doesn’t always tell
the truth. □ They took my explanation with a pinch of salt.
I was sure they didn’t believe me.

take something with one to take something [away] with
one. □ I am going to take this food with me. □ Can I take
one of these catalogs with me?

take something with something to eat or swallow some-
thing, such as medicine, with something. □ You have to
take this medicine with milk or soda water. □ I will take this
pill with milk.

take steps (to prevent something) Fig. to do what is nec-
essary to prevent something. □ I took steps to prevent John
from learning what we were talking about. □ I have to keep
John from knowing what I’ve been doing. I can prevent it if
I take steps.

take stock (of something) to make an appraisal of
resources and potentialities. □ I spent some time yesterday
taking stock of my good and bad qualities. □ We all need to
take stock now and then.

take the bit between the teeth Go to next.

take the bit in one’s teeth and take the bit between
the teeth to put oneself in charge; to take charge. □
Someone needed to direct the project, so I took the bit in
my teeth. □ If you want to get something done, you’ve got to
take the bit between your teeth and get to work.

Take the bitter with the sweet. Prov. Accept the bad
things as well as the good things that happen. (Implies that
the bad and good things you are talking about are very seri-
ous or important.) □ If you intend to get married, you
must be prepared to take the bitter with the sweet.

take the blame (for doing something) to acknowledge
that one is to blame for doing something. □ Do you really
expect for me to take the blame for something I didn’t do?

take the bull by the horns Fig. to confront a problem
head-on and deal with it openly. □ It’s time to take the bull
by the horns and get this job done.

take the chill off (of a place) to do something that
warms a place up slightly. □ Let’s build a fire and take the
chill off this place. □ I turned up the heat to take the chill
off of the apartment.

take the coward’s way out Euph. to kill oneself. □
When faced with financial disaster, Sarah took the coward’s
way out. □ I can’t believe that Bill would take the coward’s
way out. His death must have been an accident.

take the cure to enter into any treatment program or
treatment center. (Especially those dealing with drugs and
alcohol.) □ I wanted to take the cure, but I just couldn’t
bring myself to do it. □ It’s hard to get those addicted to
realize that they are the ones who have to decide to take the
cure.

take the day off Go to the day off.

take the easy way out to get free of something by tak-
ing the path of least resistance. □ You can depend on Kelly
to take the easy way out of a tough situation. □ I’m not the
type that takes the easy way out.

take the edge off (of something) 1. Lit. to dull a blade.
(Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Cutting hard
stuff like that will take the edge off your knife blade. 2. Fig.
to decrease the effect of something; to make something
less blunt, critical, etc. (Of is usually retained before pro-
ouns.) □ He did not mean to insult the guest, and he
quickly thought of something to say that would take the edge
off his remark. □ Her comments were quite cruel, and noth-
ing could be said to take the edge off of them.

take the fall Sl. to get arrested for a particular crime.
(Especially when others are going unpunished for the
same crime. □ Walt and Tony pulled the job off together,
but Tony took the fall. □ You did it, and I won’t take the fall!

take the floor 1. Fig. to stand up and address the audi-
ence. □ When I take the floor, I’ll make a short speech. □
The last time you had the floor, you talked for an hour.
2. Fig. to go to the dance floor in order to dance. □ They
took the floor for the foxtrot. □ When the band played,
everyone took the floor.

Take the goods the gods provide. Prov. If you have
good fortune, enjoy it and use it to your advantage. □
Frances: I feel I have an unfair advantage over other people
in the violin contest. After all, my parents were able to give
me lessons with the very best teachers when I was young.
Alan: Frances, take the goods the gods provide.

take the heat and take some heat Sl. to receive or put
up with criticism (for something). □ The cops have been
taking some heat about the Quincy killing. □ If you can’t
take the heat, stay out of the kitchen.

take the heat off of someone or something Fig. to re-
lieve the pressure on someone or something. (Of is usually
retained before pronouns.) □ That really takes the heat
off of all of us. □ The change in the deadline takes the heat
off the office staff.

take the initiative (to do something) to activate oneself
to do something even if one has not been asked to do it.
□ The door hinges squeak because no one will take the ini-
tiative to oil them. □ Sometimes, in order to get things done,
you have to take the initiative.

take the law into one’s own hands Fig. to attempt to
administer the law; to pass judgment on someone who has
done something wrong. □ Citizens don’t have the right to
take the law into their own hands. □ The shopkeeper took
the law into his own hands when he tried to arrest the thief.
take the liberty of doing something  to do something for someone voluntarily; to do something slightly personal for someone that would be more appropriate if one knew the person better. (Often used as an overly polite exaggeration in a request.) □ Do you mind if I take the liberty of flicking a bit of lint off your collar? □ May I take the liberty of removing your coat? □ I took the liberty of ordering an entree for you. I hope you don’t mind.

take the lid off (of) something and take the lid off†  1. Lit. to remove the lid from something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ I took the lid off the box and set it aside. □ Karen took off the lid. 2. Fig. to reveal a set of previously concealed problems. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ You took the lid off this mess. You straighten it out! □ You took off the lid, so you have to settle it.

take the (long) count Sl. to die. (Fig. on a boxer being counted out and losing a fight.) □ The poor cat took the long count at last. □ I’m too young to take the count.

take the pledge Fig. to promise to abstain from drinking alcohol. □ I’m not ready to take the pledge yet, but I will cut down. □ My aunt tried to get me to take the pledge.

take the plunge to marry someone. □ I’m not ready to take the plunge yet. □ Sam and Mary took the plunge.

take the pulse of something Fig. to sample or survey something to learn about its progress or state. □ Two executives came in to take the pulse of the local business unit.

take the rap (for someone) Inf. to take the blame [for doing something] for someone else. □ I don’t want to take the rap for you. □ John robbed the bank, but Tom took the rap for him.

take the rap (for something) Inf. to take the blame for (doing something). □ I won’t take the rap for the crime. I wasn’t even in town. □ Who’ll take the rap for it? Who did it?

take (the) roll Go to call (the) roll.

Take the rough with the smooth. Prov. Accept difficult as well as easy times. □ Don’t give up on your business just because you lost money this month. You have to take the rough with the smooth.

take the slack up†  1. Lit. to tighten a rope that is holding something loosely. □ Take the slack up if you can. □ This clothesline is too loose. Do something to take up the slack. 2. Fig. to do what needs to be done; to do what has been left undone. □ Do I have to take the slack up? □ Jill did her job poorly and I have to take up the slack.

take the spear (in one’s chest) Sl. to accept full blame for something; to accept the full brunt of the punishment for something. □ The CFO got the short straw and had to take the spear in his chest. □ I sure didn’t want to take the spear.

take the stage Fig. to become the center of attention; to become the focus of everyone’s attention. □ Later in the day, the problems in the warehouse took the stage, and we discussed them until dinnertime.

take the stand to go to and sit in the witness chair in a courtroom. □ I was in court all day, waiting to take the stand. □ The lawyer asked the witness to take the stand.

take the starch out of someone 1. Fig. to make someone less arrogant or stiff. □ I told a joke that made Mr. Jones laugh very hard. It really took the starch out of him. □ John is so arrogant. I’d really like to take the starch out of him! 2. Fig. to make someone tired and weak. □ This hot weather really takes the starch out of me. □ What a long day! It sure took the starch out of me.

take the stuffing out of someone Go to kick the (natural) stuffing out of someone.

take the trouble (to do something) to make an effort to do something (that one might not otherwise do). □ I wish I had taken the trouble to study this matter more carefully. □ I just didn’t have enough time to take the trouble.

take the wind out of someone’s sails Fig. to challenge someone’s boasting or arrogance. □ John was bragging about how much money he earned until he learned that most of us make more. That took the wind out of his sails. □ Learning that one has been totally wrong about something can really take the wind out of one’s sails.

take the words out of someone’s mouth Fig. to say something just before someone else was going to say the same thing; to say something that someone who agrees with you might have said. □ That is exactly right! You took the words right out of my mouth! □ When you said “expensive,” you took the words right out of my mouth!

take things easy 1. to live well and comfortably. □ I’ll be glad when I can make enough money to take things easy. □ I make enough to take things easy. 2. to relax temporarily and recuperate. □ The doctor says I’m supposed to take things easy for a while. □ I want you to take it easy until the stitches heal.

take time out to spend time away from studying or working. □ He’s taking time out between high school and starting at the university. □ Mary’s taking time out from her job to work abroad for a year.

take to one’s bed to go to bed, as with an illness. □ I feel a little ill, so I’ll take to my bed for a day or so. □ Sam took to his bed with a fever.

take to one’s heels Fig. to run away. □ The little boy said hello and then took to his heels. □ The man took to his heels to try to get to the bus stop before the bus left.

take to someone or something to become fond of or attracted to someone or something. □ Mary didn’t take to her new job, and she quit after two weeks. □ The puppy seems to take to this new food just fine.

take to the hills Go to head for the hills.

take too much on† to undertake to do too much work or too many tasks at one time. □ Don’t take too much on, or you won’t be able to do any of it well. □ Ann tends to take on too much and get exhausted.

take turns ((at) doing something) and take turns (at something); take turns (with something) [for two or more people] to alternate in doing something. □ Let’s take turns with mowing the lawn. □ Do you want to take turns at answering the telephone?

take turns with someone to alternate [doing something] with someone. □ We both can’t be there at the same time. I’ll take turns with you. □ You have to take turns with your brother.
Cliché

Please sit down. (Often plural.)
take up with
take up where
take up the challenge
take up space
take up (someone’s)
take arms (against someone or something) to prepare
to fight against someone or something.
Everyone in the town took up arms against the enemy.
They were all so angry that the leader convinced them to take up arms.
take up one's abode some place to make some place one's home.
I am going to take up my abode in a different city.
I will take up my abode in this place and hope to find a job close by:
take up residence some place to make a residence of a place.
Ed took up residence in a small efficiency apartment.
It looks as if a family of mice has taken up residence in the cupboard.
take up room Go to take up space.
take up (someone's) time to require too much of someone else's time; to waste someone's time.
(Also with so much of or too much of, as in the examples.)
You're taking up my time. Please go away.
This problem is taking up too much of my time.
take up space and take up room to fill or occupy space.
(Note the variations in the examples.)
The piano is taking up too much room in our living room.
John, you're not being any help at all. You're just taking up space.
take up the challenge to respond to a challenge and do what the challenge asks.
I am not prepared to take the challenge up.
Dave took up the challenge without much urging.
take up where one left off to start up again in the very place that one has stopped.
I had to leave the room for a minute, but when I got back, I took up where I left off.
It's time to stop for lunch. After lunch, we will take up where we left off.
take up with someone to become close with someone; to become friends with someone.
I think that Albert may have taken up with the wrong people.
I did not want Lefty to take up with Max, but he did, and look where it's gotten him.
take years off (of) someone or something to make someone seem or look younger.
(Of is usually retained before pronouns.)
My exciting vacation took years off of me.
Your shorter haircut has taken years off your face.
Take your seat. Please sit down.
(Often plural.)
I don't want to talk back to you later?
take turns ((at) doing something)
take umbrage at something to feel that one has been insulted by something.
The employee took umbrage at not getting a raise.
Mary took umbrage at the suggestion that she was being unreasonable.
take up arms (against someone or something) to prepare to fight against someone or something.
Everyone in the town took up arms against the enemy.
They were all so angry that the leader convinced them to take up arms.
take up one's abode some place to make some place one's home.
I am going to take up my abode in a different city.
I will take up my abode in this place and hope to find a job close by:
take up residence some place to make a residence of a place.
Ed took up residence in a small efficiency apartment.
It looks as if a family of mice has taken up residence in the cupboard.
take up room Go to take up space.
take up (someone's) time to require too much of someone else's time; to waste someone's time.
(Also with so much of or too much of, as in the examples.)
You're taking up my time. Please go away.
This problem is taking up too much of my time.
take up space and take up room to fill or occupy space.
(Note the variations in the examples.)
The piano is taking up too much room in our living room.
John, you're not being any help at all. You're just taking up space.
take up the challenge to respond to a challenge and do what the challenge asks.
I am not prepared to take the challenge up.
Dave took up the challenge without much urging.
take up where one left off to start up again in the very place that one has stopped.
I had to leave the room for a minute, but when I got back, I took up where I left off.
It's time to stop for lunch. After lunch, we will take up where we left off.
take up with someone to become close with someone; to become friends with someone.
I think that Albert may have taken up with the wrong people.
I did not want Lefty to take up with Max, but he did, and look where it's gotten him.
take years off (of) someone or something to make someone seem or look younger.
(Of is usually retained before pronouns.)
My exciting vacation took years off of me.
Your shorter haircut has taken years off your face.
Take your seat. Please sit down.
(Often plural.)
I don't want to talk back to you later?
take turns ((at) doing something)
take umbrage at something to feel that one has been insulted by something.
The employee took umbrage at not getting a raise.
Mary took umbrage at the suggestion that she was being unreasonable.
take up arms (against someone or something) to prepare to fight against someone or something.
Everyone in the town took up arms against the enemy.
They were all so angry that the leader convinced them to take up arms.
take up one's abode some place to make some place one's home.
I am going to take up my abode in a different city.
I will take up my abode in this place and hope to find a job close by:
take up residence some place to make a residence of a place.
Ed took up residence in a small efficiency apartment.
It looks as if a family of mice has taken up residence in the cupboard.
take up room Go to take up space.
take up (someone's) time to require too much of someone else's time; to waste someone's time.
(Also with so much of or too much of, as in the examples.)
You're taking up my time. Please go away.
This problem is taking up too much of my time.
take up space and take up room to fill or occupy space.
(Note the variations in the examples.)
The piano is taking up too much room in our living room.
John, you're not being any help at all. You're just taking up space.
take up the challenge to respond to a challenge and do what the challenge asks.
I am not prepared to take the challenge up.
Dave took up the challenge without much urging.
take up where one left off to start up again in the very place that one has stopped.
I had to leave the room for a minute, but when I got back, I took up where I left off.
It's time to stop for lunch. After lunch, we will take up where we left off.
take up with someone to become close with someone; to become friends with someone.
I think that Albert may have taken up with the wrong people.
I did not want Lefty to take up with Max, but he did, and look where it's gotten him.
take years off (of) someone or something to make someone seem or look younger.
(Of is usually retained before pronouns.)
My exciting vacation took years off of me.
Your shorter haircut has taken years off your face.
Take your seat. Please sit down.
(Often plural.)
I don't want to talk back to you later?
take turns ((at) doing something)
take umbrage at something to feel that one has been insulted by something.
The employee took umbrage at not getting a raise.
Mary took umbrage at the suggestion that she was being unreasonable.
take up arms (against someone or something) to prepare to fight against someone or something.
Everyone in the town took up arms against the enemy.
They were all so angry that the leader convinced them to take up arms.
take up one's abode some place to make some place one's home.
I am going to take up my abode in a different city.
I will take up my abode in this place and hope to find a job close by:
take up residence some place to make a residence of a place.
Ed took up residence in a small efficiency apartment.
It looks as if a family of mice has taken up residence in the cupboard.
take up room Go to take up space.
take up (someone's) time to require too much of someone else's time; to waste someone's time.
(Also with so much of or too much of, as in the examples.)
You're taking up my time. Please go away.
This problem is taking up too much of my time.
take up space and take up room to fill or occupy space.
(Note the variations in the examples.)
The piano is taking up too much room in our living room.
John, you're not being any help at all. You're just taking up space.
take up the challenge to respond to a challenge and do what the challenge asks.
I am not prepared to take the challenge up.
Dave took up the challenge without much urging.
take up where one left off to start up again in the very place that one has stopped.
I had to leave the room for a minute, but when I got back, I took up where I left off.
It's time to stop for lunch. After lunch, we will take up where we left off.
take up with someone to become close with someone; to become friends with someone.
I think that Albert may have taken up with the wrong people.
I did not want Lefty to take up with Max, but he did, and look where it's gotten him.
take years off (of) someone or something to make someone seem or look younger.
(Of is usually retained before pronouns.)
My exciting vacation took years off of me.
Your shorter haircut has taken years off your face.
Take your seat. Please sit down.
(Often plural.)
I don't want to talk back to you later?
take turns ((at) doing something)
talk like a nut  

talk like a nut  
to say stupid things.  □ You're talking like a nut! You don't know what you are saying.  □ Don't talk like a nut! We can't afford a trip to Florida!

the talk of a place  
someone or something who is the subject of a conversation somewhere, such as the town, the office, the community, etc.  □ The handsome new teacher was the talk of the town.  □ John's new car is the talk of the office.

talk of someone or something  
to speak about someone or something.  □ Weren't we talking of old Mrs. Watson just now?  □ We were just talking of old times—happier times.

Talk of the devil (and he is sure to appear).  
Go to Speak of the devil (and in he walks).

talk on  
to continue to talk.  □ The lecturer talked on for hours.  □ How can anyone talk on so long without saying anything useful?

talk on someone or something  
to speak on the subject of someone or something.  □ Today, I will talk on Abraham Lincoln.  □ Ann is going to talk on the subject of manners.

talk one's head off  
Fig. Inf.  
to talk endlessly; to argue vigorously.  □ I talked my head off trying to convince them.  □ Don't waste time talking your head off to them.

talk one's way out of something  
to get out of something by verbal persuasion.  □ You are in a mess and you can't talk your way out of it.  □ If I get into some sort of problem, I will try to talk my way out of it.

talk oneself out  
to talk until one can talk no more.  □ She talked herself out and was silent for the rest of the day.  □ I talked until I talked myself out.

talk over someone's head  
Fig.  
to say things that someone cannot understand; to speak on too high a level for one's audience.  □ The speaker talked over our heads and we learned nothing.  □ It is not a good idea to talk over your audience's heads.

talk over something  
to use something, such as a microphone, intercom, or telephone, to talk.  □ I don't mind talking over the telephone.  □ I will talk to Jeff over the intercom and see what he thinks about the idea.

talk shop  
to talk about business or work matters at a social event (where such talk is out of place).  □ All right, everyone—we're not here to talk shop. Let's have a good time.  □ Mary and Jane stood by the punch bowl, talking shop.

talk someone down  
1.  
to win at debating someone.  □ Liz was able to talk her opponent down.  □ She talked down her opponent.  
2.  
to direct a novice pilot to make a safe landing by giving spoken instructions over the airplane's radio.  □ The people on the ground talked down the amateur pilot successfully.  □ I wonder how many movies have been made about someone talking a pilot down.  
3.  
to convince someone to lower the price of something.  □ The price tag said $2,000 for the car, but I talked down the salesman by threatening to go elsewhere.  □ This is my final offer. Don't try to talk me down.

talk someone into (doing) something  
to overcome someone's objections to doing something; to convince someone to do something.  □ They talked me into going to the meeting, even though I didn't really have the time.  □ No one can talk me into doing something illegal.  □ She finally talked herself into making the dive.

talk someone or something over  
1.  
to discuss someone or something with someone.  □ I want to talk John over with my staff.  □ I will talk over this matter with Sam.

talk someone or something up  
to promote or speak in support of someone or something.  □ I've been talking the party up all day, trying to get people to come.  □ They keep taking up the candidate as if he represented a real change.

talk someone out of doing something  
to convince someone not to do something.  □ I tried to talk her out of going, but she insisted.  □ Don't try to talk me out of quitting school. My mind is made up.

talk someone out of something  
to convince someone to give up or change something.  □ They were trying to talk me out of my decision.  □ Timmy tried to talk Mary out of her ice cream cone.

talk someone ragged  
Fig.  
to talk to someone too much; to bore someone.  □ That was not an interview. She talked me ragged.  □ He always talks me ragged, but I always listen.

talk someone's ear off  
Fig.  
to talk to someone endlessly; to bore someone with too much talk.  □ My aunt always talks my ear off when she comes to visit.  □ Stay away from Mr. Jones. He will talk your ear off if he gets a chance.

talk someone's head off  
1.  
Fig.  
[for someone] to speak too much.  □ Why does John always talk his head off?  □ Doesn't he know he bores people?  □ She talks her head off and doesn't seem to know what she's saying.  
2.  
Fig.  
to talk to and bore someone.  □ John is very friendly, but watch out or he'll talk your head off.  □ My uncle always talked my head off whenever I went to visit him.

talk something out  
to settle something by discussion.  □ Let's not get mad. Let's just talk it out.  □ Please, let's talk this matter calmly.

talk something over  
to discuss something.  □ Come into my office so we can talk this over.  □ We talked over the plans for nearly an hour.

talk something through  
1.  
to discuss something in detail.  □ Let's talk the issue through and get it decided.  
2.  
to get something approved by talking convincingly.  □ The board was reluctant to approve it, but I talked it through.  □ We will talk through this matter in the board meeting.

talk something up  
to promote or advertise something by saying good things about it to as many people as possible.  □ Let's talk the play up around campus so we can get a good audience.  □ I will talk up the play all I can.

talk through one's hat  
Fig.  
to brag or exaggerate; to talk nonsense.  □ That can't be so! You are just talking through your hat!  □ Pay no attention to Mary. She is just talking through her hat.

talk to hear one's own voice  
Fig.  
to talk far more than is necessary; to talk much, in an egotistical manner.  □ Oh, he's just talking to hear his own voice.  □ Am I just talking to hear my own voice, or are you listening to me?

talk to someone  
1.  
Lit.  
to speak to someone; to confer with someone.  □ Talk to me! I really want your opinion.  □ I will have to talk to Mark to see what he thinks.  
2.  
Fig.  
to lecture to someone; to reprimand someone.  □ I wish you would talk to your son. He is creating havoc in the classroom.
target someone or something as something

1. I am going to have to talk to Roberta. She is not getting things clean.

talk turkey Fig. to talk business; to talk frankly. □ Okay, Bob, we have business to discuss. Let's talk turkey. □ John wanted to talk turkey, but Jane just wanted to joke around.

talk until one is blue in the face Fig. to talk until one is exhausted. □ I talked until I was blue in the face, but I couldn't change her mind. □ She had to talk until she was blue in the face in order to convince him.

talk up a storm Go to up a storm.

talk with someone (about someone or something) to hold a discussion with someone or a group. □ Could I talk with you about Alice? □ Can I talk with you about my salary?

talked out tired of talking; unable to talk more. □ I can't go on. I'm all talked out. □ She was talked out in the first hour of discussion.

a tall drink of water Go to a big drink of water.
*a tall order a request that is difficult to fulfill. (*Typically: be ~; give someone ~.) □ That's a tall order. Do you think anyone can do it? □ Well, it's a tall order, but I'll do it.

tall timber(s) some remote place in the country or the woods. □ Oh, Chuck lives out in the tall timbers somewhere. He only has a post office box number. □ You're not going to move me out into the tall timber somewhere!

tally something up† to add something up. □ Please tally everything up and tell me the total. □ Let's tally up everything and ask for donations.

tally with something 1. Lit. [for one set of figures] to match another set of figures. □ Your figures don't tally with mine. Let's add them up again. □ The total Sam got didn't tally with what the tax agent had come up with. 2. Fig. [for one thing] to agree or correlate with another. □ What you just said doesn't tally with what you told me before. □ His story doesn't tally with what I already know.

tamp something down† to pat or pack something down. □ Please tamp down the soil firmly.

tamper with something to fiddle with someone or something. □ I've got him believing just what I want him to believe. Don't tamper with him. □ Please don't tamper with the thermostat.

tan someone's hide to spank someone. □ Billy's mother said she'd tan Billy's hide if he ever did that again. □ I'll tan your hide if you're late!” said Tom's father.

tangle someone or something up† to entangle someone or something. □ Please don't tangle me up in your ropes. □ I tangled up my feet in the cords on the floor.

tangle with someone or something (over something or something) to battle against someone or something about someone or something. □ Tim tangled with Karen over the children. □ I hope I don't have to tangle with the bank over this loan. □ I don't want to tangle with city hall.

tank up (on something) and tank up with something 1. Lit. to fill one's fuel tank with something. □ I need to tank up on premium gas to stop this engine knock. □ It's time to stop and tank up. □ We need to tank up with gas.

2. Sl. to drink some kind of alcoholic beverage. □ Toby spent the evening tanking up on bourbon. □ Jerry tanked up with gin and went to sleep.

tap at something to make one or more light blows on something. □ Fred tapped at the door, but no one heard him. □ Who is tapping at my window?

tap on something to make one or more light blows on something. □ Who is that tapping on my windowpane? □ I wish you would stop tapping on the tabletop.

tap out 1. Sl. to lose one's money in gambling or in the securities markets. □ I'm gonna tap out in about three more rolls—just watch. □ I really tapped out on that gold-mining stock. 2. Sl. to die; to expire. □ My dog tapped out after being hit by a car. □ Mary was so tired that she thought she was going to tap out.

tap someone (for something) to select someone for some purpose or position. □ The committee tapped John to run for Congress. □ I had thought they were going to tap Sally.

tap someone or something on something to make one or more light blows on some part of someone or something. □ Someone tapped me on the shoulder, and I turned around to see who it was. □ I tapped the drum on the top to find its pitch.

tap something down† to pound something down with light blows. □ Please tap that nail down so no one gets hurt on it. □ Tap down the tack, if you would.

tap something into something and tap something in† to move something in with light blows. □ The mechanic tapped the bracket into place. □ The worker tapped in the bracket.

tap something out† 1. Lit. to clean something, as the ashes out of a pipe, by tapping. □ He took the pipe out of his mouth and tapped the ashes out. □ He tapped out the soil from the flower pot. 2. Lit. to send a message in Morse code, as on a telegraph. □ The telegraph operator tapped a message out and waited for a reply. □ The operator tapped out a message. 3. Fig. to thump the rhythm of a piece of music [on something]. □ Tap the rhythm out until you get it right. □ Let's tap out the rhythm together.

tap something with something to make light blows on something with something. □ Alice tapped the table with her keys in an annoying fashion. □ Just tap the nail lightly with your hammer.

tap-dance like mad Sl. to appear busy continuously; to have to move fast or talk cleverly to distract someone. □ When things get tough, the whole Congress taps-dances like mad. □ Any public official knows how to tap-dance like mad when the press gets too nosy.

taper off (doing something) gradually to stop doing something; to do less and less of something until there is no more to do. □ Bob tried to taper off smoking again. □ I can't taper off overeating. I have to stop all at once by going on a strict diet.

tar and feather someone to punish or humiliate someone by coating them with tar and feathers. □ The people of the village tarred and feathered the bank robber and chased him out of town. □ They threatened to tar and feather me if I ever came back into their town.

target someone or something as something to aim at someone or something as something; to choose someone or
something as someone or something.

**The board targeted Alice as a potential candidate.**

**We targeted the first of August as the starting date.**

tarred with the same brush Fig. sharing the same characteristic(s); having the same good or bad points as someone else. **Jack and his brother are tarred with the same brush. They’re both crooks.**

**The Smith children are tarred with the same brush. They’re all lazy.**

taste blood Fig. to experience something exciting, and perhaps dangerous, for the first time. **She had tasted blood once, and she knew that the life of a race-car driver was for her.**

**Once you taste blood, you’re hooked.**

*a taste for something* a desire for a particular food, drink, or experience. (**Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~; acquire ~.**)

**The Smiths have a taste for adventure and take exotic vacations.**

**When she was pregnant, Mary often had a taste for pickles.**

taste like more to taste very good; to taste so good as to make one want to eat more. **This pie is great. It tastes like more.**

**Mom’s cooking always tastes like more.**

taste like something to have the same taste as something. **This stuff tastes like watermelon.**

**What do you think this tastes like?**

*a taste of one’s own medicine* and *a dose of one’s own medicine* Fig. a sample of the unpleasantness that one has been giving other people. (**Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.**)

**Now you see how it feels to have someone call you names! You are getting a taste of your own medicine!**

**I am sure that he will cooperate with us.**

**That taught me a lesson. I won’t do it again.**

taste of something 1. to have a taste similar to something; to have the hint of a certain flavor. **This ice cream tastes of apricots.**

**Why does this wine taste of vinegar?**

2. to take a taste of something. (**Typically southern.**)

**Here, taste of this pie.**

*a taste of something* an experience; an example. **Bill gave Sue a taste of her own rudeness.**

**My friend used a parachute and got a taste of what it’s like to be a bird.**

Tastes differ. Prov. Different people like different things.

**As the plane tore across the sky it made a horrendous roar.**

**The boys tore across the lawn to the swimming pool.**

**To rip at someone or something.**

**I had never teamed up with anyone else before. I had always worked alone.**

**The badger tore at me, but I dodged it and ran away fast.**

tear a place apart! Fig. to search somewhere to the point of destruction. **The cops came with a search warrant and tore your room apart.**

**If you don’t come up with the money you kept for us, we’ll tear apart your house!**

tear across something to move rapidly across some area. **The boys tore across the lawn to the swimming pool.**

**As the plane tore across the sky it made a horrendous roar.**

tear along to go along very fast, as in running, driving, cycling, etc. **The cars tore along the road, raising dust and making noise.**

**Andy tore along on his bicycle, trying to see how fast he could go.**

**The kids were tearing around through the house all day. They’ve made a real mess.**

**Please don’t tear around the house.**

**I **

tear around (some place) to move or run around rapidly and perhaps recklessly. **The kids were tearing around through the house all day. They’ve made a real mess.**

**Please don’t tear around the house.**

tear at someone or something to rip at someone or something; to try to tear someone or something up. **The badger tore at me, but I dodged it and ran away fast.**

**Timmy tore at the package, struggling to get the paper off.**

**The board targeted Alice as a potential candidate.**

**We targeted the first of August as the starting date.**

tear away from someone or something to leave someone or something, running. **Dave tore away from Jill, leaving her to find her own way home.**

**Roger tore away from the meeting, trying to make his train.**
**tear down** something to race down something very fast.  
(See also tear **something down**)  
□ The girls tore down the hallway as fast as they could run.  
□ They tore down the stairs and ran out the door.

**tear into** some place to run or race into a place.  
□ The kids tore into the house and knocked over a lamp.  
□ Kelly tore into the boss's office and put the papers on the desk.

**tear into** someone Fig. to scold someone severely; to attack someone with criticism.  
□ I was late, and the boss tore into me like a mad dog.  
□ I don't know why she tore into me. I was at work when the window was broken.

**tear into** someone or something to attack someone or something; to attack someone or something with the intent of eating someone or something.  
□ The wolves tore into the hunter and injured him severely.  
□ The kids tore into the cake and ate it all.

**tear into** something Fig. to begin eating food with gusto.  
□ The family tore into the mountain of food like they hadn't eaten since breakfast—which was true, in fact.  
□ Jimmy tore into the turkey leg and cleaned it off in no time.

**tear loose (from)** someone or something to manage to break away from someone or something.  
□ The quarterback tore loose and took twenty yards for a first down.  
□ Barlowe tore loose from Bill and made for the door.

**tear off (from)** someone or something to leave someone or something in a great hurry.  
□ I hate to tear off from you guys, but I'm late for dinner.  
□ It's time for me to go. I have to tear off.

**tear one's hair (out)** Fig. to be anxious, frustrated, or angry.  
□ I was so nervous, I was about to tear my hair.  
□ I had better get home. My parents will be tearing their hair out.

**tear (oneself) away (from)** someone or something Fig. to force oneself to leave someone or something.  
□ Do you think you can tear yourself away from your friends for dinner?  
□ I could hardly tear myself away from the concert.

**tear out (of some place)** to leave a place in a great hurry.  
□ The kids tore out of the house after they broke the window.  
□ They saw what they had done and tore out.

**tear some- one apart** 1. Lit. to rip someone apart savagely.  
(See also tear **someone apart**)  
□ Max threatened to tear Tom apart.  
□ The bear tore the tent apart.  
□ The two drunks tore the bar up in their brawling.  
□ The boys teased Don about his girlfriend.  
□ Stop teasing me about it!

**tear something apart** 1. to pull or rip something apart.  
(See also tear **someone apart**)  
□ The bear tore the tent apart.  
□ The lions tore apart the wildebeest in minutes, and began eating it.  
□ Fig. to criticize something mercilessly.  
□ The critic tore apart the entire cast of the play.  
□ The two drunk tore the bar up in their brawling.  
□ The dog tore the newspaper to pieces.

**tear something away** 1. from someone or something to peel something from someone or something.  
□ The paramedic tore the clothing away from the burn victim and began to treat the wounds immediately.  
□ She tore away the clothing from the victim.  
□ The critic tore apart the entire cast of the play.  
□ They tore the newspaper to pieces.  
□ They tore the wrapping paper away.

**tear something down** to dismantle or destroy something.  
□ They plan to tear the old building down and build a new one there.  
□ They'll tear down the building in about two weeks.

**tear something from** something to rip or peel something from someone or something.  
□ He tore the wrapping from the gift.  
□ The monkey tore the peel from the banana and took a bite of it.

**tear something off (of)** someone or something and tear something off to peel or rip something off someone or something.  
(Of is usually retained before pronouns.)  
□ Max tore the necklace off his victim and ran away with it.  
□ He tore off the necklace.

**tear something on** something to rip something on something sharp or jagged.  
□ I tore my pants on the corner of the desk.  
□ Mary tore her new skirt on something sharp on the side of the car.

**tear something out of something and tear something out** to remove something from something by ripping or tearing.  
□ Tear the coupons out of the magazine and save them.  
□ Please tear out the coupons.

**tear something up** to rip someone or something to pieces.  
□ The two drunk tore the bar up in their brawling.  
□ The dog tore the newspaper.

**tease someone about** someone or something to make fun of someone about someone or something; to poke fun at someone about someone or something.  
□ The boys teased Don about his girlfriend.  
□ Stop teasing me about it!

**tease someone into** doing something to force someone to do something through teasing or tormenting.  
□ Sam teased her into doing what he wanted.  
□ Perhaps you can tease him into leaving, but he won't go if you ask him.
tease something out Fig. to separate threads or hairs by combing. □ The hairdresser teased Jill’s hair out carefully. □ The hairdresser teased out Jill’s hair.

tease something out of something and tease something out1 to lure something out of something by teasing or tempting. □ I managed to tease the cat out of the tree with a bit of fish. □ I teased out the cat.

tee off 1. Lit. to start the first hole in a game of golf. □ It’s time to tee off. Let’s get on the course. □ What time do we tee off? 2. Fig. to begin [doing anything]; to be the first one to start something. □ The master of ceremonies teed off with a few jokes and then introduced the first act. □ Everyone is seated and ready to begin. Why don’t you tee off?

tee someone off! Sl. to make someone angry. (See also teed off.) □ That really teed me off! □ Well, you sure managed to tee off everybody!
	ted off Inf. angry. □ I’m not teed off! I’m enraged. □ I was so teed off I could have spit!
	ted (up) Sl. intoxicated. □ She was totally teed up by midnight. □ Tom was too teed to drive.
	teem with or something; to be abundant with someone or something; to be teeming with activity, etc.
	teething troubles 1. Lit. pain and crying on the part of a baby whose teeth are growing in. □ Billy has been whining because of teething troubles. 2. Fig. difficulties and problems experienced in the early stages of a project, activity, etc. □ There have been a lot of teething troubles with the new computer system. □ We have finally gotten over the teething troubles connected with the new building complex.

telegraph one’s punches 1. Fig. to signal, unintentionally, what blows one is about to strike. (Boxing.) □ Wilbur used to telegraph his punches until his trainer worked with him. □ Don’t telegraph your punches, kid! You’ll be flat on your back in twenty seconds. 2. Fig. to signal, unintentionally, one’s intentions. □ When you go in there to negotiate, don’t telegraph your punches. Don’t let them see that we’re in need of this contract. □ The mediator telegraphed his punches, and we were prepared with a strong counter-argument.

telephone something in1 (to someone) to call someone on the telephone, usually to give particular information. (The person called is in a special location, such as one’s workplace or headquarters.) □ I will telephone my report in to my secretary. □ I telephoned in my report. □ I will telephone it in tomorrow.

telescope into something [for one cylindrical part of something] to fit down inside another part, thereby reducing the length of the whole. □ This part telescopes into this part. □ The tent poles telescoped into a small, compact unit.

tell all to tell everything, even the secrets. □ Some reporter got hold of the actress’s maid who offered to tell all for a fee.
	Tell it like it is. Inf. Speak frankly; ‘Tell the truth no matter who is criticized or how much it hurts. □ Come on man, tell it like it is! □ Well, I’ve got to tell it like it is.
	Tell it to the marines! Inf. I do not believe you (maybe the marines will)! □ Your excuse is preposterous. Tell it to the marines. □ I don’t care how good you think your reason is. Tell it to the marines!
	tell its own story and tell its own tale Fig. [for the state of something] to indicate clearly what has happened. □ The upturned boat told its own tale. The fisherman had drowned. □ The girl’s tear-stained face told its own story.

tell its own tale Go to previous.

tell me another (one)! Inf. What you just told me was a lie, so go ahead and tell me another lie! (Indicates incredulity.) □ Bill: Did you know that the football coach was once a dancer in a movie? Tom: Go on! Tell me another one! □ “Tell me another one!” laughed Bill at Tom’s latest exaggeration.

tell of someone or something to speak of someone or something. □ The messenger told of great destruction, hunger, and disease in the northern part of the country. □ I want you to tell of Jane and how she is doing.

tell on someone to report someone’s bad behavior; to tattle on someone. □ If you do that again, I’ll tell on you! □ Please don’t tell on me. I’m in enough trouble as it is.

tell one one’s bearings Go to one’s bearings.

tell one to one’s face to tell [something] to someone directly. □ I’m sorry that Sally feels that way about me. I wish she had told me to my face. □ I won’t tell Tom that you’re mad at him. You should tell him to his face.

tell people or things apart1 to distinguish one from another. □ I can’t tell Bob and Bill apart. □ I find it easy to tell apart Bill and Bob. □ The two cakes look different, but in taste, I can’t tell this one and that one apart.

Tell shit from Shinola Go to know shit from Shinola.

tell someone a thing or two (about someone or something) Go to a thing or two (about someone or something).

tell someone about someone or something to give information to someone about someone or something. □ Please tell me about Wallace. □ You were going to tell me about the old neighborhood.

tell someone from someone else and tell something from something else to distinguish one from another. □ I can’t tell Chuck from Roger. They look so much alike. □ I can’t tell orange from yellow.

tell someone off1 to scold someone; to attack someone verbally. (This has a sense of finality about it.) □ I was so mad at Bob that I told him off. □ By the end of the day, I had told off everyone else, too.

tell someone on someone to tattle to someone about someone. □ I’m going to tell your mother on you! □ I’ll tell the teacher on you!

tell someone or something by something to identify someone or something by something. □ You can tell Jim by the old-fashioned shoes he wears. □ I can tell the new season’s fashions by how short the skirts are.

tell someone what to do with something to reject someone’s idea by suggesting that someone do something rude with something. (With the unspoken notion that one should stick it up one’s ass.) □ I’ll tell you what you can do
with it. ☐ If that's the way he wants to be, you can just tell him what to do with it.

tell someone where to get off to scold someone; to express one's anger to someone; to tell someone off. ☐ Wait till I see Sally. I'll tell her where to get off! ☐ She told me where to get off and then started in scolding Tom.

tell something from something to know something because of something, such as evidence, signs, experience, etc. ☐ I can tell that she's lying from the way she holds her eyebrows. ☐ I can't tell anything from what you told me.

tell something from something else Go to tell someone from someone else.

tell something to someone to say something to someone. ☐ Please tell the whole truth to me. ☐ Please tell your explanation to Mary.

tell tales out of school to tell secrets or spread rumors.

☐ I wish that John would keep quiet. He's telling tales out of school again. ☐ If you tell tales out of school a lot, people won't know when to believe you.

tell the difference between someone and someone else or something and something else to recognize the things that distinguish people or things. ☐ I can't tell the difference between Billy and Bobby. ☐ Sam can't tell the difference between Granny Smith and Royal Gala apples.

Tell the truth and shame the devil. Prov. To tell the truth even though you have strong reasons for concealing it. ☐ Jill: Have you been using my computer without asking permission? Jane: Uh... no... no. ☐ Jill: Come on, Jane, tell the truth and shame the devil.

tell the (whole) world Fig. to spread around someone's private business. ☐ Well, you don't have to tell the whole world. ☐ Go ahead, tell the world!

tell things apart to distinguish one thing or a group of things from another thing or group of things. ☐ This one is gold, and the others are brass. Can you tell them apart? ☐ Without their labels, I can't tell them apart.

tell time 1. Lit. to keep or report the correct time. ☐ This clock doesn't tell time very accurately. ☐ My watch stopped telling time, so I had to have it repaired. 2. Fig. to be able to read time from a clock or watch. ☐ Billy is only four. He can't tell time yet. ☐ They are teaching the children to tell time at school.

tell which is which Go to know which is which.

temper something with something 1. Fig. to harden something, such as metal, with something. ☐ You have to temper the metal pieces with very high heat. ☐ The sheet of metal was tempered by the application of great pressure. 2. Fig. to soften the impact of something, such as news, with something. ☐ We can temper this disaster story a bit with a picture of the happy survivors. ☐ The news story was tempered with a paragraph of explanation and justification.

A tempest in a teacup and a tempest in a teapot an argument or disagreement over a very minor matter. ☐ The entire issue of who was to present the report was just a tempest in a teapot. ☐ The argument at the office turned into a tempest in a teacup. No one really cared about the outcome.

tempest in a teapot Go to previous.

tempt someone into something to lure or seduce someone into something. ☐ Could I tempt you into going swimming? ☐ She would not be tempted into eating the rich and fattening cake.

tempt someone to do something to entice someone to do something. ☐ You can't tempt me to eat any of that cake! ☐ I wasn't even tempted to go into town with the others.

tempt someone with something to entice someone with something. ☐ Can I tempt you with a bit of chocolate cake? ☐ I was tempted with a free book if I sent in my name, but I decided against it.

tend to do something to have a tendency to do something. ☐ Jill tends to play with her hair while she works. ☐ Sam tends to say things like that when he is upset.

tend toward something to have a tendency to display a certain characteristic. ☐ Roger tends toward the dramatic. ☐ We all tend toward bad humor during bad weather.

the tender age of... the young age of... ☐ She left home at the tender age of 17 and got married to a rock singer.

tender something for something to offer something (of value) for something. ☐ The shareholders were asked to tender one of their shares for two of the offering company's. ☐ I decided not to tender my shares.

tender something (to someone) (for something) to offer or present something to someone for something. ☐ Laura tendered payment to Gary for the tickets. ☐ Walter tendered the old shares to the company for new shares.

tense up (for something) to become tense, anxious, and ready for something. ☐ Liz tensed up for the game and was very nervous. ☐ He tensed up and that made it hard to give him the injection he needed.

terrify someone into something and terrorize someone into something to threaten or frighten someone into doing something. ☐ The salesman is just trying to terrify you into buying a new car by saying the one you have is dangerous. ☐ They tried to terrorize people into staying off the streets.

terrify someone or an animal out of something 1. to terrify someone or an animal to leave something or some place. ☐ The attackers terrified the farmers out of their homes. ☐ The snake terrified the gophers out of their burrow. 2. to cause someone or an animal to lose something through fear. ☐ They tried to terrify the old lady out of her money, but she refused to tell where it was. ☐ The eagle terrified the hawk out of the food it was holding.

terrorize someone into something Go to terrorize someone into something.

test for something to try to find out about something by testing. ☐ We are testing for weak places in your roof. That's the noise you hear up there. ☐ They are testing for some sort of infection.

test out of (something) to score high enough on a placement test that one does not need to take a particular course. ☐ I tested out of calculus. ☐ I don't know enough Spanish to test out.

test someone in something to test someone in a particular subject. ☐ The committee decided to test her in her knowledge of the laws of the state. ☐ We were all tested in math and English.
test someone or something for something to apply a test to someone or something to try to determine something or identify something. [They tested me for all sorts of diseases. Ken tested the roof for weak spots.]

test something out to try something out; to test something to see if it works. [I can’t wait to test my new laptop out. I will test out the new brakes on the car.]

testify against someone or something to be a witness against someone or something. [Who will testify against him in court? I cannot testify against the company I work for.]

testify for someone to present evidence in favor of someone; to testify on someone’s behalf. [I agreed to testify for her at the trial. Max testified for Lefty, but they were both convicted.]

testify to something to swear to something. [I would not testify to it.]

Thank God for small favors. Rur. Be thankful that something good has happened in a bad situation. [Charlie: We’re out of gas, but I think I see a gas station up ahead. Tom: Thank God for small favors. He had a heart attack, but it was right there in the doctor’s office, so they could take care of him right away. Thank God for small favors.]

Thank goodness! and Thank heavens! Oh, I am so thankful! [John: Well, we finally got here. Sorry we’re so late. Mother: Thank goodness! We were all so worried. Jane: There was a fire on Maple Street, but no one was hurt. Bill: Thank heavens!]

Thank heavens! Go to previous.

thank one’s lucky stars Fig. to be thankful for one’s luck. [You can thank your lucky stars that I was there to help you. I thank my lucky stars that I studied the right things for the test.]

thank someone for something to show or state one’s gratitude to someone for something. [We would all like to thank you for coming tonight. Thank you for inviting me.]

Thank you. I am grateful to you and offer you my thanks. [I am grateful to you and offer you my thanks. Thank you a lot.]

Thank you for a lovely evening. an expression said by a departing guest to the host or hostess at the end of an evening. (Other adjectives, such as nice, can be used in place of lovely.) [Mary: Thank you for a lovely evening. John: Will I see you again? Bill: Thank you for a nice evening. Mary: Thank you so much for coming. Good night.]

Thank you for a lovely time. an expression said by a departing guest to the host or hostess. (Other adjectives, such as nice, can be used in place of lovely.) [Bill: Thank you for a nice time. Mary: Thank you so much for coming. Bye now. John: Thank you so much for coming. Jane: Well, thank you for a lovely time. John: Don’t stay away so long next time.]

Thank you for calling. Thank you for calling on the telephone. (Said when the call is helpful or a bother to the caller.) [Mary: Good-bye. Sue: Good-bye, thanks for calling. John: Okay. Well, I have to get off the phone. I just wanted you to know what was happening with your order. Jane: Okay. By. Thanks for calling.]

Thank you for having me. Go to next.

Thank you for inviting me. and Thank you for inviting us.; Thank you for having me.; Thank you for having us. a polite expression said to a host or hostess on departure. [Mary: Good-bye, glad you could come. Bill: I had a great time. Thank you for inviting me. John: I had a good time. Thank you for inviting me. Sally: Come back again. John. It was good talking to you.]

Thank you for sharing. Inf. a sarcastic remark made when someone tells something that is unpleasant, overly personal, disgusting, or otherwise annoying. [Thank you for sharing. I really need to hear about your operation. Thank you for sharing, Bob. I hope your parents’ divorce goes well.]

Thank you kindly. Thank you very much. [Tom: May I give you a lift? Jane: Why, yes. Thank you kindly. Mary: That’s a nice suit, and you wear it well. Charlie: Thank you kindly, ma’am.]

Thank you so much. Go to next.

Thank you very much. and Thank you so much. a more polite and emphatic way of saying Thank you. [Tom: Welcome. Come in. Bob: Thank you very much. Bill: Here’s the book I promised you. Sue: Thank you so much.]

*thankful for small blessings grateful for any small benefits or advantages one has, especially in a generally difficult situation. (Typically: be ~; become ~.) We have very little money, but we must be thankful for small blessings. At least we have enough food. Bob was badly injured in the accident, but at least he’s still alive. Let’s be thankful for small blessings.

thanks a bunch Inf. thanks. [Thanks a bunch for your help. He said “thanks a bunch” and walked out.]

Thanks (a lot). and Thank you a lot. 1. Inf. Thank you, I am grateful. [Bill: Here, take mine. Bob: Thanks a lot. Mary: Well, here’s your pizza. Bill: Thanks. 2. That is not worth much.; That is nothing to be grateful for. (Sarcasm is indicated by the tone of voice used with this expression.) John: I’m afraid that you’re going to have to work the night shift. Bob: Thanks a lot. Fred: Here’s your share of the money. We had to take out nearly half to make up for the damage you did to the car. Bill: Thanks a lot.

Thanks a million. Inf. Thank you a lot. [Bill: Oh, thanks a million. You were very helpful. Bob: Just glad I could help. John: Here’s your book. Jane: Thanks a million. Sorry I needed it back in such a rush.]

Thanks awfully. Thank you very much. [John: Here’s one for you. Jane: Thanks awfully. Mary: Here, let me help you with all that stuff. Sue: Thanks awfully.]

Thanks, but no thanks. Inf. Thank you, but I am not interested. (A way of turning down something that is not very desirable.) Alice: How would you like to buy my old car? Jane: Thanks, but no thanks. John: What do you think about a trip over to see the Wilsons? Sally: Thanks, but no thanks. We don’t get along.

Thanks for the lift. Go to next.

Thanks for the ride. and Thanks for the lift. Thank you for giving me a ride in your car. [John (stopping the

Thanks loads. Inf. Thanks a lot. □ Mary: Here, you can have these. And take these too. Sally: Thanks loads. □ John: Wow! You look great! Sally: Thanks loads. I try.

thanks to someone or something due to someone or something; because of someone or something. (This does not necessarily suggest gratitude.) □ Thanks to the storm, we have no electricity. □ Thanks to Mary, we have tickets to the game. She bought them early before they were sold out.

That ain’t hay. Inf. That is not a small amount of money. (The highly informal word ain’t is built into the expression.) □ I paid forty dollars for it, and that ain’t hay! □ Bob lost his wallet with $200 in it—and that ain’t hay.

That ain’t no lie. Rur. What was said is true. (The highly informal word ain’t is built into the expression.) □ Tom: Sure is hot today. Jane: That ain’t no lie. □ I’m plumb exhausted, and that ain’t no lie.

That ain’t the way I heard it. Rur. That is not the way I heard the story told. (The highly informal word ain’t is built into the expression.) □ John: It seemed like a real riot, then Sally called the police and things calmed down. Sue: That ain’t the way I heard it. John: What? Sue: Somebody said the neighbors called the police. □ Fred: Four of us went fishing and were staying in this cabin. These women stopped and said they were having car trouble. What could we do? Sally: That ain’t the way I heard it.

That (all) depends. My answer depends on factors that have yet to be discussed. □ Tom: Will you be able to come to the meeting on Thursday night? Mary: That all depends. □ Bob: Can I see you again? Sally: That depends.

That beats everything! Go to it that don’t beat all! that beats something all to pieces Rur. that is much better than the person or thing named. □ Mary’s layer cake beats mine all to pieces. □ I say the book beats the movie all to pieces.

That brings me to the (main) point. a transitional expression that introduces the main point of a conversation. (See also which brings me to the (main) point.) □ Father: It’s true. All of us had to go through something like this when we were young, and that brings me to the point. Aren’t you old enough to be living on your own and making your own decisions and supporting yourself? Tom: Well, yes, I guess so. □ Fred: Yes, things are very expensive these days, and that brings me to the main point. You simply have to cut back on spending. Bill: You’re right. I’ll do it!

(That causes) no problem. That will not cause a problem for me or anyone else. (No problem is informal.) □ Mary: Do you mind waiting for just a little while? Bob: No problem. □ Sue: Does this block your light? Can you still read? Jane: That causes no problem.

That does it! 1. Inf. That completes it! It is now done just right! □ When Jane got the last piece put into the puzzle, she said, “That does it!” □ John (signing a paper): Well, that’s the last one! That does it! Bill: I thought we’d never finish. 2. and That tears it! Inf. That’s the last straw! Enough is enough! □ Bill: We’re still not totally pleased with your work. Bob: That does it! I quit! □ Sally: That tears it! I never want to see you again! Fred: I only put my arm around you!

[that is] See the entries beginning with that’s.

That makes two of us. Inf. The same is true for me. □ So you’re going to the football game? That makes two of us. □ Bill: I just passed my biology test. Bob: That makes two of us!

That (really) burns me (up)! Inf. That makes me very angry! □ Bob: Did you hear that interest rates are going back up? Mary: That really burns me up! □ Sue: Fred is telling everyone that you are the one who lost the party money. Mary: That burns me! It was John who had the money in the first place.

That’s a fine how-do-you-do. Inf. That is a terrible situation. □ Well, that’s a fine how-do-you-do! I tried to call Mary, and her number is disconnected! □ That’s a fine how-do-you-do. I come home and find the kids are playing catch with my best crystal bowl.

That’s a new one on me! Inf. I had not heard that before. □ Bob: Did you hear? They’re building a new highway that will bypass the town. Fred: That’s a new one on me! That’s terrible! □ Sue: All of us will have to pay our taxes monthly from now on. Mary: That’s a new one on me!

That’s about the size of it. Inf. That is the way it is. (Often a response to someone who has acknowledged bad news.) □ Bob: We only have a few hundred dollars left in the bank. Sally: That means that there isn’t enough money for us to go on vacation? Bob: That’s about the size of it. □ Bob: I’m supposed to take this bill to the county clerk’s office and pay them four hundred dollars? Sally: That’s about the size of it.

That’s all for someone. Inf. Someone will get no more chances to do things correctly. □ That’s all for you, Tom. I’ve had all I can take from you. One disappointment after another. □ You’ve gone too far, Mary. That’s all for you. Good-bye!

That’s all she wrote. and That’s what she wrote. Inf. That is all of it.; That is the last of it. □ Here’s the last one we have to fix. There, that’s all she wrote. □ That’s what she wrote. There ain’t no more.

That’s all someone needs. and It’s all someone needs. (It’s) just what you need; That’s just what you need. Someone does not need that at all.; That’s the last straw! (Always sarcastic. The someone can be a person’s name or a pronoun.) □ Jane: The dog died and the basement is just starting to flood. Fred: That’s all we need. □ Sally: Bill, the check you wrote to the Internal Revenue Service was returned. There’s no more money in the bank. Bill: That’s all we need. □ Bob: On top of having too many bills to pay, now I have car trouble! Mary: That’s just what you need!

That’s easy for you to say. You can say that easily because it really does not affect you the way it affects others. □ Waiter: Here’s your check. Mary: Thanks. (turning to others) I’m willing to just split the check evenly. Bob: That’s easy for you to say. You had lobster! □ Sally: Let’s each chip in ten bucks and buy him a sweater. Sue: That’s easy for you to say. You make twice what I do.

That’s enough! Inf. No more! Stop that! □ Sue: Here, I’ll stack another one on top. Mary: That’s enough! It will fall.
That’s enough for now.

☐ John: I could go on with complaint after complaint. I could talk all week, in fact. Bob: That’s enough!

That’s enough for now. No more of that for now.; Please stop for a while. ☐ Mary: Here, have some more cake. Do you want a larger piece? Bill: Oh, no. That’s enough for now. ☐ Bill: Shall I cut a little more off this tree, lady, or save the rest till spring? Jane: No, that’s enough for now.

(That’s) enough (of this) foolishness! 1. Stop this foolish behavior. ☐ Bill: Enough of this foolishness. Stop it! Sally: Sorry. ☐ Father: That’s enough of this foolishness. You two stop fighting over nothing. Bob: Okay. Bill: Sorry. 2. I have had enough of this. (Does not refer to something that is actual foolishness.) ☐ Andy: Enough of this foolishness. I hate ballet. I’m leaving. Sue: Well, please leave quietly. ☐ Sally: That’s enough foolishness. I’m leaving and I never want to see you again! Bob: Come on! I was only teasing.

(That’s) fine with me. and (That’s) fine by me.; (That’s) okay by me.; (That’s) okay with me. That is agreeable as far as I am concerned. (The expressions with by are colloquial.) ☐ Sue: I’m giving away your old coat. Bob: That’s fine with me. ☐ Sally: Can I take twenty dollars out of your wallet? Fred: That’s okay by me—if you can find it, of course.

That’s for dang sure! Rur. That is quite certain! (The formulaic response to That’s for sure! The accent is always on the dang.) ☐ Tom: That’s for sure! Jane: That’s for dang sure! ☐ Sally: We’ll be there and that’s for sure! Bill: Yup! That’s for dang sure!

That’s funny. That is strange or peculiar. ☐ Bill: Tom just called from Detroit and says he’s coming back tomorrow. Mary: That’s funny. He’s not supposed to. ☐ Sue: The sky is turning very gray. Mary: That’s funny. There’s no bad weather forecast.

That’s it! 1. Inf. That does it; That’s the last straw! ☐ That’s it! I’m leaving! I’ve had enough! ☐ Okay. That’s it! I’m going to report you to human resources! 2. That is the answer! ☐ That’s it! You are right. ☐ That’s it! You got the right answer.

That’s (just) the way it goes. and That’s (just) how it goes.; That’s (just) the way it is. Inf. That is the normal way of things.; That is fate. ☐ Mary: All my roses died in the cold weather. Sue: That’s the way it goes. ☐ Sally: Someone stole all the candy we left out in the front office. Jane: That’s just how it goes.

That’s (just) too much! 1. Inf. That is unpleasant and unacceptable.; That is more than I can bear! ☐ “That’s just too much!” exclaimed Sue, and she walked out. ☐ Bill: I’m afraid this movie isn’t what we thought it was going to be. Sue: Did you see that? That’s too much! Let’s go! 2. Inf. That is just too funny. (Compare this with You’re too funny.) ☐ After Fred finished the joke, and Bill had stopped howling with laughter, Bill said, “That’s too much! Your jokes are so hilarious.” ☐ When Tom stopped laughing, his sides ached and he had tears in his eyes. “Oh, that’s too much!” he moaned.

That’s just what you need. Go to That’s all someone needs.

That’s more like it. That is better.; That is a better response this time. ☐ Waiter: Here is your order, sir. Roast chicken as you requested. Sorry about the mix-up. John: That’s more like it. ☐ Clerk: Now, here’s one that you might like. Sally: Now, that’s more like it!

That’s my boy. and That’s my girl. That is my child of whom I am proud.; I’m proud of this young person. ☐ After the game, Tom’s dad said, “That’s my boy!” ☐ That’s my girl! Always a winner!

That’s my girl. Go to previous.

That’s news to me. I did not know that.; I had not been informed of that. ☐ Bill: They’ve blocked off Maple Street for some repairs. Tom: That’s news to me. ☐ Sally: The telephones are out. None of them work. Bill: That’s news to me.

That’s show business (for you). That is the way that life really is. (Also with biz and show biz.) ☐ And now the car won’t start. That’s show business for you. ☐ Too bad about the bad investment. That’s show biz.

That’s that! Inf. That is the end of that! Nothing more can be done. ☐ Tom: Well, that’s that! I can do no more. Sally: That’s the way it goes. ☐ Doctor (finishing an operation): That’s that! Would you close for me, Sue? Sue: Nice job, Doctor. Yes, I’ll close.

That’s the pot calling the kettle black. Go to The pot is calling the kettle black.

That’s the spirit! That is the right attitude and preferred evidence of high motivation. ☐ A: I am sure I can do it! B: That’s the spirit!

That’s the stuff! Inf. That is the right attitude or action. ☐ Bob: I’m sure I can do it! Fred: That’s the stuff! ☐ “That’s the stuff!” cried the coach as Mary crossed the finish line.

That’s the ticket! Inf. That is what is required! ☐ Mary: I’ll just get ready and drive the package directly to the airport! Sue: That’s the ticket. Take it right to the airport post office. ☐ Bob: I’ve got it! I’ll buy a new computer! Bill: That’s the ticket!

That’s the way the ball bounces. and That’s the way the cookie crumbs.; That’s the way the mop flops. Prov. You cannot control everything that happens to you.; You should accept the bad things that happen. ☐ Bill: I bought a hundred lottery tickets this week, but I still didn’t win! Alan: That’s the way the ball bounces. ☐ I was planning to have fun on my vacation, but I’ve been sick the whole time. I guess that’s just the way the cookie crumbs. ☐ That’s tough, but that’s the way the mop flops.

That’s the way the cookie crumbs. Go to previous.

That’s the way the mop flops. Go to That’s the way the ball bounces.

(That’s) the way to go! Inf. A phrase encouraging someone to continue the good work. ☐ As John ran over the finish line, everyone cried, “That’s the way to go!” ☐ “Way to go!” said Mary when Bob finally got the car started.


That’s what I say. Inf. I agree with what was just said. ☐ Tom: We’ve got to get in there and stand up for our rights! Mary: That’s what I say. ☐ Bob: They shouldn’t do that! They should be put in jail! Mary: That’s what I say!
That’s what she wrote. Go to That’s all she wrote.

That’s why! a tag on the end of a statement that is an answer to a question beginning with why. (Shows a little impatience.) □ Sue: Why do you always put your right shoe on first? Bob: Because, when I get ready to put on my shoes, I always pick up the right one first, that’s why! □ Mary: Why do you eat that awful peppermint candy? Tom: Because I like it, that’s why!

That be-all and (the) end-all Cliché something that is the very best or most important; something so good that it will end the search for something better. □ Finishing the building of his boat became the be-all and end-all of Roger’s existence. □ Sally is the be-all and the end-all of Don’s life.


The butler did it 1. Lit. The butler performed the crime. (A catchphrase.) □ I know who killed Lord Drax. The butler did it! I saw him! 2. Fig. It happened just the way it always happens. □ Of course, that’s it. The butler did it. The butler always does it.

the heavens opened Fig. It started to rain heavily. □ The heavens opened, and we had to run for cover. □ We were waiting at the bus stop when the heavens opened.

The hell you say! Nonsense!; I don’t believe it! □ A: I won the lottery! B: The hell you say!

the Lord only knows no one but God knows. □ The Lord only knows if John’s marriage will be a happy one. □ How Mary can stay so cheerful through her terrible illness, the Lord only knows.

the luck of the Irish luck associated with the Irish people. (Also said as a catch phrase for any kind of luck.) □ Bill: How did you manage to do it, Jeff. Jeff: It’s the luck of the Irish, I guess.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Prov. You don’t know the quality of something until you have tried it or experienced it. □ Theory says that this material will produce a superior widget, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

*the race card Cliché the issue of race magnified and injected into a situation which might otherwise be non-racial. (Typically: deal ~; play ~; use ~.) □ At the last minute, the opposition candidate played the race card and lost the election for himself.

The very idea! I do not approve!; That is outrageous! □ Resignation? The very idea! □ The very idea! Absolutely not!

The wages of sin is death. Prov. Doing bad things can get you in a lot of trouble. □ Serves him right. I always said, “The wages of sin is death.”

the way I see it Go to from my perspective.

The wolf is at the door. Fig. The threat of poverty is upon us. □ I lost my job, my savings are gone, and now the wolf is at the door.

Them as has, gits. Rur. Rich people can always get more. □ The millionaire keeps making more and more money, because he has lots of money to invest. Them as has, gits. □ Tom: Bill already owns half the property in town, and here the court went and awarded him that vacant lot. Jane: You know how it is—them as has, gits.

Them’s fighting words! Rur. What you just said will lead to a fight. (Said as a threat.) □ I heard what you said about my brother, and them’s fighting words. □ Put up your dukes. Them’s fighting words!

then and there Cliché right at that time and place. □ I asked him right then and there exactly what he meant. □ I decided to settle the matter then and there and not wait until Monday.
then the fat hit the fire

Go to the fat hit the fire.

theorize about someone or something to hypothesize about someone or something; to conjure about someone or something. □ Let’s not waste time theorizing about Ted. He won’t change. □ I can only theorize about what happened.

theorize on something to make a theory about something. □ There is no point in theorizing on something when you have all the empirical evidence you need to draw a conclusion. □ He spent the afternoon theorizing on the origin of the universe.

There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch. Go to There's no such thing as a free lunch.

(There ain’t) nothin’ to it. Rut. It is easy. □ Mary: How do you keep your car so shiny? Tom: There ain’t nothin’ to it. I just wax it once a week. □ It took Jane just two minutes to sew up the hole in my shirt. “See?” she said. “Nothin’ to it!”

There are plenty of (other) fish in the sea. Fig. There are other choices. (Used to refer to persons.) □ When John broke up with Ann, I told her not to worry. There are plenty of other fish in the sea. □ It’s too bad that your secretary quit, but there are plenty of other fish in the sea.

There are tricks in every trade. Prov. In every occupation, there are established ways of doing things. (See also the tricks of the trade.) □ John thought that he wouldn’t have to learn much in order to wait tables. But there are tricks in every trade, and the experienced waiters were able to teach him a lot.

There are two sides to every question. and There are two sides to every story. Prov. There are valid reasons for holding opposing opinions. □ Jim: I can’t see why anyone would object to building a city park on the corner. John: There are two sides to every question. Maybe the people who own the buildings on the corner don’t want them knocked down. □ Fred: Only an idiot would want to go hang gliding. It’s too dangerous. Ellen: There are two sides to every question. Maybe some people think it’s enjoyable enough to be worth the risk.

There are two sides to every story. Go to previous.

There aren’t enough hours in the day. There are too many things to do and not enough time. □ I am behind in all my work. There aren’t enough hours in the day! □ We can’t handle all the problems that come our way. There aren’t enough hours in the day.

There but for the grace of God (go I). Prov. I would likely have experienced or done the same bad thing if God had not been watching over me. (You can say this to refer to someone who has had bad luck; implies that the person is no less virtuous than you are but is now miserable purely because of bad luck, which might happen to you as well.) □ Jill: Ever since Julius’s house burned down, she’s been drinking heavily; she’ll probably lose her job because of it. Jane: There but for the grace of God . . . □ Whenever Sally saw a beggar, she thought, “There but for the grace of God go I.”

There is a fine line between something and something else. There is little difference between something and something else. □ There is a fine line between a frown and a grimace.

There is a remedy for everything except death. Prov. Everything but death can be cured.; As long as you are alive, your problems can somehow be solved. □ Bill: I’ll never recover from losing Nancy. Fred: Nonsense. There is a remedy for everything except death. □ Whenever Linda despairs, she sternly reminded herself that there is a remedy for everything except death.

There is a tide in the affairs of men. Prov. If you have a favorable opportunity to do something, do it, or you will lose your chance. (From Shakespeare’s play, Julius Caesar.) □ I think that this is the best possible time to start our own business. We shouldn’t hesitate. There is a tide in the affairs of men.

There is a time and a place for everything. Prov. Different things are appropriate on different occasions. □ There is a time and a place for everything, but this formal dinner is not the time or the place to eat with your fingers.

There is honor among thieves. Prov. Criminals do not commit crimes against each other. □ The gangster was loyal to his associates and did not tell their names to the police, demonstrating that there is honor among thieves.

There is no accounting for taste(s). Prov. You cannot blame different people because they like different things, even if you do not understand why they like what they like. □ Jill: I can’t believe so many people are going to see that idiotic movie. Jane: There’s no accounting for tastes.

(There is) no chance. There is no chance that something will happen. (No chance is informal.) □ Tom: Do you think that some little country like that will actually attack England? John: There’s no chance. □ Bill: No chance you can lend me a few bucks, is there? Bill: Nope. No chance.

there is no doing something one is not permitted to do something (as specified). □ There is no arguing with Bill. □ There is no cigarette smoking here.

(There is) no doubt about it. It cannot be doubted.; It is obvious. □ Jane: It’s really cold today. Fred: No doubt about it! □ Sue: Things seems to be getting more and more expensive. Tom: There’s no doubt about that. Look at the price of oranges!

There is no love lost (between someone and someone else). There is no friendship wasted between someone and someone else (because they are enemies). □ Ever since their big argument, there has been no love lost between Tom and Bill. □ You can tell by the way that Jane is acting toward Ann that there is no love lost.

(There is) no need (to). You do not have to.; It is not necessary. □ Mary: Shall I try to save all this wrapping paper? Sue: No need. It’s all torn. □ Bob: Would you like me to have it repaired? I’m so sorry I broke it. Bill: There is no need to. I can just glue it, thanks.

There is no pleasure without pain. Prov. For every pleasure you enjoy, you must suffer some pain. □ We had a fabulous vacation, but it’s going to take us years to pay for it. Oh, well, there’s no pleasure without pain. □ Yesterday I basked in the warm sunshine all afternoon; today I’m badly sunburned. There is no pleasure without pain.

There is no rest for the weary. Prov. Even people who are worn-out must continue to work. (Describes a situation in which a tired person has to do more work.) □ By the time I finished doing the laundry, it was so late I had to
There is no royal road to learning. Prov. Learning things requires work. □ Sue: I don’t see why we have to do homework every night. Why can’t we just listen to the lectures? Nancy: There is no royal road to learning.

There is nothing new under the sun. Prov. Everything that is happening now has happened before. (Biblical.) □ Jill: The newspaper today is shocking. Three prominent politicians have been convicted of fraud. Jane: That’s not shocking. It only proves that there’s nothing new under the sun.

There is safety in numbers. Prov. A group of people is less likely to be attacked than a single person. □ Gail never went out after dark without at least three friends, since she knew that there is safety in numbers. □ We should gather together a group of people to make our complaint to the boss. There’s safety in numbers.

There is trouble brewing. Go to Trouble is brewing.

There’s many a good tune played on an old fiddle. Prov. Old people can be very capable. □ Just because Nigel is old doesn’t mean he’s useless. There’s many a good tune played on an old fiddle.

There’s many a slip ‘twixt the cup and the lip. Prov. Many things may happen to prevent you from carrying out what you intend to do. □ Bob: Now that I have a contract with a publisher, nothing in the world can stop me from writing this book. Alan: Don’t be so sure. There’s many a slip ‘twixt the cup and the lip.

There’s many a true word spoken in jest. Go to Many a true word is spoken in jest.

There’s more than one way to skin a cat. Prov. You can always find more than one way to do something. □ Jill: How will we fix the sink without a wrench? Jane: There’s more than one way to skin a cat. □ Our first approach didn’t work, but we’ll figure out some other way. There’s more than one way to skin a cat.

There’s no accounting for taste. Prov. Cliché There is no explanation for people’s preferences. □ Look at that purple and orange car! There’s no accounting for taste. □ Some people seemed to like the music, although I thought it was worse than noise. There’s no accounting for taste.

There’s no flies on someone. Rur. Someone is full of energy and drive. □ There’s no flies on Jane. She’s up at five every morning, training for the big race.

There’s no fool like an old fool. Prov. Cliché Old people are supposed to be wise, so if an old person behaves foolishly, it is worse than a young person behaving foolishly. □ As old Mrs. Fleischman watched her husband try to dive off the side of the pool! Bob: Aw, come on! Nothing to it! □ Bill: Me! I can’t dive off a board that high! I can hardly dive off the side of the pool! Bob: Aw, come on! Nothing to it! □ John: Is it hard to learn to fly a small plane? Sue: There’s nothing to it! □ Bill: Me! I can’t dive off a board that high! I can hardly dive off the side of the pool! Bob: Aw, come on! Nothing to it! □ Mother: This is the fifth time our daughter has been arrested for shoplifting. Don’t you think we ought to seek some kind of help for her? Father: Our daughter would never shoplift. I’m sure all those arrests were just some kind of mistake. Mother: There’s none so blind as those who will not see. □ By October, it was obvious to everyone that Richard was coming in drunk every morning. Obvious, that is, except to his devoted secretary; there’s none so blind as those who will not see.

There’s no flies on someone. Proverbs. Someone is full of energy and drive. □ There’s no flies on Jane. She’s up at five every morning, training for the big race.

There’s no place like home. Prov. Cliché Home is the most satisfying place to be. □ After his long trip, Bob came into his house, sat down in his favorite chair, and happily sighed, “There’s no place like home.” □ Jane: Are you glad to be home from school? Jenny: There’s no place like home.

There’s no rose without a thorn. Prov. To enjoy any beautiful or pleasant thing, you must endure something difficult or painful. □ Mike: My bride is lovely and gracious, but I’m discovering that she has a terrible temper. Bill: There’s no rose without a thorn.

(There’s) no smoke without fire. and Where there’s smoke there’s fire. Prov. There is usually some truth behind every rumor. □ I’m going to withdraw all my money from that bank. I read an article that the bank was in financial trouble, and where there’s smoke there’s fire.

There’s no such thing as a free lunch. and There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch. Prov. Cliché Everything costs something. (Can imply that you should be suspicious of anything that appears to be free.) □ Fred: This advertisement says I can get an expensive camera for free! Jane: Don’t be so gullible. There’s no such thing as a free lunch. □ Mary gave me her sewing machine, but I had to give it $100 worth of repairs before I could even use it. There’s no such thing as a free lunch.

(There’s) no time like the present. Prov. Cliché Do what you are supposed to do now. (You can use this to suggest that something be done right away.) □ Jill: When should we start cleaning up the house? Jane: No time like the present. □ Start studying for the big exam now, instead of waiting till the night before. There’s no time like the present.

(There’s) no way to tell. No one can find out the answer. □ Tom: How long are we likely to have to wait before the plane takes off? Clerk: Sorry, sir. There’s no way to tell.

There’s nobody home. There are no brains in someone’s head. □ There’s lots of goodwill in that head, but there’s nobody home. □ What a fool! There’s nobody home—that’s for sure.

There’s none so blind as those who will not see. Prov. You cannot make someone pay attention to something that he or she does not want to notice. (Used often to upbraid someone for being unwilling to notice what you are trying call attention to.) □ Mother: This is the fifth time our daughter has been arrested for shoplifting. Don’t you think we ought to seek some kind of help for her? Father: Our girl would never shoplift. I’m sure all those arrests were just some kind of mistake. Mother: There’s none so blind as those who will not see. □ By October, it was obvious to everyone that Richard was coming in drunk every morning. Obvious, that is, except to his devoted secretary; there’s none so blind as those who will not see.

There’s none so deaf as those who will not hear. Prov. If you tell someone something that he or she does not want to know, he or she will not pay attention to you. □ I tried repeatedly to tell my supervisor about the low morale in our department, but there’s none so deaf as those who will not hear.

(There’s) nothing to it! 1. Inf. It is easy! □ John: Is it hard to learn to fly a small plane? Sue: There’s nothing to it! □ Bill: Me! I can’t dive off a board that high! I can hardly dive off the side of the pool! Bob: Aw, come on! Nothing to it! 2. Inf. The rumor you heard is not true. □ Pay no attention to all that talk. There’s nothing to it.

There, there, and There, now. an expression used to comfort someone. □ There, there. You’ll feel better after you take a nap. □ There, now. Everything will be all right.

There will be hell to pay. and There will be the devil to pay. Inf. There will be a lot of trouble if something is done or if something is not done. (See also have
There will be the devil to pay.

**thick as a short plank** Go to thick as a short plank.

**thick as two short planks** Go to thick as two short planks.

**thick as pease soup** [of fog] very thick. (*Also: as ~.*)

**thick as thieves** Cliché very close-knit; friendly; allied. *(Thick = close and loyal. *Also: as ~.*)

**thicken something up** 1. to make something, such as a fluid, thicker. □ I have to thicken this gravy up before we can serve dinner. □ Please thicken up the gravy before you serve it. 2. to make something wider. □ See this line here? You need to thicken it up so that it shows more clearly. □ Try to thicken up the line a little.

**thick-skinned** Fig. not easily upset or hurt; insensitive. *(The opposite of thin-skinned. *Typically: be ~; become ~; grow ~.)*

**thin down** to become thinner or slimmer. □ He stopped eating desserts and fatty foods so he could thin down. □ I have to thin down so I can get into my winter coat.

**thin on top** Fig. balding. □ James is wearing a hat because he's getting thin on top. □ Father got a little thin on top as he got older.

**thin out** to spread out; to become less dense. □ The trees began to thin out as we got further up the mountain. □ The crowd began to thin out as we got a little farther from the theater.

**thin someone down** 1. to make someone thinner or slimmer. □ What you need to thin you down is less, not more. □ The hospital dietitian tried to thin down the obese man.

**thin something down** 1. to dilute a fluid. □ You should thin this down with a little water. □ Try to thin down this paint a little.

**thin something out** 1. to make something less dense; to scatter something. □ You will have to thin the young plants out, because there is not room for all of them. □ Can you thin out these young plants?

A **thing of beauty is a joy forever.** Prov. Beautiful things give pleasure that lasts even longer than the beautiful things themselves. (This is a line from John Keats's poem “Endymion.”) Also a **thing of beauty and a joy forever,** used to describe something beautiful in lofty terms, often ironically.)

**a thing or two (about someone or something)** 1. bits of information or criticism about someone or something; a few facts about someone or something. (*Typically: find out ~; know ~; learn ~; tell someone ~.*)

**thick and fast** in large numbers or amounts and at a rapid rate. □ The enemy soldiers came thick and fast. □ New problems seem to come thick and fast.

**thick as a short plank** and **thick as two short planks** exceptionally dim-witted. (*Also: as ~.*)

**thick on top** balding. □ Father got a little thin on top as he got older.

**thicken something out** 1. to make something, such as a fluid, thicker. □ I have to thicken this gravy up before we can serve dinner. □ Please thicken up the gravy before you serve it. 2. to make something wider. □ See this line here? You need to thicken it up so that it shows more clearly. □ Try to thicken up the line a little.

**thick-skinned** Fig. not easily upset or hurt; insensitive. *(The opposite of thin-skinned. *Typically: be ~; become ~; grow ~.)*

**thin down** to become thinner or slimmer. □ He stopped eating desserts and fatty foods so he could thin down. □ I have to thin down so I can get into my winter coat.

**thin on top** Fig. balding. □ James is wearing a hat because he's getting thin on top. □ Father got a little thin on top as he got older.

**thin out** to spread out; to become less dense. □ The trees began to thin out as we got further up the mountain. □ The crowd began to thin out as we got a little farther from the theater.

**thin someone down** 1. to make someone thinner or slimmer. □ What you need to thin you down is less, not more. □ The hospital dietitian tried to thin down the obese man.

**thin something down** 1. to dilute a fluid. □ You should thin this down with a little water. □ Try to thin down this paint a little.

**thin something out** 1. to make something less dense; to scatter something. □ You will have to thin the young plants out, because there is not room for all of them. □ Can you thin out these young plants?

A **thing of beauty is a joy forever.** Prov. Beautiful things give pleasure that lasts even longer than the beautiful things themselves. (This is a line from John Keats's poem “Endymion.”) Also a **thing of beauty and a joy forever,** used to describe something beautiful in lofty terms, often ironically.)

**a thing or two (about someone or something)** 1. bits of information or criticism about someone or something; a few facts about someone or something. (*Typically: find out ~; know ~; learn ~; tell someone ~.*)

**thick as a short plank** and **thick as two short planks** exceptionally dim-witted. (*Also: as ~.*)

**thick on top** balding. □ Father got a little thin on top as he got older.
A thing you don’t want is dear at any price. Prov.
You should not buy something just because it is cheap. Jill: There’s a sale on black-and-white film; we should get some. Jane: We never use black-and-white film. Jill: But it’s so cheap. Jane: A thing you don’t want is dear at any price.

Things are looking up. Conditions are looking better. Since I got a salary increase, things are looking up. Things are looking up at school. I’m doing better in all my classes.

Things are seldom what they seem. Prov. Things often appear different from what they really are. Emily seems to be a fine young lady, but be careful. Things are seldom what they seem. To judge from his elegant clothing and luxurious car, William was a wealthy man. But things are seldom what they seem; in fact, he was in desperate need of money.

(Things) could be better. and (I) could be better. (Things) might be better. a response to a greeting meaning “My state is not as good as it might be.” (Not necessarily a direct answer.) John: How are things going, Fred? Fred: Things could be better. And you? John: About the same. Bob: Hi, Bill! How are you? Bill: I could be better. What’s new with you? Bob: Nothing much.

(Things) could be worse. and (I) could be worse. a response to a greeting meaning “My state is not as bad as it might be.” (Not necessarily a direct answer.) John: How are you, Fred? Fred: Things could be worse. And you? John: Okay, I guess. Bob: Hi, Bob! What’s happening? Bob: I could be worse. What’s new with you?

(Things) couldn’t be better. Go to (It) couldn’t be better.

Things haven’t been easy. Go to (It) hasn’t been easy.

(Things) might be better. Go to (Things) could be better.

Things will work out (all right). and Everything will work out (all right). Everything will work out for the best. Things will work out for the best. The situation will reach a satisfactory conclusion.; The problem(s) will be resolved. “Cheer up!” Mary said to a gloomy Fred. “Things will work out all right.” Mary: Oh, I’m so miserable! Bill: Don’t worry. Everything will work out for the best. “Now, now, don’t cry. Things will work out,” consoled Sally, hoping that what she was saying was really true.

think a great deal of someone or something Go to next.

think a lot of someone or something and think a great deal of someone or something; think highly of someone or something; think much of someone or something to think well of someone or something. The teacher thinks a lot of Mary and her talents. No one really thinks a great deal of the new policies. I think highly of John. The manager doesn’t think much of John and says so to everyone.

think about someone or something to contemplate someone or something. Whenever I think about him, I get goose bumps. I don’t want to think about it.

think ahead of one’s time Go to ahead of one’s time.

think ahead to something to have thoughts about something that is to happen in the future. I began to think ahead to next year when the same thing might happen. You must learn to think ahead if you want to get ahead.

think back (on someone or something) to remember and think about someone or something. When I think back on Sally and the good times we had together, I get very sad. I like to think back on my childhood and try to remember what it was like.

think back (to something) to remember back to something in the past. Now, try and think back to the night of January 16. I can’t think back. My mind is preoccupied with other things.

think before doing something to consider the consequences before doing something. You really ought to think before you take on a job like that. Finally learned to think carefully before accepting jobs like the one I just took on.

think better of someone or something to raise one’s opinion of someone or something. I think better of him since I saw how well he does in the sales meetings. I hope that you will think better of the plan now.

think better of something to reconsider doing something and end up not doing it. I hope that you will think better of what you are doing and how many people you are hurting. I will think better of making such a careless remark next time.

think for oneself to do one’s own thinking; to think independently. I think for myself. I don’t need anyone to tell me what to do, do I? Sam has to learn to think for himself. He can’t let other people make his decisions for him all his life.

think highly of someone or something Go to think a lot of someone or something.

think inside the box Fig. to think in traditional fashion, bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (As if thinking or creativity were confined or limited by a figurative box. Compare this with think outside the box.) You won’t come up with good ideas if you think only inside the box. You guys only think inside the box and will never find a better solution.

think little of someone or something and think nothing of someone or something to have a low opinion of someone or something. Most experts think little of Jane’s theory. People may think nothing of it now, but in a few years everyone will praise it. The critics thought little of her latest book.

think much of someone or something Go to think a lot of someone or something.

think nothing of doing something to give no thought or hesitation to doing something. She thinks nothing of helping other people at any time of day or night. Toby thinks nothing of driving one block to the store.

Think nothing of it. and Don’t give it another thought. Don’t give it a (second) thought. 1. You’re welcome.; It was nothing.; I was glad to do it. Mary: Thank you so much for driving me home. John: Think nothing of it. Sue: It was very kind of you to bring the kids back all the way out here. Alice: Think nothing of it. I was delighted to do it. 2. You did no harm at all. (A very polite way of reassuring someone that an action has
think nothing of someone or something

Go to think little
of someone or something.

think of someone or something to contemplate someone or something. □ I think of you whenever I go to the restaurant where we used to eat. □ Whenever I see a rainbow, I think of Susan.

think on one's feet Fig. to be able to speak and reason well while (standing and talking) in front of an audience, especially extemporaneously. □ She really thinks on her feet well. □ I am not able to think on my feet too well before a bunch of people.

think out loud Fig. to say one's thoughts aloud. □ Excuse me. I didn't really mean to say that. I was just thinking out loud. □ Mr. Johnson didn't prepare a speech. He just stood there and thought out loud. It was a terrible presentation.

think outside the box Fig. to think freely, not bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (As if thinking or creativity were confined in or limited by a figurative box. Compare this with think inside the box.) □ You won't come up with good ideas until you think outside the box. □ Let's think outside the box for a minute and try to find a better solution.

think someone fit for something to judge someone to be in condition or healthy enough for something. □ Do you think me fit for the race? □ She is not fit for the game Friday night.

think someone hung the moon (and stars) and think someone is God's own cousin Rur. to think someone is perfect. □ Joe won't listen to any complaints about Mary. He thinks she hung the moon and stars. □ Jim is awful stuck-up. He thinks he's God's own cousin.

think someone is God's own cousin Go to previous.

think someone or something fit for someone or something to judge someone or something to be suitable for someone or something. □ I do not think this book fit for young readers. □ You are not fit for the office of mayor! □ This plate is not fit for further use. □ I don't think John fit for the job.

think something of someone or something to hold a particular kind of opinion of someone or something: to hold someone or something in a particular kind of regard. (Such as ill, good, highly, bad, much, a lot, a great deal.) □ Please don't think ill of me. It was a silly mistake. That's all. □ We think quite highly of your plan.

think something out to think through something; to prepare a plan or scheme. □ This is an interesting problem. I'll have to take some time and think it out. □ We spent all morning thinking out our plan.

think something over to think about something and whether one will choose to do it. □ I need a few minutes to think it over. □ Let me think over your request for a day or so.

think something through to run over and try to settle something in one's mind. □ Let me think this through and call you in the morning. □ I will think through this matter and get back to you.

think something up to contrive or invent something. □ Don't worry. I'll find a way to do it. I can think something up in time to get it done. □ John thought up a way to solve our problem.

think straight to think clearly. (Often negative.) □ I'm so tired I can't think straight.

think the sun rises and sets on someone Fig. to think someone is the most important person in the world. □ Her daddy just thinks the sun rises and sets on her. □ She worships that boyfriend of hers. She thinks the sun rises and sets on him.

think the world of someone or something Fig. to be very fond of someone or something. □ Mary thinks the world of her little sister. □ The old lady thinks the world of her cats.

think to do something to remember to do something. □ Sorry. I didn't think to call you in time. □ I will try to think to bring everything with me next time.

think twice about someone or something to give careful consideration to someone or something. □ Ed may be a good choice, but I suggest that you think twice about him. □ You will want to think twice about it.

think twice (before doing something) to consider carefully whether one should do something; to be cautious about doing something. □ You should think twice before quitting your job. □ That's a serious decision, and you should certainly think twice.

think under fire Go to under fire.

think (up)on someone or something to contemplate someone or something; to muse or reflect on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I thought upon Abraham Lincoln and how much we all owe him. □ I thought on all the fine things we used to do.

think worlds apart Go to worlds apart.

*thin-skinned Fig. easily upset or hurt; sensitive. (The opposite of thick-skinned. *Typically: be ~; become ~; grow ~.)* □ You'll have to handle Mary's mother carefully. She's very thin-skinned. □ Jane weeps easily when people tease her. She's too thin-skinned.

*the third degree Fig. a long and detailed period of questioning. (*Typically: get ~; give someone ~.)* □ Why is it I get the third degree from you every time I come home late? □ Poor Sally spent all night at the police station getting the third degree.

The third time's the charm. Prov. The third time you try to do something, it will work. □ fill: I've called Miriam twice, but she doesn't answer her phone. Jane: Try again. The third time's the charm.

thirst for something 1. Lit. to desire something to drink. (Somewhat formal.) □ "I thirst for something cooling and refreshing," said the preacher. □ You could see that everyone there was thirsting for water, or even coffee, but there was no refreshment in sight. 2. Fig. to have a strong desire for something. (See also have a thirst for something.) □ In the old days, students were said to thirst for knowledge. □ The generals thirsted for new battles to be fought.

thirsty for something 1. Lit. needing to drink something. □ I'm thirsty for a glass of cold water. 2. Fig. craving or
Those who can, do; those who can’t, teach. Prov. People who are able to do something well can do that thing for a living, while people who are not able to do any-

thing that well make a living by teaching. (Used to disparage teachers. From George Bernard Shaw’s Man and Superman.) ☐ Bob: I’m so discouraged. My writing teacher told me my novel is hopeless. Jane: Don’t listen to her, Bob. Remember: those who can, do; those who can’t, teach.

thoughts to live by Go to words to live by.

thrash around to move about restlessly or violently. ☐ Settle down and stop thrashing around. ☐ Timmy thrashed around all night when he had the high fever.

thrash something out Fig. to discuss something thoroughly and solve any problems. ☐ The committee took hours to thrash the whole matter out. ☐ John and Anne thrashed out the reasons for their constant disagreements.

thrash something out of someone Lit. to beat something out of someone. ☐ The sheriff really wanted to thrash the truth out of Tex, but that is illegal. ☐ Max wanted to know where the money was hidden and he tried to thrash it out of Lefty.

thread one’s way through something Fig. to make a path for oneself through a crowded area; to make one’s way carefully through a crowded area. ☐ The spy threaded his way through the crowd. ☐ The bicyclists threaded their way through the cars stopped in traffic.

thread through something Fig. to travel through a crowded area; to move carefully through an area where there are many obstacles. ☐ The spy threaded through the crowd at the palace. ☐ The joggers threaded through the shoppers on the sidewalks.

threaten someone with something to warn someone that there will be punishment in the form of someone or something if conditions are not met. ☐ No, no! Your Uncle Herman is not coming here! Please don’t threaten me with Uncle Herman! ☐ Are you threatening me with bodily harm?

three bricks shy of a load stupid; dense; shortchanged on intelligence. ☐ I would never say she was dense. Just three bricks shy of a load. ☐ Why do you act like you’re three bricks shy of a load?

three sheets in the wind and three sheets (to the wind); two sheets to the wind Inf. intoxicated and unsteady. (Sheets are the ropes used to manage a ship’s sails. It is assumed that if these ropes were blowing in the wind, the ship would be out of control.) ☐ He had gotten three sheets to the wind and didn’t pay attention to my warning. ☐ By midnight, he was three sheets.

three squares (a day) three nourishing meals a day. (With breakfast, lunch, and dinner considered the usual three meals.) ☐ I was glad to get back home to three squares. ☐ If I could limit myself to three squares, I could lose some weight.

Three strikes and you are out. Fig. Three chances and you are finished. (From baseball.) ☐ One more arrest for speeding and you lose your license. You know, three strikes and you’re out.

thrill at someone or something to become excited by someone or something. ☐ The opera was mystically intoxicating, and the audience thrilled at the tenor lead. ☐ We thrilled at the agility of the dancers.
thrill someone to pieces and thrill someone to death; thrill someone to bits Fig. to please or excite someone very much. □ John sent flowers to Ann and thrilled her to pieces. □ Your wonderful comments thrilled me to death.

thrill someone with something to create or use something to cause someone much joy. □ The famous singer thrilled us with a lovely song. □ Sally was thrilled with the praise heaped upon her daughter.

thrill to something to become excited by something; to experience great joy while experiencing something. □ I always thrill to the sound of a marching band. □ The crowd thrilled to the sight of the winning team parading down Main Street.

thrilled to death and thrilled to pieces Fig. very excited; to be very pleased. □ She was thrilled to death to get the flowers. □ I’m just thrilled to pieces to have you visit me.

thrilled to pieces Go to previous.

thrive (up)on something to grow vigorously because of something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ These plants thrive upon wet soil. □ Children thrive on love.

throng around someone or something to crowd around someone or something. □ The children thronged around the lady with the bags of candy. □ Everyone thronged around the piano for the group sing.

throng in(to something) [for a crowd] to swarm into some place. □ The eager crowd thronged into the department store to partake in the advertised sale. □ The doors opened and they thronged in.

throng out (of something) [for a crowd] to swarm out of something or some place. □ The people thronged out of the concert hall at the end of the program. □ At half past ten, the crowd thronged out.

throttle something down! to reduce the speed of an engine by adjusting the throttle. □ She throttled her engine down and came to a stop. □ She throttled down her engine.

through and through thoroughly; completely. □ I’ve studied this report through and through trying to find the facts you’ve mentioned. □ I was angry through and through, and I had to sit and recover before I could talk to anyone.

through hell and high water Fig. through all sorts of severe difficulties. (Use hell with caution.) □ I came through hell and high water to get to this meeting on time. Why don’t you start on time? □ You’ll have to go through hell and high water to accomplish your goal, but it’ll be worth it.

*through the cracks Fig. [moving] past the elements that are intended to catch or detect such things. (*Typically: fall ~; drop ~; go ~; slip ~.) □ I am afraid that some of these issues will slip through the cracks unless we make a note about each one.

*through the mill Fig. badly treated; abused and exhausted. (Fig. on a grain mill. *Typically: be ~; go ~; put someone ~; send someone ~.) □ This has been a rough day. I’ve really been through the mill. □ This old car is bunched up, and it hardly runs. We really put it through the mill.

through thick and thin Cliché through good times and bad times. □ We’ve been together through thick and thin, and we won’t desert each other now. □ Over the years, we went through thick and thin and enjoyed every minute of it.

*through with someone or something finished with someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I’m all through with course requirements. Now I can learn something I really enjoy. □ Lily is through with Max.

throw a fight Fig. to lose a boxing match on purpose. (Boxing. Other words can replace a.) □ I just know that Wilbur didn’t throw that fight. □ The guy would never throw a fight.

throw a fit Go to have a fit.

throw a game Fig. to lose a game on purpose. □ I know Wilbur. He could never throw a game. □ There’s a couple of those guys who would throw a game if they got enough money to do it.

throw a glance at someone or something to take a quick peek at someone or something. □ Liz threw a glance at her brother to see what he was going to do. □ I threw a glance at my watch and got ready to go.

throw a monkey wrench in the works Fig. to cause problems for someone's plans. □ I don’t want to throw a monkey wrench in the works, but have you checked your plans with a lawyer? □ When John suddenly refused to help us, he really threw a monkey wrench in the works.

throw a party (for someone) Fig. to have a party; to hold a party; to arrange a party. □ Bill threw a party for his sister before she went away to college. □ Things seem sort of dull. Let's throw a party.

throw a punch to jab; to punch. □ She tried to throw a punch at me, but I blocked it. □ Wilbur threw a punch at the thug.

throw a tantrum to have a temper tantrum; to put on an active display of childish temper. □ I never dreamed that Bob would throw a tantrum right there in the department store. You must be so embarrassed!

throw an amount of light on someone or something to present some revealing information about someone or something. □ What you have just told me throws a lot of light on George and his motivation. □ Will you please throw some light on the problem?

throw caution to the wind Cliché to become very careless. □ Jane, who is usually cautious, threw caution to the wind and went swimming in the ocean. □ I don’t mind taking a little chance now and then, but I’m not the type of person who throws caution to the wind.

throw cold water on something Go to pour cold water on something.

Throw dirt enough, and some will stick. Prov. If you persistently say bad things about someone, people will begin to believe your accusations, even if they are not true. (Sometimes mud is used instead of dirt.) □ One of the candidates in the election kept accusing the other one of having cheated on his income tax, and eventually the voters believed it. As they say, throw dirt enough, and some will stick.

throw down the gauntlet Fig. to challenge someone to an argument or to (figurative) combat. □ When Bob chal-
lenged my conclusions, he threw down the gauntlet. I was ready for an argument. □ Frowning at Bob is the same as throwing down the gauntlet. He loves to get into a fight about something.

**throw good money after bad** Fig. to waste additional money after wasting money once. □ I bought a used car and then had to spend $300 on repairs. That was throwing good money after bad. □ The Browns are always throwing good money after bad. They bought an acre of land that turned out to be swamp, and then had to pay to have it filled in.

**throw in the sponge** Go to next.

**throw in the towel and throw in the sponge; toss in the sponge** Fig. (From boxing, where this is done by a boxer’s trainer to stop the fight.) to signal that one is going to quit; to quit. □ When John could stand no more of Mary’s bad temper, he threw in the towel and left. □ Don’t give up now! It’s too soon to throw in the sponge.

**throw in with someone** to join with someone; to join someone’s enterprise. □ I will throw in with you and we can all go hunting together. □ Do you mind if I throw in with you?

**throw insults (at someone)** Go to hurl insults (at someone).

**throw money at something** Fig. to try to solve a problem by indiscriminately spending money on it. □ This agency has thrown money at the housing problem, but it has been nothing but a long-term disaster. □ Don’t just throw money at it.

**throw one off one’s game** Go to off one’s game.

**throw one out on one’s ear** Fig. to remove someone from a place forcibly. □ Straighten up, or I’ll throw you out on your ear. □ The caretaker caught us and threw us out on our ear.

**throw one’s hands up† (in despair) 1.** Lit. to make a gesture of throwing up one’s hands indicating futility, despair, finality, etc. □ He threw his hands up in despair and walked away. □ She threw up her hands and fled. 2. Fig. to give up in despair. □ John threw his hands up in despair because they wouldn’t let him see his brother in the hospital. □ Don’t give up! Don’t just throw up your hands!

**throw one’s hands up† in horror** Fig. to be shocked and horrified. □ When Bill heard the bad news, he threw his hands up in horror. □ I could do no more. I had seen more than I could stand. I just threw up my hands in horror and screamed.

**throw one’s hat in the ring** Go to toss one’s hat into the ring.

**throw one’s voice** to project one’s voice so that it seems to be coming from some other place. □ The ventriloquist threw his voice. □ Jane can throw her voice, so I thought she was standing behind me.

**throw one’s weight around** Fig. to attempt to boss people around; to give orders. □ The district manager came to our office and tried to throw his weight around, but no one paid any attention to him. □ Don’t try to throw your weight around in this office. We know who our boss is.

**throw oneself at someone and fling oneself at someone** Fig. to give oneself willingly to someone else for romance. □ I guess that Mary really likes John. She practically threw herself at him when he came into the room. □ Everyone could see by the way Tom flung himself at Jane that he was going to ask her for a date.

**throw oneself at someone’s feet 1.** Lit. to bow down humbly at someone’s feet; to prostrate oneself before someone. □ In his guilt and horror, he threw himself at the feet of his master and begged forgiveness. 2. Fig. to beg someone’s mercy, forgiveness, blessing, etc. □ I throw myself at your feet and await your command. I’m your slave!

**throw oneself on the mercy of some authority and throw oneself on the mercy of some authority; throw oneself (upon) someone’s mercy** Fig. to seek mercy from a court of law, especially at one’s sentencing for a crime; to seek help from an official or institution. □ He pleaded guilty and threw himself at the mercy of the court. □ It did no good to throw myself on the mercy of the State Department. □ Please don’t! I throw myself upon your mercy!

**throw oneself into something 1.** Lit. to jump into something, such as a body of water. □ He stood on the bridge and threw himself into the river because he was unhappy with life. 2. Fig. to dress in something hurriedly. □ She threw herself into the dress. □ He just threw himself into his tux and ran on stage. 3. Fig. to enter into or join something eagerly and wholeheartedly. □ Todd always threw himself into a project from start to finish. □ She threw herself into the project and helped immensely.

**throw oneself on the mercy of some authority** Go to throw oneself at the mercy of some authority.

**throw people together** to bring or put two or more people together. □ The crisis throw complete strangers together, and they became fast friends before it was over. □ They were thrown together by fate.

**throw (some) light on something** Go to shed (some) light on something.

**throw someone off** Fig. to confuse someone. □ You threw me for a minute when you asked for my identification. I thought you recognized me. □ The question the teacher asked was so hard that it threw me, and I became very nervous.

**throw someone a curve 1.** Lit. to pitch a curveball to someone in baseball. (See pitch someone a curve(ball).) □ The pitcher threw John a curve, and John swung wildly against thin air. □ During that game, the pitcher threw everyone a curve at least once. 2. Fig. to confuse someone by doing something tricky or unexpected. □ When you said “house” you threw me a curve. The password was supposed to be “home.” □ John threw me a curve when we were making our presentation, and I forgot my speech.

**throw someone for a loop** Go to knock someone for a loop.

**throw someone for a loss** to cause someone to be uncertain or confused. (Often passive.) □ The stress of being in front of so many people throw Ann for a loss. She forgot her speech. □ It was a difficult problem. I was thrown for a loss for an answer.

**throw someone in the drink** Go to in the drink.

**throw someone off** to interrupt and confuse someone; to mislead someone. □ The interruption threw me off, and I
throw someone off balance

lost my place in the speech. □ Little noises throw me off. Please try to be quiet. □ Your comment threw me off.

throw someone off balance 1. Lit. to cause someone to falter (and probably fall). □ The cyclist bumped into me and threw me off balance. □ I was thrown off balance by the gust of wind. 2. Fig. to confuse or disorient one. □ Your last question sort of threw me off balance. □ The teacher was thrown off balance by the students’ difficult questions.

throw someone off the track 1. and throw someone off the trail Lit. to cause someone to lose the trail (when following someone or something. See also put someone off the track). □ The raccoon threw us off the track by running through the creek. □ The robber threw the police off the trail by leaving town. 2. Fig. to cause one to lose one’s place in the sequence of things. □ The interruption threw me off the track for a moment, but I soon got started again with my presentation. □ Don’t let little things throw you off the track. Concentrate on what you’re doing.

throw someone off the track Go to previous.

throw someone or an animal off (of) something and throw someone or an animal off² to divert or confuse someone or an animal away from something, such as the scent, track, or trail. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ She put a little detail in her story to throw the cops off of her trail. □ The diversion threw off the investigation.

throw someone or something around² to toss or cast someone or something around. □ The belligerent fellow at the bar threatened to throw me around a little if I didn’t get out of his way. □ Don’t throw around your empty cans.

throw someone or something aside¹ 1. Lit. to cast someone or something to the side. □ He threw his child aside just as the car was about to run him down. □ Don’t just throw aside the wrapper! 2. Fig. to get rid of someone or something. □ He threw his wife aside and took up with a younger woman. □ Don’t throw aside material that might still be useful.

throw someone or something back¹ to return someone or something by tossing. □ The sailor climbed out of the water and his mates grabbed him and threw him back. That was their idea of fun. □ Karen threw back the undersize fish.

throw someone or something in¹ Go to throw someone or something into something.

throw someone or something into confusion to cause people or a process to become confused, aimless, or disorderly. □ She made her entrance early and threw everyone onstage into confusion. □ The judge’s surprise ruling threw the courtroom into confusion.

throw someone or something into something and throw someone or something in¹ to cast or hurl someone or something into something. □ The cops threw Max into jail again. □ The warden opened the cell door and threw him in the prisoner. □ We threw the aluminum cans in the bin.

throw someone or something off (of) something and throw someone or something off² to cast someone or something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The character in the movie wanted to throw the heroine off a cliff. □ He went to the middle of the bridge and threw off the gun used in the shooting.

throw someone or something on(to) something to hurl someone or something onto something. □ The intruder threw Jason onto the floor and began to kick him. □ He threw the book on the floor and stalked out.

throw someone or something out of something and throw someone or something out² to eject someone or something from something or a place. □ The intruder tried to throw Walter out of the window. □ He went to the window and threw out Walter.

throw someone or something over someone or something to toss someone or something over someone or something; to lay someone or something across someone or something. □ The wrestler picked his opponent up and threw him over the referee. □ He threw his opponent over the ropes.

throw someone out of something and throw someone out² to force a person to leave a place or an organization. □ John behaved so badly that they threw him out of the party. □ I was very loud, but they didn’t throw me out.

throw someone over to end a romance with someone. □ Jane threw Bill over. I think she met someone she likes better. □ Bill was about ready to throw her over, so it’s just as well.

throw someone over¹ for someone else to break up with a lover in order to take another lover. □ Sarah threw Jason over for Larry. □ She threw over Jason for Walter.

throw someone’s name around Fig. to impress people by saying you know a famous or influential person. □ You won’t get anywhere around here by throwing the mayor’s name around. □ When you get to the meeting, just throw my name around a bit, and people will pay attention to you.

throw someone to the dogs Fig. to abandon someone to enemies or evil. □ He served the evil empire well, but in the end, they threw him to the dogs.

throw someone to the wolves Fig. to sacrifice someone to save the rest; to abandon someone to harm. (Fig. on the image of giving one person to the wolves to eat so the rest can get away.) □ Don’t try to throw me to the wolves. I’ll tell the truth about the whole affair! □ The investigation was going to be rigorous and unpleasant, and I could see they were going to throw someone to the wolves.

throw something across someone or something to toss or spread something, such as a blanket, over someone or something. □ Tom threw a blanket across Martha. □ Tom threw a blanket across his knees.

throw something across something to toss something over something, from one side of it to the other. □ Can you throw this stone across the river? □ Walter threw the ball across the court to Michael.

throw something at someone or something to toss or cast something at someone or something. □ The boy threw a rock at his sister. □ He threw the stone at the target.

throw something away¹ to toss something out; to dispose of something. □ Should I throw this away? □ Don’t throw away anything that might be useful.

throw something away¹ on someone or something to waste something on someone or something. □ I won’t throw any more money away on your brother-in-law. □ I’ve thrown away too much money on that project.
throw something back 1. Sl. to eat or drink something quickly. ² He threw a beer back and got up and left. ² He threw back a beer.

throw something back at someone 1. Fig. to return a problem or difficulty to the person from whom it came. ² He said that the problem was mine alone, and he threw it back at me. ² I tried to get someone else to take care of it, but it was thrown back at me.

throw something back to someone 1. Lit. to return something to someone by throwing. ² Liz threw the ball back to Kelly. ² She threw back the ball. 2. Fig. to return a problem to someone. ² I can’t do anything about this. I’ll throw it back to Roger. ² Karen threw back the problem to Roger, who had caused it.

throw something down 1. to cast something down onto the ground; to cast something to a lower level. ² Dave took one look at the box and threw it down. ² He threw down the box.

throw something down something to hurl something downward through something, such as a stairway, a duct, a drain, a hole. ² Max threw the weapon down the storm sewer. ² Someone threw the bucket down the well.

throw something in 1. Go to throw something into the bargain.

throw something into sharp relief Fig. [for something] to make something plainly evident or clearly visible. ² The dull, plain background threw the ornate settee into sharp relief. ² The red vase was thrown into sharp relief against the black background.

throw something in(to) someone’s face 1. Lit. to hurl or splash something into someone’s face. ² Jerry got mad at Bob and threw his drink into Bob’s face. ² He threw the pie in Ken’s face. 2. Fig. to confront someone with a problem or criticism. ² Jerry caused this mess. I’ll just throw the whole problem into his face and tell him to fix it. ² It’s her fault. Just throw this problem in her face and make her deal with it.

throw something into the bargain and include something in the bargain; throw something in to include something extra in a deal. ² To encourage me to buy a new car, the car dealer threw a free radio into the bargain. ² If you purchase three pounds of chocolates, I’ll throw one pound of salted nuts into the bargain. ² She threw in a free calendar.

throw something off 1. Lit. to cast something, such as a coat, off one’s body. ² He threw his jacket off and dived into the icy water. ² He threw off his jacket. 2. Fig. to resist or recover from a disease. ² It was a bad cold, but I managed to throw it off in a few days. ² I can’t seem to throw off my cold. I’ve had it for weeks. 3. Fig. to emit or give off an odor. ² The small animal threw a strong odor off. ² The flowers threw off a heavy perfume.

throw something on someone or something to toss or sling something over or onto someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) ² Mommy, Jimmy threw some mud on me! ² Throw a cloth on the sofa to protect it from paint spatters.

throw something to someone or something to toss something to someone or something. ² Throw the ball to me! ² Gary threw a bit of meat to the dog to quiet it.

throw something together and slap something together 1. to assemble or arrange something in haste. ² Don’t just slap something together! Use care and do it right. ² You assembled this device very badly. It seems that you just slapped it together. ² John went into the kitchen to throw together something for dinner.

throw something up 1. to build or erect something in a hurry. ² They sure threw that building up in a hurry. ² They threw up the building in only a few weeks. 2. to vomit something. ² Poor Wally threw his dinner up. ² He threw up his dinner.

throw something up to someone to confront someone with something. ² I threw the whole matter up to her, but she had nothing to say about it. ² I can’t figure out what to do. I will just throw the whole business up to the boss.

throw something up to someone or something to cast something upward to someone or something. ² Gary threw a hammer up to the top of the porch roof where Ted could get it. ² Please throw a can of lemonade up to me.

throw the baby out with the bathwater Fig. to dispose of the good while eagerly trying to get rid of the bad. (Fig. on the image of carelessly emptying a tub of both the water inside as well as the baby that was being washed.) ² In her haste to talk down a project that had only a few disagreeable points, she has thrown the baby out with the bathwater. ² Hasty action on this major spending bill will result in throwing out the baby with the bath.

throw the book at someone Fig. to charge or convict someone with as many crimes as is possible. ² I made the police officer angry, so he took me to the station and threw the book at me. ² The judge threatened to throw the book at me if I didn’t stop insulting the police officer.

throw the bull and throw the crap 1. Fig. to chat; to boast. (Use caution with crap.) ² Tom could really throw the bull and sound right as rain. ² You’re just throwing the crap. Can it!

throw the crap See previous.

throw up to vomit. ² I was afraid I would throw up, the food was so horrible. ² This food is bad enough to make you throw up.

throw up one’s toenails Sl. to vomit heavily. ² I was so sick. I nearly threw up my toenails. ² Frank was in the bathroom, throwing up his toenails.

thrust and parry Fig. to enter into verbal combat [with someone]; to compete actively [with someone]. (Fig. on the sport of fencing.) ² I spent the entire afternoon thrusting and parrying with a committee of so-called experts in the field of insurance. ² I do not intend to stand here and thrust and parry with you over a simple matter like this. Let’s get someone else’s opinion.

thrust out to stick out; to stab outward; to protrude outward. ² A deck thrust out from the back of the house, offering a lovely view of the stream far below. ² As he grew angrier, his chin thrust out farther and farther.

thrust someone or something against someone or something to drive or shove someone or something against someone or something. ² The force of the crash thrust Liz against Tiffany. ² The crash thrust Liz against the car door.
thrust someone or something aside to push someone or something out of the way or to one side. □ Walter thrust Fred aside and dashed by him into the room. □ He thrust aside Fred and came into the room.

thrust someone or something away from someone or something to push or throw someone or something away from someone or something. □ The guards thrust the spectators away from the path the rock star was taking. □ They thrust away the spectators from the star.

thrust someone or something back to push someone or something backward and away. □ Tom moved forward, but the guard thrust him back. □ He thrust back the door, which had closed on his foot.

thrust someone or something through to drive or push someone or something through something. □ I thrust Larry through the open door and followed along quickly. □ Ann thrust the wad of papers through the opening.

thrust something at someone or something to stab at someone or something with something. □ The goat thrust its head at the dog. □ Ann thrust the pencil at the balloon and popped it.

thrust something down to jab or stab something downward. □ Max thrust the knife down and speared a piece of chicken. □ He thrust down the fork like a spear.

thrust something down something to jab or stab something down into something. □ The keeper quickly thrust the medicine down the lion’s throat. □ The chimney sweep thrust his brush down the chimney.

thrust something forward to jab something forward. □ She thrust her jaw forward and walked into the room. □ Roger thrust his hand forward just in time to stop the child from crossing the street.

thrust something into someone or something and thrust something in to stab or run something into someone or something. □ The knight thrust his lance into the villain. □ He thrust in his knife.

thrust through something to drive or push through something forcefully. □ The front end of the car thrust through the side of the house. □ The stock clerk’s knife thrust through the box, tearing the packages of noodles inside.

thrust up through something to stick or stab upward through something. □ The tallest of the trees thrust up through the canopy of leaves far overhead. □ We heard a ripping sound and saw the tent pole thrust up through the top of the tent.

thud against someone or something to thump against someone or something, making a dull noise on impact. □ The pumpkin thudded against Jerry, breaking open and messing up his clothes. □ The ball thudded against the wall and bounced back.

thud into someone or something to bump into someone or something, making a dull noise on impact. □ The door blew open and thudded into Marie, giving her a bump on the knee. □ The ball thudded against the side of the house.

thumb a ride and hitch a ride to get a ride from a passing motorist; to make a sign with one’s thumb that indicates to passing drivers that one is asking for a ride. □ My car broke down on the highway, and I had to thumb a ride to get back to town. □ Sometimes it’s dangerous to hitch a ride with a stranger.

thumb one’s nose at someone or something 1. Lit. to show a sign of derision at someone or something by placing the thumb to the side of the nose. (Often while wiggling the other fingers of the hand.) □ Don’t thumb your nose at me unless you want a fight. □ Fred thumbed his nose at the car as it drove off.

thumb through something and leaf through something to look through a book, magazine, or newspaper, without reading it carefully. □ I’ve only thumbed through this book, but it looks very interesting. □ I leafed through a magazine while waiting to see the doctor.

a thumbnail sketch a brief or small picture or description. □ The manager gave a thumbnail sketch of her plans.
□ The student wrote a thumbnail sketch of his project.

thumbs down 1. a sign of disapproval. □ The board gave our proposal a thumbs down. □ The administration’s tax bill got a thumbs down in Congress. 2. approving; positive. □ The new filtration plant got a thumbs-up decision at the board meeting. A thumbs-up vote assured another three years of financial assistance.

thump on someone or something to pound on someone or something. □ Tim was angry with Roger and thumped on him a little, but decided to forgive him. □ Andy thumped on the bass drum for an hour.

thump something down to throw something down so it makes a pounding noise. □ Nancy thumped the parcel down and caught her breath. □ She thumped down the parcel.

thump something out (on the piano) to pound out music on a piano. □ Joel thumped a happy tune out on the piano. □ He thumped out a well-known tune.

thunder across something Fig. to move across something, making a rumbling sound. □ The jets thundered across the sky, heading for their home base. □ As the race car thundered across the track, people strained to get a better view.

thunder past someone or something Fig. to move past someone or something, rumbling. □ As the traffic thundered past, I wondered why there was so much of it. □ The train thundered past the sleeping town.

thunder something out Fig. to respond with words spoken in a voice like thunder. □ He thundered the words out so everyone could hear them. □ He thundered out the words.

tick away [for seconds or minutes] to go by as the clock ticks. □ The seconds ticked away as the fateful time got closer. □ As time ticked away, the surgeons worked feverishly to repair the walls of Roger’s heart.

tick someone off to make someone angry. □ That really ticks me off! □ Doesn’t that tick off everyone?
ticked (off) angry. □ Wow, was she ticked off? □ Kelly was totally ticked.

ticket someone for some place to supply a ticket for someone to go to some place. □ The airlines clerk ticketed me for Houston and checked in my baggage. □ I was ticketed for both flights, saving me some time.

tickle someone pink Fig. to please or entertain someone very much. □ Bill told a joke that really tickled us all pink. □ I know that these flowers will tickle her pink.


tickle someone’s fancy to interest someone; to make someone curious. □ I have an interesting problem here that I think will tickle your fancy. □ This doesn’t tickle my fancy at all. This is dull and boring.

tickle someone to death 1. Fig. to tickle someone a great deal. □ Bobby nearly tickled Tim to death. Tim was left breathless. □ We got him down and tickled him to death. 2. and tickle someone to pieces Fig. to please someone a great deal. (See also tickle someone pink.) □ What you told her just tickled her to death! □ That story just tickles me to pieces.

tickle the ivories to play the piano. □ I used to be able to tickle the ivories real nice. □ She sat down to tickle the ivories for a while.

tickled pink Fig. very much pleased or entertained. □ I was tickled pink to have you visit us. □ She was tickled pink when your flowers arrived.


tide someone over1 (until something) to supply someone until a certain time or until something happens. □ Will this amount tide us over until next week? □ There is enough food here to tide over the entire camp until next month. □ Yes, this will tide us over.

the tide turned 1. Lit. the tide changed from high tide to low tide or vice versa. □ The tide turned before the ship had sailed out of the harbor. 2. Fig. the trend changed from one thing to another. □ We planned our investments to take advantage of the growth of the stock market. Then the tide turned and we lost buckets of money.

tidy something up1 to clean something up; to make something more orderly. □ Please tidy this room up. □ I’ll tidy up the kitchen later.

tidy up to clean up [oneself or a place]. □ Please tidy up. This place is a mess. □ Please tidy up. You are a mess.

tie in (with someone or something) to join with someone or something; to connect with someone or something. (See also tie in with something.) □ I would like to tie in with you and see if we can solve this together. □ We would like for you to tie in and share your expertise.

tie in with something [for a piece of information] to complement other information. □ These figures tie in with what I just said. □ The crime lab report ties in with our current theory.

tie in(to something) to fasten or connect to something. □ Can you fix it so my computer can tie into Rachel’s? □ This one will not tie into her computer.

tie it on Go to tie one on.

tie on the nose-bag Go to put the feed bag on.

tie one on and hang one on; lay one on; tie it on Sl. to get drunk. □ The boys went out to tie one on. □ They laid one on, but good.

tie someone down (to someone or something) Fig. to encumber someone with someone or something; to make someone responsible to or for someone or something. □ Please don’t tie me down to your uncle. Let your sister help out. □ Yes, don’t tie me down all week.

tie someone or something down1 to fasten someone or something down by tying or binding. □ The robbers tied Gary down so he couldn’t get up and get away. □ They tied down Gary.


tie someone or something into something and tie someone or something in† to seek to establish a connection between someone or something and something. □ The police tried to tie Sarah into the crime. □ They tried to tie in Liz, too.

tie someone or something to something to bind someone or something to something. □ The robber tied the clerk to a chair. □ I tied colored yarn to the birthday present.

tie someone or something up1 1. Lit. to bind someone or something securely. □ The sheriff tied the crooks up and took them to a cell. □ He tied up the bandit. □ I tied the package up and put a label on it. 2. Fig. to prevent someone from doing something. □ I’d like to help you, but my boss has tied my hands. □ Please don’t tie my hands with unnecessary restrictions. I’d like the freedom to do whatever is necessary.

tie someone to something Fig. to associate someone with something; to make a connection between someone and something. □ The police are trying to tie Lefty to the burglary. □ They’ll never tie me to that bunch of crooks! tie someone (up) in knots Fig. to become anxious or upset. □ John tied himself in knots worrying about his wife during her operation. □ This waiting and worrying really ties me up in knots.

tie something back1 to bind or fasten something back out of the way. □ George tied the curtains back to let a little more light in. □ Let me tie back the vines out of the way.

tie something in a knot to bend something, such as a rope, upon itself to make a knot. □ I ended up tying the rope in a knot. □ The rope was tied in a knot and no one could get it undone.

tie something off1 to tie the ends of something losing fluid, as blood vessels to prevent bleeding. □ The surgeons tied all the blood vessels off—one by one—as they were exposed. □ They tied off all the vessels very quickly.

tie something onto someone or something and tie something on1 to attach something to someone or something by tying or binding. □ I tied his house key onto him so he wouldn’t lose it. □ I tied on his gloves so he would not lose them.

tie something up1 1. Lit. to tie strings or cords on something in order to close or contain it. □ Please tie this pack-
tie the knot 1. Fig. to marry a mate. □ We tied the knot in a little chapel on the Arkansas border. □ They finally tied the knot. 2. Fig. [for a cleric or other authorized person] to unite a couple in marriage. □ It was hard to find somebody to tie the knot at that hour. □ It only took a few minutes for the ship's captain to tie the knot.

tie traffic up 1. Fig. to cause road traffic to stop. □ If you tie traffic up for too long, you'll get a traffic ticket. □ Please don't stop on the roadway. It'll tie up traffic.

tie up (some place) [for a skipper] to moor a ship or boat some place. □ We need to tie up some place for the night. □ The captain tied up at the dock and sent the first mate.

tie (with someone) (for something) to have the same score as someone for the prize in some contest. □ I tied with Joel for first place. □ I tied for the trophy with Joel.

tied down Fig. restricted by responsibilities. □ I love my home, but sometimes I don't like being tied down. □ I don't feel tied down, even though I have a lot of responsibility.

tied to one's mother's apron strings Fig. dominated by one's mother; dependent on one's mother. □ Tom is still tied to his mother's apron strings. □ Isn't he a little old to be tied to his mother's apron strings?

tied up Fig. busy. □ How long will you be tied up? □ I will be tied up in a meeting for an hour.

*tight as a drum 1. stretched tight. (Also: as ~.) □ Julia stretched the upholstery fabric over the seat of the chair until it was tight as a drum. □ The skin on his scalp is tight as a drum. 2. sealed tight. (Also: as ~.) □ Now that I've caulked all the windows, the house should be tight as a drum. □ Your butterfly died because the jar is as tight as a drum. 3. and *tight as Midas's fist very stingy. (Also: as ~.) □ He won't contribute a cent. He's as tight as a drum. □ Old Mr. Robinson is tight as Midas's fist. Won't spend money on anything.

*tight as a tick 1. very tight. (Fig. on the image of a tick swollen tight with blood or of a tick stuck tightly in someone's skin. Also: as ~.) □ This lid is screwed on tight as a tick. □ The windows were closed—tight as a tick—to keep the cold out. 2. intoxicated. (Fig. on full as a tick. Also: as ~.) □ The old man was tight as a tick but still lucid. □ The host got tight as a tick and fell in the pool. 3. [of a race] close, as if the racers are moving very closely together. (Also: as ~.) □ This election is as tight as a tick. 4. very friendly and close; as thick as thieves. (Also: as ~.) □ Those two are tight as a tick. They are always together.

*tight as Dick's hatband Fig. very tight. (Also: as ~.) □ I've got to lose some weight. My belt is as tight as Dick's hatband. □ This window is stuck tight as Dick's hatband.

tight as Midas's fist Go to tight as a drum.

tight as... tight as... compare tight race to tight up securely so I can mail it. □ Tie up your shoes! 2. Fig. to conclude and finalize something. (See also tie someone or something up.) □ Let's try to tie up this deal by Thursday. □ We'll manage to tie our business up by Wednesday at the latest. 3. Fig. to block or impede something, such as traffic or progress. □ The stalled bus tied traffic up for over an hour. □ The stalled bus tied up traffic.

tighten one's belt Fig. to manage to spend less money; to use less of something. (See also take one's belt in (a notch.) □ Things are beginning to cost more and more. It looks like we'll all have to tighten our belts. □ Times are hard, and prices are high. I can tighten my belt for only so long.

tighten something on(to) something to make something more tightly attached to something. □ Will you please tighten this nut onto the bolt? □ I tightened the lid on the pickle jar.

tighten something up 1. to make something tighter. □ Tighten your seat belt up. It looks loose. □ Can you tighten up all the bolts?

tighten up 1. Lit. [for something] to get tighter. □ The door hinges began to tighten up, making the door hard to open and close. □ His grip around the handle tightened up and he refused to let go. 2. Fig. [for someone or a group] to become miserly. □ The government tightened up and our budget was slashed. □ We almost went out of business when we couldn't get credit because the bank tightened up. 3. Fig. [for someone or something] to become more restrictive. □ The boss is tightening up on new hiring. □ There are more rules and the people who enforce them are tightening up.

tightfisted (with money) and closefisted (with money) Fig. very stingy with money. □ The manager is very closefisted with expenditures. □ My parents are very tightfisted with money.

till all hours (of the day and night) Go to all hours (of the day and night).

till hell freezes over Inf. forever. (Use caution with hell.) □ That's all right, boss; I can wait till hell freezes over for your answer. □ I'll be here till hell freezes over.

till kingdom come Fig. until the end of the world; forever. □ Do I have to keep assembling these units till kingdom come? □ I'll hate her guts till kingdom come.

Till next time. Go to Good-bye for now.

till the bitter end Go to to the bitter end.

till the fat lady sings and when the fat lady sings Fig. at the end; a long time from now. (Supposedly from a tale about a child—sitting through an opera—who asks a parent when it will be over. “Not until the fat lady sings” is the answer.) □ Relax. It won't be over till the fat lady sings. □ We can leave with everybody else when the fat lady sings.

Till we meet again. Go to Good-bye for now.

tilt at windmills Fig. to fight battles with imaginary enemies; to fight against unimportant enemies or issues. (As with the fictional character, Don Quixote, who attacked windmills.) □ Aren't you too smart to go around tilting at windmills? □ I'm not going to fight this issue. I've wasted too much of my life tilting at windmills.

tilt something back 1. to move something so it leans back. □ Alice tilted her chair back and nearly fell over. □ She tilted back her chair and relaxed.

tilt to something to lean or slant toward something or in a particular direction. □ The picture tilts to the left. □ Her head was tilted to the left because she was trying to see around the corner.
**Tilt toward** someone or something 1. *Lit* to lean toward someone or something. □ The table is tilting toward Roger. □ The old shed tilted toward the west. 2. Fig. to favor choosing someone or something; to lean toward doing something. □ I am tilting toward Roger for my assistant. □ I am tilting toward the red car, not the black one.

**Time after time** and **time and (time) again** repeatedly; over and over (again). □ You’ve made the same error time after time! Please try to be more careful! □ I’ve told you time and again not to do that. □ You keep saying the same thing over and over, time and time again. Stop it!

**Time and tide wait for no man.** Prov. Things will not wait for you when you are late. □ Hurry up or we’ll miss the bus! Time and tide wait for no man. □ Ellen: It’s time to leave. Aren’t you finished dressing yet? Fred: I can’t decide which necktie looks best with this shirt. Ellen: Time and tide wait for no man, dear.

**Time flies (when you’re having fun)** Fig. time passes very quickly. (From the Latin tempus fugit.) □ I didn’t really think it was so late when the party ended. Doesn’t time fly? □ Time simply flew while the old friends exchanged news.

*Time for* someone or something the time to deal with someone or something. (Often with the negative. *Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~; make ~; find ~.) □ I’m sorry, I don’t have time for you today. □ I don’t think I have time for a game of chess. □ I have time for one short game.

**Time hangs heavy on someone’s hands.** Prov. Time seems to go slowly when one has nothing to do. (Note the variations in the examples.) □ I don’t like it when time hangs so heavily on my hands. □ John looks so bored. Time hangs heavy on his hands.

**Time in** to record one’s arrival time. □ Did you remember to time in when you left work? □ I timed out at the regular time. 2. a call for officially stopping the clock in a game. □ Time out! Wally is injured!

**Time’s a-wastin’** Rur. Time is running out.; It is getting late. □ Hurry up! Time’s a-wastin’! □ How come you’re still in bed? Time’s a-wastin’!

**Time someone in** to record someone’s arrival time. □ I timed you in at noon. Where were you? □ My job is to time in people.

**Time someone out** to record someone’s departure time. □ Harry had to time everyone out because the time clock was broken. □ I had to time out everyone.

**Time to call it a day.** It’s time to quit for the day. □ Jane: Well, I’m done. Time to call it a day. Sue: Yes, let’s get out of here. □ Jane: Well, I’ve finished all my work. Sue: Yes: it’s late. Time to call it a day.

**Time to call it a night.** It’s time to quit one’s activities for the night. (Can refer to work or partying.) □ Bob: Wow, it’s late! Time to call it a night. Mary: Yes, it’s really dark! Good night. □ Fred: Gee, I’m tired. Look at the time! Jane: Yes, it’s time to call it a night.

*Time to catch one’s breath* Fig. enough time to relax or behave normally. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give one ~.) □ When things slow down around here, I’ll get time to catch my breath. □ Sally was so busy she didn’t even have time to catch her breath.

**Time was (when)** there was a time when; at a time in the past. □ Time was when old people were taken care of at home. □ Time was when people didn’t travel around so much.

**Time will tell.** Something will become known in the course of time. □ I don’t know if things will improve. Time will tell. □ Who knows what the future will bring? Only time will tell.

**Time works wonders.** Prov. The passing of time can resolve many problems. □ I thought I would never forgive my ex-husband for leaving me, but now, ten years later, I feel pretty well disposed toward him. Time works wonders. □ You’ll change your mind eventually. Time works wonders.

**Times are changing.** a response to a surprising piece of news from someone. □ Sue: They paid nearly five hundred thousand for their first house! Rachel: Well, I shouldn’t be so surprised. Times are changing, I guess. □ “Times are
Times change and we with time.

Times change and we with time. Prov. As time passes, people and situations change. □ Fill: Linda was such a conservative when we were in school; I don’t understand how she can be so liberal now. Jane: Times change and we with time.

Times change, people change. Prov. As time passes, different things become acceptable. □ Grandmother: In my day, no decent young woman would wear anything as immodest as what you’ve got on. Granddaughter: Times change, Grandma. □ Alan: When I was in business school, the practices you call good business were called dishonest. Fred: Yeah, well, times change, people change.

a tin ear Fig. a poor ear for music; a poor hearing ability when it comes to music and distinguishing pitches. □ I think I had better not try to sing along with you. I have a tin ear and would ruin your performance.

tinge something with something to give something a bit of the character, color, state of mind, light, etc., of something. □ The dust in the air had tinged the sunset with orange. □ The evening air was tinged with the smell of jasmine.

tinker (around) (with something) to meddle with something; to play with something, trying to get it to work or work better. □ Let me tinker around with it for a while and see if I can get it to work. □ Please don’t tinker with the controls.

the tip of the iceberg Fig. only the part of something that can be easily observed, but not the rest of it, which is hidden. (Referring to the fact that the majority of an iceberg is below the surface of the water.) □ The problems that you see here now are just the tip of the iceberg. There are numerous disasters waiting to happen.

tip one’s hand to reveal what one is going to do; to reveal one’s secrets. (From card playing.) □ I didn’t tip my hand at all. I left them guessing. □ They tried to get me to tip my hand.

tip over to topple over and fall. □ Roger shook the table slightly, and the vase tipped over. □ The truck was overloaded and looked so heavy that I thought it would tip over.

tip someone off! (about someone or something) and tip someone off (on someone or something) to give someone a valuable piece of news about someone or something. □ I tipped the cops off about Max and where he was going to be that night. □ I tipped off the mayor about the financial crisis.

tip someone over to cause someone to fall. □ Oh! You almost tipped me over! □ Todd fell against Maggie and tipped her over.

tip someone with something to pay a tip of a certain amount to someone. □ I tipped the headwaiter with a twenty or more if I can get it to work or work better. □ Let me tinker around with it for a while and see if I can get it to work. □ Please don’t tinker with the controls.

tip something over to cause something to fall over. □ Did you tip this chair over? □ Who tipped over the chair?

tip something up to tilt something so it dumps. □ Jason tipped the wheelbarrow up and dumped the dirt out. □ He tipped up the glass, dumping the orange juice on the table.

tip the scales at something to weigh a particular weight. □ Albert tips the scales at nearly 200 pounds. □ The champ weighed in and tipped the scales at 180.

tire of someone or something to grow weary of someone or something. □ She tired of him and left him. □ I am beginning to tire of the furniture in the living room.

tire out to become exhausted. □ I tire out easily. □ When I had the flu, I found that I tired out easily.

tire someone out! to exhaust someone. □ The extra work tired him out a lot. □ Too much work will tire out the horses.

'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Prov. Love is such an important experience that even the pain of losing someone you love is better than not having loved that person. (A line from Alfred Lord Tennyson’s poem, “In Memoriam A. H. H.”) □ Tom: I’ve been so miserable since Nancy and I broke up. I wish I’d never met her. Fred: Come on, now—’tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

tits and ass a public display of [the human female] breasts and buttocks. (Referring to television, film, and stage performances in which women breasts and buttocks or in which these body parts are emphasized or made prominent. Use caution with the expression. Fixed order.) □ We have a really fine choice on television tonight. There is brutal violence on channel 2, bloody horror on channel 5, and tits and ass on channel 10. □ Without tits and ass, many Broadway musicals would flop.

to a great extent Cliché mainly; largely. □ To a great extent, Mary is the cause of her own problems. □ I’ve finished my work to a great extent. There is nothing important left to do.

to and fro [of movement] toward and away from something. □ The puppy was very active—running to and fro—wagging its tail. □ The lion in the cage moved to and fro, watching the people in front of the cage.

be on the safe side to be safe; to be cautious; [to do something just] in case it is necessary; to be very well prepared. □ To be on the safe side, carry some extra money in your shoe. □ I like to be on the safe side and stay in my hotel room at night.

be safe to be cautious; to be careful; [to do something just] in case it is necessary; to be very well prepared. □ Just to be safe, you should take some extra water with you. □ Other people like to drive over the speed limit, but I prefer to be safe.

beat the band very briskly; very fast. □ He’s selling computers to beat the band since he started advertising. □ She worked to beat the band to get ready for this.

boot in addition. □ For graduation, I got a new suit and a coat to boot. □ She got an F on her term paper and flunked the final to boot.

date up to the present time. □ How much have you accomplished to date? □ I’ve done everything I’m supposed to have done to date.

die for Sl. important or desirable enough to die for; worth dying for. □ This chocolate cake is so good I might have to die for. □ We had a beautiful room at the hotel and the service was to die for.
To each his own. Prov. Each person has the right to make choices. □ A: Bob likes chopped prunes on ice cream! B: To each his own.

To err is human, to forgive divine. Prov. You should not be too harsh with someone who makes a mistake, because all human beings make mistakes. (Often used as a roundabout way to ask someone to forgive you for making a mistake.) □ Jill: How could you let my dog get out when I told you a hundred times that he should stay in the house? Ellen: To err is human, to forgive divine.

*to go 1. [of a purchase of cooked food] to be taken elsewhere to be eaten. (Typically: buy some food ~; get some food ~; have some food ~; order some food ~.) □ Let’s stop here and buy six hamburgers to go. □ I didn’t thaw anything for dinner. Let’s stop off on the way home and get something to go. 2. [of a number or an amount] remaining: yet to be dealt with. □ I finished with two of them and have four to go.

to have a hollow leg Fig. to have a great capacity or need for food or drink. □ Don’t you want to drive me down to school? John: To hell with that! □ Fred: Don’t you want to drive me down to school? John: To hell with that!

to hell and gone 1. Inf. very much gone; lost completely. (Use hell with caution.) □ All my hard work is to hell and gone. □ When you see everything you’ve planned to hell and gone, you get kind of angry. 2. Go to all over creation.

(To) hell with that! Inf. I reject that! (Very stern or angry. Use hell with caution.) □ Mary: I think we ought to go to the dance Friday night. Tom: To hell with that! □ Fred: Don’t you want to drive me down to school? John: To hell with that!

*to have no avail and of no avail Cliché with no effect; unsuccessful. □ All of my efforts were to no avail. □ Everything I did to help was of no avail. Nothing worked.

to one’s heart’s content Fig. as much as one wants. □ John wanted a week’s vacation so he could go to the lake and fish to his heart’s content. □ I just sat there, eating chocolate to my heart’s content.

to put it another way and put another way a phrase introducing a restatement of what someone, usually the speaker, has just said. □ Father: You’re still very young, Tom. To put it another way, you don’t have any idea about what you’re getting into. □ John: Could you go back to your own room now, Tom? I have to study. Put another way, get out of here! Tom: Okay, okay. Don’t get your bowels in an uproar!

*to put it mildly and put it mildly to understate something; to say something politely. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ She was angry at almost everyone—to put it mildly. □ To say she was angry is putting it mildly. □ To put it mildly, she was enraged.

to say nothing of someone or something not to even mention the importance of someone or something. □ John and Mary had to be taken care of, to say nothing of Bill, who would require even more attention. □ I’m having enough difficulty painting the house, to say nothing of the garage that is very much in need of paint.

to say the least at the very least; without overemphasizing the subject; to put it mildly. □ We were not at all pleased with her work—to say the least. □ When they had an accident, they were upset to say the least.

to some extent to some degree; in some amount; partly. □ I’ve solved this problem to some extent. □ I can help you understand this to some extent.

to someone’s liking fitting someone’s personal preferences. □ I had my house painted, but the job was not to my liking. □ Large meals with lots of fat are not to Bob’s liking.

to someone’s way of thinking in someone’s opinion. □ This isn’t satisfactory to my way of thinking. □ To my way of thinking, this is the perfect kind of vacation.

to the best of one’s ability as well as one is able. □ I did the work to the best of my ability. □ You should always work to the best of your ability.

to the best of one’s knowledge Go to as far as anyone knows.

to the bitter end and till the bitter end Fig. to the very end. (Originally nautical. This originally had nothing to do with bitterness.) □ I’ll stay till the bitter end. □ It took me a long time to get through school, but I worked hard at it all the way to the bitter end.

to the contrary and on the contrary as the opposite of what has been stated; contrary to what has been stated. □ The brown horse didn’t beat the black horse. To the contrary, the black one won. □ Among spiders, the male is not the larger one. On the contrary, the female is larger.

to the core all the way through; basically and essentially. (Usually with some negative sense, such as evil, rotten, etc.) □ Bill said that John is evil to the core. □ This organization is rotten to the core.

to the ends of the earth Fig. to the remotest and most inaccessible points on the earth. □ I’ll pursue him to the ends of the earth. □ We’ve explored almost the whole world. We’ve traveled to the ends of the earth trying to learn about our world.

to the last to the very end; to the conclusion. □ All of us kept trying to the last. □ It was a very boring play, but I sat through it to the last.

to the letter exactly as instructed; exactly as written. □ I didn’t make an error. I followed your instruction to the letter. □ We didn’t prepare the recipe to the letter, but the cake still turned out very well.

to the max Sl. as much as possible, maximally. □ She is happy to the max. □ They worked to the max their whole shift.

to the nth degree to the maximum amount. □ Jane is a perfectionist and tries to be careful to the nth degree. □ This scientific instrument is accurate to the nth degree.

to the tune of some amount of money Fig. to a certain amount of money. □ My checking account is overdrawn to the tune of $340. □ My wallet was stolen, and I’m out to the tune of $70.

To the victors belong the spoils. Prov. The winners achieve power over people and property. □ The mayor took office and immediately fired many workers and hired new ones. Everyone said, “To the victors belong the spoils.”

to whom it may concern Cliché to the person to whom this applies. (A form of address used when you do not know the name of the person who handles the kind of business you are writing about.) □ The letter started out,
to wit

“To whom it may concern.” □ When you don’t know who to write to, just say, “To whom it may concern.”

to wit namely; that is; that is to say. □ The criminal was punished; to wit, he received a 20-year sentence. □ Many students, to wit Mary, Bill, Sue, and Anne, complained about their teacher.

toady (up) to someone to fawn over someone; to try to flatter and impress someone. □ Carl is always toading up to people. □ He has never toaded to me!

Today here, tomorrow the world. Prov. Successful in this location now, with later recognition in the rest of the world. (Describes something whose influence seems certain to spread. The name of an appropriate locality is usually substituted for here.) □ I thought that silly fashion in clothes was unique to California, but it seems to be spreading. Today Los Angeles, tomorrow the world.

toddle along 1. to walk along in an unconcerned manner. □ Kathleen was just toddling along, minding her own business. 2. to walk away. □ Why don’t you toddle along now and let me get some work done?

toddle away and toddle off to walk away. □ Not even noticing what had happened, the old lady got up and toddled away. □ Sam toddled away, leaving us behind to explain things to the boss. □ Wally toddled off, leaving his dinner untouched. □ Don’t just toddle off when I’m talking to you!

toddle off Go to previous.

toe the line Go to next.

toe the mark and toe the line Fig. to do what one is expected to do; to follow the rules. □ You’ll get ahead, Sally. Don’t worry. Just toe the mark, and everything will be okay. □ John finally got fired. He just couldn’t learn to toe the line.

toil for someone 1. to work on behalf of someone or for someone’s benefit. □ I don’t mind toiling for her as long as she thanks me. □ I don’t know why I toil for you. You are totally ungrateful. 2. to do someone else’s work. □ I don’t know why I should have to toil for you. Do your own work! □ I won’t toil for him. He can do his own work.

toil for something 1. to work toward a particular goal or ideal. □ I am willing to toil for something I believe in. □ She spent the afternoon toiling for her favorite charity. 2. to work for a certain rate of pay. □ It’s hard to toil for slave’s wages. □ Do you expect me to toil endlessly for such low pay?

toil over someone or something to work hard on someone or something. □ The doctors toiled over the patient for hours. □ Ken toiled over his model plane well into the night.

toil up something to work hard to climb something steep. □ The hikers toiled up the slope slowly. □ As the bus toiled up the hill, we worried that the engine might be overheating.

Toing and froing (on something) moving back and forth on an issue, first deciding one way and then changing to another. □ The boss spent most of the afternoon toing and froing on the question of who was to handle the Wilson account. □ I wish you would stop toing and froing and make up your mind.

A token gesture an action or a decision that is so small or inconsequential as to be only symbolic. □ Offering to pay for my dinner was only a token gesture. That does little to make up for my inconvenience.


toll for someone [for a bell] to ring for someone. □ Who are the bells tolling for? □ The bells are tolling for Mr. Green, who died last night.

Tomorrow is another day. Prov. Things may improve tomorrow; tomorrow you will have a chance to solve the problems that are upsetting you today. (Often used to encourage someone to relax and wait until tomorrow to do or worry about something.) □ Child: This math homework is horrible! I can’t do it! Mother: Put it away for tonight and go to bed. You’ll be able to think more clearly when you’ve had some sleep, and tomorrow is another day.

Tomorrow never comes. Prov. When the day arrives that you are now calling “tomorrow,” you will call that day “today” and a different day will be called “tomorrow.” (Therefore, you should not resolve to do something tomorrow, since that day will never arrive.) □ Jill: When are you going to go to lunch with me? Jane: Tomorrow. Jill: Tomorrow never comes.

tone someone or something up to make someone or something stronger or more fit, musculously. □ I suggested an exercise that would tone him up and make him feel better. □ The exercises toned up his tummy muscles. □ I need to get busy and tone myself up.

tone something down to cause something to have less of an impact on the senses of sight or sound; to lessen the impact of something prepared for public performance or consumption. □ This is rather shocking. You had better tone it down a bit. □ Tone down this paragraph.

tongue-in-cheek Fig. insincere; joking. □ Ann made a tongue-in-cheek remark to John, and he got mad because he thought she was serious. □ The play seemed very serious at first, but then everyone saw that it was tongue-in-cheek, and they began laughing.

*a tongue-lashing Fig. a severe scolding. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I really got a tongue-lashing when I got home. □ Ted will have a tongue-lashing at home.

tons of something lots of something. □ We got tons of fried chicken, so help yourself. □ You are in tons of trouble.

too big for one’s britches Rur. too haughty for one’s status or age. □ Bill’s getting a little too big for his britches, and somebody’s going to straighten him out. □ You’re too big for your britches, young man! You had better be more respectful.

too close for comfort Cliché [for a misfortune or a threat] to be dangerously close. □ That car nearly hit me! That was too close for comfort. □ When I was in the hospital, I nearly died from pneumonia. Believe me, that was too close for comfort.

*too funny for words extremely funny. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Tom is usually too funny for words at parties. □ The joke Tom told was really too funny for words.
*too good to be true* almost unbelievable; so good as to be unbelievable. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.*) □ The news was too good to be true. □ When I finally got a big raise, it was too good to be true.

too little, too late Prov. Not enough help to save the situation, and arriving too late. □ After a lifetime of bad diet and no exercise, Lorna tried to save her health by improving her habits, but it was too little, too late. □ Fred: I know how to keep my business from going bankrupt. I’ll invest all my savings in it. Bill: I’m sorry, Fred; even that much would be too little, too late.

Too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Prov. Too many people want to be the leader, and not enough people are willing to follow to do the detail work. □ Everyone on that committee wants to be in charge. Too many chiefs and not enough Indians. □ We’ll never finish this project if everyone keeps trying to give orders. There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

Too many cooks spoil the broth. Go to next.

Too many cooks spoil the stew. and Too many cooks spoil the broth. Prov. Cliché Too many people trying to manage something simply spoil it. □ Let’s decide who is in charge around here. Too many cooks spoil the stew. □ Everyone is giving orders, but no one is following them! Too many cooks spoil the broth.

*too much* overwhelming; excellent. (*Typically: be ~; get to be ~.*) □ It’s wonderful. It’s just too much! □ You are so kind. This is too much.

too much of a good thing more of a thing than is good or useful. □ I usually take short vacations. I can’t stand too much of a good thing. □ Too much of a good thing can make you sick, especially if the good thing is chocolate.

too rich for someone’s blood 1. too expensive for one’s budget. □ This hotel is too rich for my blood. □ Europe is getting too rich for our blood. 2. too high in fat content for one’s diet. □ This dessert is too rich for my blood. □ Most ice cream is too rich for my blood.

tool around (in something) to go around in a car; to speed around in a car. □ Who is that kid tooling around in that souped-up car? □ Ann spends a lot of time tooling around in her new car.

tool something up† to equip a factory or production line with particular tools and machines, as for new products. □ The manager closed down the factory so she could tool it up for the new models. □ She toolled up the factory in record time.

tool up to become equipped with tools. □ I need some money so I can tool up to do the job. □ The factory toolled up to make the new cars in only two weeks.

toot one’s own horn Go to blow one’s own horn.

top brass the highest leader(s); the boss(es). (Originally military.) □ The top brass turned thumbs down on the proposal. □ You’ll have to check it out with the top brass. She’ll be home around five.

top notch the absolute best. (Hyphenated before a nominal.) □ Julie’s singing in the musical is top notch. □ He prepared a top-notch meal before the movie and dessert for afterward.

the top of the heap Fig. a position superior to everyone else. □ For some reason, Jerry has to be at the top of the heap. □ She fought her way to the top of the heap and means to stay there.

top someone or something to do or be better than someone or something. □ Ann has done very well, but I don’t think she can top Jane. □ Do you think your car tops mine when it comes to gas mileage?

top something off to add to the difficulty of something. □ Jane lost her job, and to top that off, she caught the flu. □ I had a bad day, and to top it off, I have to go to a meeting tonight.

top something off† (with something) 1. to end or terminate something with something; to put something on the top of something. □ They topped the building off with a tall flagpole. □ He topped off each piece of pie with a heap of whipped cream. 2. to celebrate an end to something with something. □ They topped the evening off with a bottle of champagne. □ They topped off the evening with a bottle of champagne.

top something up† to add a bit of something to replenish the amount that was used. □ Let me top your drink up. □ Can I top up your glass?

top something with something to decorate or finish something by adding something. □ They topped the new garage with a weather vane. □ Molly-Jo topped each sundae with a big red cherry.

top story and upper story Sl. the brain; one’s mind and intellect. □ A little weak in the upper story, but other than that, a great guy. □ He has nothing for a top story.

tobble down [for a stack of something] to crumble and fall down. □ The chimney toppled down in the earthquake. □ The woodpile toppled down during the night and scared us all to death.

tobble off (of) something and topple from something to fall off the top of something very tall. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Careful there! You might topple off of that wall. □ I didn’t get too close to the edge, because I was afraid of toppling off. □ She toppled off the wall. □ The vase toppled from its shelf in the quake.

tobble over [for something very tall] to fall over. □ I was afraid that Jimmy’s stack of blocks would topple over. □ The stack of books toppled over and ended up as a jumbled mess on the floor.

tobble something down† to cause a stack of something to crumble and fall down. □ The earthquake toppled the chimney down. □ The hurricane toppled down the weakest buildings.

tore (up) and torn (up) 1. Sl. distraught; emotionally upset. □ I knew you’d be tore up. □ Fred’s really torn up about the accident. 2. Sl. intoxicated. □ He wasn’t just drunk—he was massively tore up. □ Boy, was she tore.

torment someone into doing something to force someone to agree to do something through threats or maltreatment. □ You can’t torment me into doing something I don’t want to do! □ Alice was tormented into going on the picnic.

torn between someone and someone else and torn between something and something else Fig. uncertain whether to choose one or the other. □ I don’t know which
to take. I’m torn between Fred and Alice. □ I’m torn between red and green.

torn (up) Go to tore (up).

torture someone into something to force someone to do something through the use of torture. (More severe than torment someone into something.) □ The agents threatened to torture me into telling the secrets, so I gave in immediately, of course. □ Max tried to torture the old prospector into telling where the gold was hidden.

toss a salad to mix various salad ingredients together. □ The chef tossed the salad. □ I tossed the salad just before my guests arrived.

toss in the sponge Go to throw in the towel.

toss one’s cookies SL to vomit. □ Don’t run too fast after you eat or you’ll toss your cookies. □ Oh, I feel terrible. I think I’m going to toss my cookies.

toss one’s hat into the ring and throw one’s hat in the ring Fig. to announce that one is running for an elective office. □ Jane wanted to run for treasurer, so she tossed her hat into the ring. □ I won’t throw my hat into the ring until the last minute.

toss (someone) for something Fig. to decide with someone, by tossing a coin, who will get or do something. □ Let’s see who gets to go first. I’ll toss you for it. □ I’ll toss for it. □ Let’s toss for it.

toss someone or something around† to throw someone or something around. □ The waves tossed him around and almost dashed him on the rocks. □ The waves tossed around all the little boats.

toss someone or something aside† to throw someone or something aside or out of the way. □ The kidnapper tossed the child aside and reached for his gun. □ The soldier tossed aside the helpless civilian and ran into the house. □ Fred tossed the can aside and Alice picked it up.

toss someone or something away† to throw someone or something away; to discard someone or something. □ You can’t just toss me away! I’m your husband! □ She tossed away her husband of twenty years. □ She tossed the cigarette away.

toss someone or something back† 1. to throw or force someone or something backward. □ The blast tossed me back into the room. □ The blast tossed back the emergency personnel. 2. to throw someone or something back to where someone or something came from. □ My father always threatened to toss me back where I came from, the way a fish is returned to the water. □ I will toss back all the undersize fish.

toss someone or something off (of) something and toss someone or something off† to hurl someone or something from something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The gigantic ape was going to toss the woman off the Empire State Building. □ The ape did not toss off the woman.

toss someone or something out of something and toss someone or something out† to discard someone or something; to throw someone or something out of something or some place. □ The bartender tossed Walter out of the bar. □ The litterbug tossed out the empty can.

toss something around† Fig. to discuss something. □ I have a few things to discuss. Can we meet later and toss them around? □ We tossed around a few ideas after dinner.

toss something at someone or something to throw something at someone or something. □ Jimmy tossed an apple at Sarah to see what she would do. □ John tossed a stone at the wall.

toss something back and forth 1. Lit. [for two or more people] to toss something to each other alternately. □ Carol and Kelly tossed the ball back and forth for a few minutes. □ We will toss the ball back and forth until we get tired. 2. Fig. to trade remarks, quips, insults, etc. □ They tossed insulting remarks back and forth. □ Walter and David spent the evening tossing quips back and forth.

toss something down† Fig. to drink down a drink quickly. □ He tossed a beer down and left the bar. □ Sam tossed down a couple of shots.

toss something into something and toss something† to cast or throw something into something. □ He tossed the wood into the fire. □ He tossed in the wood.

toss something off† 1. Lit. to throw something off (of oneself). □ Bob coughed so hard he tossed his blanket off. □ Tom tossed off his jacket and sat down to watch television. 2. Fig. to ignore or resist the bad effects of something. □ John insulted Bob, but Bob just tossed it off. □ If I couldn’t toss off insults, I’d be miserable. 3. Fig. to produce something easily or quickly. □ I tossed that article off in only an hour. □ Joe just tossed off a few words and left the room. 4. Fig. to drink a drink very quickly. □ He tossed a few beers off and left. □ He tossed off a beer.

toss something together to assemble something hastily. (See also throw something together.) □ This report is useless. You just tossed it together! □ This meal was just tossed together, but it was delicious.

toss something up† to throw something upward to a higher place or up into the air. □ He tossed the coin up, calling “heads” and hoping for the best. □ He tossed up the coin.

total something up† to add up the total of something. □ Please total the bill up and let me see the cost. □ Total up the bill and give it to me.

total stranger Go to a perfect stranger.

totally awesome SL very, very impressive. □ His motorcycle is totally awesome. It must have cost a fortune.

tote something up† to add something up. □ The clerk toted the bill up and asked for an enormous sum. □ Tote up your expense report quickly and submit it to accounts payable.

touch a sore point Go to next.

touch a sore point and touch a sore point Fig. to refer to a sensitive matter that will upset someone. (Fig. on the notion of touching an injury and causing pain.) □ I seem to have touched a sore point. I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to upset you. □ When you talk to him, avoid talking about money. It’s best not to touch a sore point if possible.

touch at some place Fig. [for a ship or an airplane] to visit or call at a port. □ We touched at Aruba for about an hour. □ Our little boat touched at a number of different islands during the two-week cruise.

touch base (with someone) to talk to someone; to confer with someone briefly. □ I need to touch base with John
on this matter. □ John and I touched base on this question yesterday, and we are in agreement.

touch down [for an airplane] to come in contact with the ground; to land. □ Flight twelve is due to touch down at midnight. □ When will this plane touch down?

a touch of something 1. a mild case of some illness. □ I have a touch of the flu and need some more bed rest. 2. a little bit of something, particularly a small helping of food or drink. □ A: How about some more? What do you need? B: I’ll have just a touch of that meatloaf if there’s enough to go around.

touch on something Fig. to mention something; to talk about something briefly. □ In tomorrow’s lecture I’d like to touch on the matter of taxation. □ The teacher only touched on the subject. There wasn’t time to do more than that.

touch someone or something off Fig. to ignite or excite someone or something; to excite anger or chaos. □ She is very excitable. The slightest thing will touch her off. □ The appearance of the fox touched off a furor in the henhouse.

touch someone or something with something to bring something into contact with someone or something. □ Don’t touch me with that filthy stick! □ I touched the snake with a stick to make sure it was dead. □ Wherever he touched himself with the leaf, his skin blistered.

touch someone (up) for something Fig. to approach someone and ask for something; to beg or borrow something from someone. □ Jerry tried to touch me for twenty bucks, but I didn’t have it. □ It won’t do any good to touch me up for money. I don’t have any.

touch something to something to bring something into contact with something. □ She touched her hand to her ear to indicate to the speaker to talk louder. □ The magician touched his wand to the hat and a rabbit jumped out.

touch something up Fig. to fix up the minor flaws in something; to repair a paint job on something. □ It’s only a little scratch in the finish. We can touch it up easily. □ Tom touched up the scrape in the finish with a little paint.

touch (upon) something Fig. to mention something; to talk about something briefly. □ In tomorrow’s lecture I’d like to touch on the matter of taxation. □ The teacher only touched upon the subject. There wasn’t time to do more than that.

touch-and-go very uncertain or critical. □ Things were touch-and-go at the office until a new manager was hired. □ Jane had a serious operation, and everything was touch-and-go for two days after her surgery.

touched by someone or something Fig. emotionally affected or moved by someone or something. □ Sally was very nice to me. I was very touched by her. □ I was really touched by your kind letter.

touched (in the head) Rur. crazy. □ Sometimes Bob acts like he’s touched in the head. □ In fact, I thought he was touched.

a tough act to follow and a hard act to follow Fig. a difficult presentation or performance to follow or improve upon with one’s own performance. □ Bill’s speech was excellent. It was a tough act to follow, but my speech was good also. □ In spite of the fact that I had a tough act to follow, I did my best.

*touch as an old boot and *touch as old (shoe) leather 1. [of meat] very tough. (Also: as ~.) □ This meat is tough as an old boot. □ Bob couldn’t eat the steak. It was as tough as an old boot. 2. [of someone] very strong willed. (Also: as ~.) □ When Brian was lost in the mountains, his friends did not fear for him; they knew he was tough as leather. □ My English teacher was as tough as an old boot. 3. [of someone] not easily moved by feelings such as pity. (Also: as ~.) □ She doesn’t care. She’s as tough as old shoe leather. □ He was born tough as an old boot and has only grown more rigid.

tough as old (shoe) leather Go to previous.

tough break a bit of bad fortune. □ I’m sorry to hear about your accident. Tough break. □ John had a lot of tough breaks when he was a kid, but he’s doing okay now.

tough call a difficult judgment to make. □ It’s a tough call, but I choose Fred and Mary. Sorry Tom and Carole. □ We’re still undecided on whether to buy a place or rent—it’s a tough call.

tough cookie a person who is difficult to deal with. □ He’s a tough cookie, but I can handle him. □ There was a tough cookie in here this morning who demanded to see the manager.

tough cookies Go to tough luck.

tough customer Go to tough luck.

tough customer a someone who is difficult to deal with. □ Some of those bikers are really tough customers. □ Walt is a tough customer. Just keep away from him.

tough going progress that is difficult. □ It was tough going for the first few miles, but the trail became much easier as we got farther into the forest.

tough guy a strong and severe man; a man who might be part of the underworld. □ He was your typical tough guy—jutting chin, gruff voice—but he was just our decorator checking up on the drapes. □ So, you want to be a tough guy, huh?

tough luck and tough cookies That is too bad. (Said as a reply to someone relating an unfortunate situation.) □ Tough luck, but that’s the way the cookie crumbles. □ That’s too bad, tough cookies.

tough nut to crack Go to a hard nut to crack.

*tough on someone severe and demanding in dealing with someone. (Typically: act ~; be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ My boss is very tough on me, but I need the structure and discipline.

a tough row to hoe and a hard row to hoe Fig. a difficult task to carry out; a heavy set of burdens. □ It’s a tough row to hoe, but hoe it you will. □ This is not an easy task. This is a hard row to hoe.

tough sledding Go to hard sledding.

tough something out to carry on with something despite difficulties or setbacks. □ Sorry, you’ll just have to tough it out. □ I think I can tough this job out for another month.

tough times Go to bad times.

toughen someone or something up Fig. to cause someone or something to be stronger, more uncompromising, or more severe. □ A few days behind the service counter at the dis-
count store will toughen her up quickly. □ Having to deal with complaints toughened up the clerk quickly. □ She tried to toughen the skin on her palms up.

toughen up to become tougher, stronger, or more severe. □ She will toughen up after a while. You have to be tough around here to survive. □ You are going to have to toughen up if you want to play on the team.

tout someone or something around to promote and boost someone or something publicly. □ He is touting his favorite candidate around, hoping to get a few votes for her. □ Roger is touting his book around, trying to boost sales.

tout someone or something as something to present someone or something as a beneficial type of person or something. □ Joe touted his candidate as the best of all. □ Ann touted her medicine as a cure-all.

tout suite! right away; with all haste. (Pronounced “toot sweet.” From French toute de suite.) □ John: Come on, get this finished! Bob: I’m trying. John: Tout suite! Get moving! □ “I want this mess cleaned up, tout suite!” shouted Sally, hands on her hips and steaming with rage.

tow someone or something away1 to pull something, such as a car or a boat, away with another car, boat, etc. (The someone or something refers to the property of someone, not the person.) □ If I don’t get back to my car, they will tow me away. □ The truck towed away my car. □ A big truck came and towed the illegally parked car away.

tow someone or something into something and tow someone or something in1 to pull something, such as a car or a truck, into something, such as a garage. (The someone refers to the property of someone, not the person.) □ They had to tow my car into the garage to be repaired. □ They towed in my car.

tow someone or something out (of some place) to pull something, such as a car, out of something, such as a ditch. (The someone refers to the property of someone, not the person.) □ The farmer used his tractor to tow Andrew out of the ditch. □ He towed the car out of the ditch.

tow someone or something out (to something) to pull something, such as a boat, or someone in or on something out in the water, to something. (The someone refers to the property of someone, not the person.) □ Frank, who was on his surfboard, asked Tony to tow him out to the little island. □ We towed the raft out where the water is. We towed the raft out where the water is.

towel someone or something down1 to rub someone or something dry with a towel. □ The mother towelled her child down and dressed her in clean clothes. □ She towed down the child gently. □ Towel down the dog. He’s wet and shaking.

towel someone or something off1 to dry someone or something with a towel. □ The young mother towelled the baby off with a soft, warm towel. □ She towelled off the baby.

tower above someone or something to stand or be much taller than someone or something. (Often used in exaggeration.) □ The basketball player towered above everyone else in the room. □ The new building towered above all the others in town.

tower head and shoulders above someone or something 1. Lit. [for someone] to stand much taller than someone or something. (Often used in exaggeration.) □ Bob towers head and shoulders above both his parents. □ The boys towered head and shoulders above the walls of the maze. They found their way around easily. 2. Fig. to be far superior to someone or a group. □ The new vice president towers head and shoulders above the old one. □ The chairman towered head and shoulders above the rest of the committee.

a tower of strength Fig. a person who can always be depended on to provide support and encouragement, especially in times of trouble. □ Mary was a tower of strength when Jean was in the hospital. She looked after her whole family. □ Jack was a tower of strength during the time that his father was unemployed.

tower over someone or something to stand much taller than someone or something. □ Tom towers over his older brother, Stan. □ Tom towered over the little desk he had been assigned to.

town-and-gown the relations between a town and the university located within the town; the relations between university students and the nonstudents who live in a university town. (Usually in reference to a disagreement. Fixed order.) □ There is another town-and-gown dispute in Adamsville over the amount the university costs the city for police services. □ There was more town-and-gown strife reported at Larry’s Bar and Grill last Saturday night.

toy with someone to tease someone; to deal lightly with someone’s emotions. □ Ann broke up with Tom because he was just toying with her. He was not serious at all. □ Don’t toy with me! I won’t have it!

toy with something to play with something; to fiddle with something. □ You are just toying with me? □ Please don’t toy with the stereo controls.

trace around something to press something against paper and draw a line around the edges that are in contact with the paper. □ Trace around this piece of material and cut out a new pattern. □ If you trace around the edges carefully, you will end up with a good drawing of the outline.

trace over something 1. to draw over something lightly. □ Trace over the drawing to make it a little darker. □ I had to trace over it twice to make it visible. 2. to copy something by placing a thin sheet of paper over it and drawing an outline of the thing to be copied. □ Trace over this picture and then photocopy about ten copies for us all. □ This needs to be traced over again.

trace someone or something (back)1 (to someone or something) to trail or track the origin of someone or something back to someone or something. □ We traced her back to the car she had ridden in, but lost her trail at that point. □ We traced the letter back to her. □ See if you can trace back the check to its writer.

track someone or something down1 to search out where someone or something is. □ I don’t know where Anne is. I’ll try to track her down. □ I’ll track down Anne for you.

track something (all) over something to spread something everywhere in a place from the bottom of one’s shoes or feet. □ You’re tracking mud all over my house! □ Who tracked stuff over my carpet?

track something into some place and track something in1 to bring something, such as mud, into a place on the bottom of one’s shoes or feet. □ Please don’t track mud into the office. □ Don’t track in any mud!
track something up1 to mess something up by spreading around something dirty or messy with one’s shoes or feet. □ Please don’t track the floor up! □ Claire tracked up the floor.

trade at some place to buy and sell at some place; to shop at someplace. □ Do you trade at that store anymore? □ We don’t trade there because their prices are too high.

trade insults (with someone) to take turns with someone in mutual insulting. □ We traded insults with each other for a while and then settled down to some serious discussions of our differences.

trade on something to use a fact or a situation to one’s advantage. □ Tom was able to trade on the fact that he had once been in the army. □ John traded on his poor eyesight to get a seat closer to the stage.

a trade secret 1. Lit. a secret way of making or selling a product; a business secret. □ The exact formula of the soft drink is a trade secret. 2. Fig. any secret method. (Jocu.) □ A: How do you manage to sell so many of these each month? B: It’s a trade secret.

trade someone or something for someone or something to exchange someone or something for someone or something. □ I will trade you my old car in on a new one. □ I traded my old car in on a new one. □ I traded my old jalopy for a newer car.

trade something in’ (for something) and trade something in’ (on something) to return something, such as a car, to a place where cars are sold as partial payment on a new car. □ I traded my old car in on a new one. □ I traded in my old jalopy for a newer car.

trade something off1 1. Lit. to get rid of something in an exchange. □ I traded my car off. □ I traded my old car for a new one. 2. Fig. to sacrifice something in an exchange. □ You may end up trading job security off for more money. □ Don’t trade off your job security.

trade something with someone to exchange something with someone. □ Would you trade seats with me? I want to sit there. □ Can I trade books with you? This one is dull.

trade up from something to exchange a specific lower-level product for a higher-level product. □ I decided to trade up from my little car to a much larger one. □ I can’t afford what I have, let alone be able to trade up to anything.

trade up (to something) to exchange a lower-level product for a specific higher-level product. □ I would like to trade up to a more luxurious model. □ I would like to trade up.

trade with someone or something to do business with someone or something. □ I don’t like the owner of that shop. I won’t trade with him anymore. □ Thank you for trading with us all these years. □ We don’t trade with that company because their prices are too high.

traffic in something to deal in something; to trade in something, usually something illegal. □ Max had been trafficking in guns for years before they caught him. □ The president of the country was trafficking in drugs for years.

a traffic jam vehicle traffic that is so heavy and slow that it can no longer move. □ Going to the airport, we got stuck in a traffic jam for nearly an hour and missed our plane.

trail (along) (after someone or something) 1. to drag along after someone or something. □ His pants were torn, and a piece of his trouser leg trailed along after him. □ His trouser leg trailed after him. 2. to follow along after someone or something. □ A little dog trailed along after Mary and Karen. □ Is that your dog trailing along?

trail away Go to trail off.

trail behind (someone or something) 1. to follow or drag along behind someone or something. □ A long satin train trailed behind the bride. □ A long train trailed behind. 2. to move along behind someone or a group in a competition. □ Sally trailed behind the rest of the marathon runners. □ Roger trailed behind Dave during most of the race.

trail off and trail away to fade away, as with speech, words, singing, etc. □ Her voice trailed off as she saw who was waiting at the door. □ Ken’s words trailed away as he passed out.

trail over something to lie behind, flowing out over something. □ Her long gown trailed over the marble floor. □ The flowering vine trailed over the wall, making a lovely little garden area.

trail someone or something by something to have a smaller score than someone or something by a specific number of points. □ Our team trails the visiting team by only six points. □ I trailed her by only a few points.

train for something to practice or drill for some task. □ I am training for the marathon. □ We all have to train for the upcoming football season.

train one’s sights on something and have one’s sights trained on something Fig. to have something as a goal; to direct something or oneself toward a goal. (Alludes to someone using the sights of a gun to aim it. Note plural use of sights.) □ You should train your sights on getting a promotion in the next year. □ Lisa has her sights trained on a new car.

train someone in something to drill and practice someone in a particular skill or body of knowledge. □ Her mentor trained her in the art of argumentation. □ I will try to train you in the skills needed to perform this task.

train someone on something to educate someone in the use of something. □ We trained him on the high diving board, but he isn’t ready for competition yet. □ She trained herself on the computer so she could write a book.

train someone or an animal as something to educate someone or an animal to serve in a particular way. □ We trained him as a first-rate mechanic. □ I trained my cocker spaniel as a moderately effective watchdog.

train someone or an animal for something to educate someone or an animal for some purpose. □ His parents trained him for work in the family business. □ He was trained for factory work.

train something on someone, something, or an animal to aim something at someone, something, or an animal. □ Dave trained the spotlight on Fred, who was just coming out of the building. □ Train your lens on that bush. There is a deer back there.

train up to something to practice or drill up to a certain level of proficiency. □ I don’t have enough stamina for the
traipse around (some place) to walk or travel around some place. □ I spent all afternoon traipsing around town looking for just the right gift for Roger. □ She has been traipsing around all day.

traipse over and traipse in to go or arrive carelessly or thoughtlessly. □ He traipsed over and invited himself in. □ She came traipsing in at about midnight.

tramp across something to march or stamp across an area. □ The kids tramped across the yard and wore a path. □ Please don’t tramp across my garden.

tramp through something to march or stamp a passage through something. □ The kids tramped through every puddle in town on their way to school. □ Don’t tramp through every mud puddle you see.

trample someone or something down to crush down someone or something with the feet. □ Stay out of crowds at rock concerts. Those kids will trample you down if they get excited. □ The cows trampled down the stalks of corn.

trample someone or something to something to stomp or crush someone or something underfoot to the point of death or destruction. □ The elephant trampled the photographer to death. □ All the joggers trampled the grass to a muddy mess.

trample something out to create a pathway by marching or stamping the same trail over and over. □ The mail carriers have trampled a path out through my marigolds! □ Jim trampled out a path in my garden.

trample (up)on someone or something to crush someone or something underfoot. (Upon is formal and less common than on.) □ Please don’t trample upon the flowers! □ The bulls running through the streets trampled on some of the bystanders.

transcribe something from someone or something to write something down from an audible source. □ We transcribed the folktales from authentic storytellers. □ I transcribed the tale from an old phonograph recording.

transcribe something in something 1. to transliterate one alphabet into another. □ Can you translate these romanized Korean words into the Korean script? □ We had to transcribe the entire novel into Cyrillic. 2. to represent speech sounds in a phonetic transcription. □ The editor wanted the pronunciation transcribed in dictionary-style phonetics. □ It is much easier to transcribe the material in the International Phonetic Alphabet. 3. to write something down in something. □ Please transcribe this list of names in your notebook. □ I can’t read what is transcribed in my book.

transfer someone or something (from some place) (to some place) to move or relocate someone or something from one place to another. □ Her company transferred her from Houston to Los Angeles. □ We transferred the boxes from one place to another.

transfer someone or something to someone to reassign someone or something to someone. □ I transferred my secretary to Joel, who can get along with almost anyone. □ Ann transferred her car registration to her sister.

transfer something (from someone) (to someone else) to reassign something from one person to another. □ I have to transfer ownership of this car to my daughter. □ The title of the car was transferred from me to someone else.

transfer to something to have oneself reassigned to something. □ I am transferring to the accounting department. □ Andy wanted to transfer to a different school.

transform someone or something (from someone or something) (into) something to change someone or something from someone or something into something else. □ Time had transformed gangly little Rachel into a lovely young woman. □ Manners transformed Tom from a pest into a prince.

transgress against someone or something to make an offense against someone or something. (Stilted and formal.) □ I did not mean to transgress against you. □ We did not transgress against the rules of the college.

translate something (from something) (into) something to decode something from something, such as a language, to another. □ Will you please translate this from Russian into English? □ I can translate it into Russian from any Romance language.

transliterate something (from something) (into) something to decode something from one set of symbols to another. □ Donald transliterated the tale from Cyrillic script into Roman letters and still couldn’t read it aloud. □ Can you transliterate this from the original Bengali script into the Roman alphabet? □ I will transliterate this into Cyrillic.

transmit something (from some place) (to some place) to send or dispatch something from one place to another. □ Can you transmit a fax from your hotel to your office? □ I can transmit it to any place in the world.

transmit something to someone or something to send or dispatch something to someone or something. □ Please transmit this message to Rachel. □ I will transmit the message to my office.

transmute something (from something) (into) something to change something from one thing into another. □ Do you believe that it is possible to transmute gold into lead? □ No, you cannot transmute one metal into another.

transport someone or something (from some place) (to some place) to move or convey someone or something from one place to another. □ In his car, he transported us from our home to the airport. □ Please see that this box gets transported from here to the loading dock.

transpose something (from something) (into) something to change something, usually in music, from one musical key to another. □ Can you transpose this from F-sharp to a higher key? □ It would be easy to transpose it into a higher key.

trap someone in something to catch someone in an inconsistency or contradiction. □ The lawyer trapped the witness in his inconsistencies. □ She trapped herself in her own argument.

trap someone into something to get one into such a position that one has little choice but to do something unwanted. □ You’ll never trap me into going out with Roger! □ I was trapped into going there.
trap someone or something in something to catch someone or something in a trap. [Jed accidentally trapped Tex in his bear trap. Jerry trapped a rabbit in his trap.

cross something to make a journey across something or some place. [We have to travel across the desert to get there. I do not want to travel across that rickety bridge on the way back.

cross a mile a minute Go to a mile a minute.

cross something to make a journey across something or some place. [We have to travel across the desert to get there. I do not want to travel across that rickety bridge on the way back.

cross at a fast clip Go to at a fast clip.

cross at a good clip Go to at a good clip.

Travel broadens the mind. Prov. When you travel, you learn things about the people and places you see. [Marie: I never realized how well-off most Americans are until I visited India. Jane: So it’s true that travel broadens the mind, huh? Everyone who gets the chance should go abroad.

Travel by something 1. to make a journey, using a particular conveyance. [I will go by train, since I don’t like to travel by plane. [We traveled by car, since that is the cheapest.

Travel by something 2. to make a journey under particular conditions. I don’t ever travel by night. [We like to travel by day so we can see the scenery.

Travel for someone or something to go from place to place selling for someone or a company. [Walter travels for his uncle, who runs a toy factory. [She travels for a company that makes men’s clothing.

Travel in a body Go to in a body.

Travel off the beaten path Go to the beaten path.

Travel on something 1. to make a journey on a particular conveyance. Do you like to travel on the train? I do not care to travel on the bus.

Travel on something 2. to travel having certain bodily states, such as on an empty stomach, on a full stomach. I hate traveling on a full stomach. I can’t stand to travel on a full stomach.

Travel over something 1. to go over something as part of a journey. We had to travel over an old bridge over the Mississippi to get to my sister’s house. We will travel over a long narrow strip of land to get to the marina.

Travel over something 2. to travel widely over a great area. She spent the summer traveling over Europe.

Travel through something 1. to make a journey through some area or country. We will have to travel through Germany to get there. Do you want to travel through the desert or through the mountains?

Travel through something 2. to make a journey through some kind of weather condition. I hate to travel through the rain.

Travel with someone 1. to associate with someone; to move about in association with someone. She travels with a sophisticated crowd. I am afraid that Walter is traveling with the wrong group of friends.

Travel with someone 2. to make a journey with someone. Do you mind if I travel with you? Who are you going to travel with?

Travel with something to have something with one as one travels. I always travel with extra money. I hate to travel with three suitcases. That is more than I can handle.

Trend toward something to move gradually toward something. Fashions are trending toward the gaudy and flamboyant. Attitudes are trending toward the more conservative.

The jury’s verdict was a travesty of justice. The lawyer complained that the judge’s ruling was a travesty of justice.

Travel on someone’s toes Go to step on someone’s toes.

Travel (upon) someone or something to walk or step on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on. Step is more common than tread.) Don’t tread on Sam, who is napping under the tree. Please don’t tread on the freshly shampooed carpeting on the stairs.

Travel a mile a minute. Go to a mile a minute.

The tree is known by its fruit. Prov. People judge your character by what you do. The doctor treated me for the flu with aspirin. It didn’t work, but it was cheap. They treated him for his broken bones. Ann treated him with the appropriate therapy.

Travel somethingsomeone to deal with someone or something as something. Please don’t treat me as a guest. You treat the editorial board as a needless barrier.

Travel someone to deal with someone or something as if the person or thing were really someone, a type of a person, or something. I like him. He treats me like a king. He treats Jane like Mary—he ignores them both.

Travel to deal with some- thing for someone as a gift or as entertainment. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Travel to deal with something. As a guest.

Tremble at something to shake with fear or anticipation at the thought of something. The children trembled with fear during the storm. [David trembled with rage when he saw his slashed tires.

Tremble at something to shake with fear or anticipation at the thought of something. The children trembled with fear during the storm. [David trembled with rage when he saw his slashed tires.

Tremble from something to shake or vibrate in response to something like an explosion or an earthquake. [House trembled from the blast. I could feel the bridge trembling from the minor earthquake that I was hearing about on the radio.

Tremble with something to tremble because of something. The children trembled with fear during the storm. [David trembled with rage when he saw his slashed tires.

Trend toward something to move gradually toward something. Fashions are trending toward the gaudy and flamboyant. Attitudes are trending toward the more conservative.

A travesty of justice a miscarriage of justice; an act of the legal system that is an insult to the system of justice.
trick something into (doing) something to fool someone; to deceive someone; to cheat someone. □ The thief tricked John into giving him $10. □ Mary tricked her friends into paying for her dinner.

trick someone out of something and trick something out of someone to get something from someone by trickery. □ You can't trick me out of my money. I'm not that dumb! □ Stay alert so that no one tricks you out of your money. □ They tricked the information out of Bob.

trickle away [for a liquid] to seep or dribble away. □ All the water trickled away down the drain. □ After the last of the spilled milk had trickled away, Timmy began to cry.

trickle down (to someone or something) 1. Lit. [for a liquid] to seep or dribble downward to reach someone or something. □ The water trickled down the wall to the floor. □ It trickled down very slowly. 2. Fig. [for something] to be distributed to someone or something in little bits at a time. □ The results of the improved economy trickled down to people at lower-income levels. □ Information about what happened finally trickled down to me.

trickle in (to something) 1. Lit. [for a liquid] to seep or dribble into something or a place. □ Some of the rainwater trickled into my car through a leak. □ It trickled in during the night. 2. Fig. [for someone or something] to come into something or a place, a few at a time. □ The audience trickled into the hall little by little. □ They trickled in over a period of an hour or more.

trickle out (of something) 1. Lit. [for a liquid] to leak or dribble out of something or a place. □ The oil trickled out of the engine little by little. □ It trickled out and made a puddle on the floor. 2. Fig. [for someone or something] to go out of something or a place, a few at a time. □ The dissatisfied members of the audience trickled out of the theater three and four at a time. □ They trickled out as the evening wore on.

trick through (something) 1. Lit. [for a liquid] to seep through something. □ The water trickled through the cracked windowpane. □ They taped the glass, but the water trickled through anyway. 2. Fig. [for someone or something] to move through something little by little. □ The people trickled through the door into the store in far smaller numbers than we had expected. □ They trickled through very slowly.

*the tricks of the trade special skills and knowledge associated with any trade or profession. (Typically: know ~; learn ~; show someone ~; teach someone ~.) □ I know a few tricks of the trade that make things easier. □ I learned the tricks of the trade from my uncle.

tried and true trustworthy; dependable. (Hyphenated before nominals.) □ The method I use to cure the hiccups is tried and true. □ Finally, her old tried-and-true methods failed because she hadn't fine-tuned them to the times.

trifle something away (on someone or something) to waste something, such as money, on someone or something, little by little. □ Don't trifle all your money away on your friends. □ Don't trifle away any more money on silly purchases.

trifle with someone or something to act without seriousness or respect toward someone or something. □ Don't talk that way to me! I am not to be trifled with. □ I wish that Ann wouldn't trifle with our efforts at reform.

trigger someone off to cause someone to become angry. (Fig. on trigger something off.) □ Your rude comments triggered her off. □ Your comments triggered off Bob's temper.

trigger something off to set something off, such as an explosion. □ We were afraid that the sparks from the engine would trigger an explosion off. □ The sparks triggered off an explosion.

trim (oneself) down to take action to become slimmer or lose weight. □ I need to trim myself down before I go on vacation. □ I decided to trim down, but I never got around to it. □ You really need to trim down and stay at a lower weight.

trim something away (from something) to cut something away from something. □ The butcher trimmed the fat away from the steak. □ Please trim away the fat from the meat.

trim something down to reduce the size of something. □ You will have to trim the picture down to get it into the frame. □ Trim down the picture before you frame it.

trim something from something to cut something away from something. □ I trimmed the fat from the steaks. □ We had to trim a lot of the fat from the meat after we got it home.

trim something off (of) someone or something and trim something off to cut something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ I asked the barber to trim the beard off of Ralph. □ The barber trimmed off Ralph's beard.

trim something with something to decorate something with something. □ She trimmed the dress with lace. □ Bobby and Timmy trimmed the tree with colorful ornaments.
tripping along to move along happily.

tripping on someone or something and tripping over someone or something to stumble on someone or something. The place was filled with sleeping people. I tripped over perfect strangers on my way to the door. I tripped on a brick and fell into the wall.

tripping someone up 1. Lit. to cause someone to trip; to entangle someone's feet. (Someone includes oneself.) The rope strewn about the deck tripped him up. The lines tripped up the crew. 2. Fig. to cause someone to falter while speaking, thinking, etc. Mary came in while the speaker was talking and the distraction tripped him up.

tripping the light fantastic Jocular to dance. Shall we go tripping the light fantastic?

tripping triumph over someone or something to achieve victory over someone or something. Our team triumphed over all the others.

tripping troop across someone or something [for a mass of creatures] to move across someone or something. The huge herds of wildebeest began to troop across the plain in search of food.

tripping the audience tripped up the speaker.

tripping talk and the distraction tripped him up.

tripping strangers on my way to the door.

tripping trip the light fantastic?

tripping the noise in the audience tripped up the speaker.

tripping trip over someone or something to move across someone or something. Someone tripped over a brick and stumbled on someone or something.

tripping someone about something or to worry someone about a problem you are having, or request someone's help with a problem, the problem will not seem so daunting. (Can be used to encourage someone to confide in you or ask for your help.) Jill: Is something wrong? You've seemed so depressed lately. Jane: Oh, I wouldn't want to bother you with it. Jill: Don't be silly. A trouble shared is a trouble halved, remember.

tripping trouble someone about something or to worry someone about something or something. Please don't trouble me about Larry. Can I trouble you about a billing problem?

tripping trouble someone for something to ask someone to pass something or give something. (Usually a question.) Could I trouble you for the salt? Could I trouble you for some advice?

tripping trouble someone to do something to ask someone to do something. (Usually a question.) Could I trouble you to pass the salt? Could I trouble you to give me some advice?

tripping trouble someone with something to bother someone with something, such as a question or a problem. I hate to trouble you with this, but could you help me adjust my binoculars? Don't trouble yourself with this matter.

tripping trudge along to plod along on foot.

tripping it seemed as if we trudged along for miles. As we trudged along, we forgot how cold it was.

tripping trudge through something 1. Lit. to walk through snow, sand, or something similar. We trudged through the hot sand all the way down the beach.

tripping We trudged through the hot sand all the way down the beach.

tripping true as steel very loyal and dependable. (Also: as ~.) Through all my troubles, my husband has been as true as steel. Pedro was a staunch friend, true as steel.

tripping true something up to straighten something up; to put something into true plumb. Please true this door frame up better before you hang the door. Can you true this wall a little?

tripping true to form exactly as expected; following the usual pattern. (Often with running, as in the example.) As usual, John is late. At least he's running true to form. And true to form, Mary left before the meeting was adjourned.

tripping true to one's word keeping one's promise. True to his word, Tom showed up at exactly eight o'clock.

tripping trump someone up 1. to promote or boost something. They think they have to trump something up to get people to see it. They trumped up the movie so much that many people were disappointed when it finally came out.

tripping 2. to think something up; to contrive something. Do you just sit around trumping charges up against innocent people? They trumped up the charges in an effort to disgrace me.
trumped up 1. heavily promoted; overly praised. (Hyphenated before nominal.) □ I don’t care for trumped-up stuff like that movie. □ That movie was so trumped up! I expected to see something much better than it turned out to be. 2. made-up; contrived. □ They put Larry in the slammer on some trumped-up charge. □ It was a silly, trumped-up idea. Just forget it.

truss someone or something up1 to bind, tie, or bundle someone or something up. □ The attendants trussed Walter up and took him to a padded cell. □ They trussed up Walter tightly. □ Ann trussed the bundle up and sent it off.

trust in someone or something to believe in someone or something. □ Trust in me. I know what I am saying. □ Can I trust in the figures in this report?

Trust me! I am telling you the truth. Please believe me. □ Tom said with great conviction, “Trust me! I know exactly what to do!” □ Mary: Do you really think we can keep this party a secret until Thursday? Sally: Trust me! I know how to plan a surprise party.

trust someone for something to depend on someone for payment for something. □ I will lend you one hundred dollars. I know I can trust you for it. □ I loaned Ted a lot of money. It’s all right. I can trust him for it.

trust someone or something to leave someone or something in the possession of someone whom you assume will take good care of someone or something. □ Can I trust my little Jimmy to you? □ I am perfectly comfortable trusting this money to you.

trust someone to do something to believe that someone can be relied on to do something. □ You can trust her to be here on time. □ I can’t trust myself to eat wisely.

trust someone with someone or something to leave someone in the care of someone or something. □ Can I trust you with my uncle? He needs to have his medicine right on time. □ I am sure I can trust you with the money. □ Don’t leave that cake with me. I can’t trust myself with it.

Truth is stranger than fiction. Go to Fact is stranger than fiction.

The truth will out. Prov. The truth will always be discovered. (Can be used to remark that someone who had been concealing the truth is now revealing it, as in the second example.) □ The embezzler may think that someone else will be blamed for his crime, but the truth will out. □ Ellen: Remember last week, when I told you I bought some shoes? Fred: Yes... . Ellen: Well, before you look at the bill from the shoe store, I ought to tell you that I bought ten pairs. Fred: Aha. The truth will out.

try as I may and try as I might Cliché a phrase that introduces an expression of regret or failure. □ Bill: Try as I may, I cannot get this thing put together right. Andy: Did you read the instructions? □ Rachel: Wow! This place is a mess! Mother: Try as I might, I can’t get Andrew to clean it. Andy: I am telling you the truth. Please believe me. □ Tom said with great conviction, “Trust me! I know exactly how to make these bums talk.”

try at something and *a shot at something; *a crack at someone; *a go at someone; *a stab at someone to attempt to convince someone of something; an attempt to try to get information out of someone; an attempt to try to train someone to do something. (The expressions with shot and crack are more informal than the main entry phrase. (*Typically: *take ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Let me have a crack at him. I can make him talk. □ Let the new teacher have a try at Billy. She can do marvels with unwilling learners. □ Give me a crack at him. I know how to make these bums talk.

try for something to try to win or achieve something. □ I am going to try for the silver trophy in this year’s race. □ Will you try for a place on the team?

Try me. Ask me; Give me a chance. □ A: I don’t suppose you know what the Achaean League is. B: Try me.

try one’s hand (at something) to take a try at something. □ Someday I’d like to try my hand at flying a plane. □ Give me a chance. Let me try my hand!

try one’s luck (at something) to attempt to do something (where success requires luck). □ My great-grandfather came to California to try his luck at finding gold. □ I went into a gambling casino to try my luck.

try one’s wings (out†) Fig. to try to do something one has recently become qualified to do. (Fig. on the image of a young bird trying to fly.) □ I recently learned to snorkel, and I want to go to the seaside to try my wings. □ You’ve read about it enough. It’s time to try out your wings.

try out (for something) to audition for a part in some performance or other activity requiring skill. □ I intend to try out for the play. □ I’m going to try out, too.

try someone back (again) to try to return someone’s telephone call again. □ She’s not in, so I’ll try her back later. □ Jan will try her back.

try someone for something to put someone through a court trial for some crime or wrongdoing. □ The prosecutor wanted to try Harry for fraud. □ Anne was tried for shoplifting.

try someone or something out† to test someone or something for a while; to sample the performance of someone or something. □ We will try her out in the editorial department and see how she does. □ We will try out this employee in another department for a while.

try someone’s patience to strain someone’s patience; to bother someone as if testing the person’s patience. (Try means test here.) □ My loud neighbors are trying my patience today. □ You really try my patience with all your questions!

try something (on†) (for size) 1. Lit. to put on an article of clothing to see if it fits. □ Here, try this on for size and see if it fits any better. □ Please try on this shirt for size. 2. Fig. to evaluate an idea or proposition. □ Now, try on this idea. □ Try this plan for size. I think you’ll like it.

try something on with someone to get someone’s opinion about an idea or plan. □ Let me try this idea on with you. □ She tried the new idea on with the boss, but the response was not good.
tumble from

tumble from

tumble along

tumble into bed
tumble into

tumble of lard

tumble over

tumble over

tumble over

tumble over

tumble over

tumble over

tumble out of

tumble over

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune in

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tune out

tunnel through

tunnel through
tunnel under  someone or something  to dig a tunnel under someone or something.  □ All the time she was standing in the yard talking about the moles, they were tunneling under her.  □ They took many months to tunnel under the English Channel.

tunnel vision 1.  Lit. a visual impairment wherein one can only see what is directly ahead of oneself.  □ I have tunnel vision, so I have to keep looking from side to side.  2.  Fig. an inability to recognize other ways of doing things or thinking about things.  □ The boss really has tunnel vision about sales and marketing. He sees no reason to change anything.

turn a turkey’s nest  Go to a dust bunny.

turn a blind eye  (to someone or something)  Fig. to ignore someone or something you do not see it.  □ The usher turned a blind eye to the little boy who sneaked into the theater.  □ How can you turn a blind eye to all those starving children?

turn a deaf ear  (to someone or something)  to ignore what someone says; to ignore a cry for help.  □ How can you just turn a deaf ear to their cries for food and shelter?  □ Jack turned a deaf ear to our pleading.

turn a place upside down  Fig. to search a place thoroughly.  □ The cops turned the whole house upside down but never found the gun.  □ I had to turn the place upside down to find my car keys.

turn a profit  to earn a profit.  □ The company plans to turn a profit two years from now.

turn a trick  SL. to perform an act of prostitution. (Use caution with the topic.)  □ She can turn a trick and be on the streets again in six minutes flat.  □ She’s upstairs, turning a trick.

turn about  Go to turn around.

turn against  someone or something  Go to against someone or something.

turn around  and turn about  to reverse direction; to face the opposite direction or turn completely.  □ The bus turned around and went the other way.  □ Please turn around so I can see who you are.

turn (away)  (from someone or something)  to turn oneself to avoid someone or something.  □ She turned away from me as I walked past, pretending not to see me.  □ She turned from Ken and ran.

turn back  (from some place)  to stop one’s journey and return.  □ We turned back from the amusement park so we could go home and get the tickets we had forgotten.  □ We turned back at the last minute.

turn back the clock  and turn the clock back

turn belly up  and go belly up 1.  SL. to fail. (See also turn turtle.)  □ I sort of felt that the whole thing would go belly up, and I was right.  □ The computer—on its last legs anyway—turned belly up right in the middle of an important job.  2.  SL. to die. (As a fish does when it dies.)  □ The cat was acting strangely for a while before she turned belly up.  □ Every fish in Greg’s tank went belly up last night.

turn in 1.  [for something] to fold or point inward.  □ Do my toes turn in too much?  □ The legs of the table turned in at the bottom, giving a quaint appearance to the piece of furniture.  2.  [for someone] to go to bed.  □ It’s time to turn in. Good night.  □ I want to turn in early tonight.

turn in (up) on oneself  to become introverted.  □ Over the years, she had turned upon herself and was quiet and alone.  □ The death of his wife caused Ted to turn in on himself.

turn in(to)  some place  to walk or steer one’s vehicle into a place.  □ Turn into the next service station for some gas.  □ I’ll turn in for gas now.  □ She walked down the street and turned into the drugstore.

turn into  someone or something  to change into someone or something.  □ After work is over, he turns into a fairly nice person.  □ The room turned into a very pleasant place when the lights were dimmed.

a turn of fate  Go to a twist of fate.

the turn of the century  the time when the year changes to one with two final zeros, such as from 1899 to 1900. (Although technically incorrect—a new century begins with the year ending in 01—most people ignore this.)  □ My family moved to America at the turn of the century.  □ My uncle was born before the turn of the last century.

turn off  [for something] to go off; to switch off.  □ All the lights turn off automatically.

turn off  something  to walk or turn a vehicle one way or another so that one leaves the road or route to another.  □ You are supposed to turn off the highway at the yellow mailbox.

turn off (something)  onto  something  to walk or steer one’s vehicle off a route at a particular place.  □ Turn off the highway onto a side road.  □ Ann turned off onto the shoulder.

turn off (something)  (some place)  to walk or steer one’s vehicle off a route at a particular place.  □ Turn off the highway at the first exit after the city.  □ Let’s turn off here.  □ We turned off the path just past the big oak tree.

turn on 1.  Lit. [for something] to switch on and start running.  □ The lights turned on right at dusk.  □ At what time do the street lights turn on?  2.  Fig. to become interested or excited.  □ He turns on when he sees the mountains.  □ Ann will turn on if she hears this song.

turn on a dime  Fig.  [for a vehicle] to turn in a very tight turn.  □ This car can turn on a dime.  □ I need a vehicle that can turn on a dime.

turn on someone  to attack someone.  □ I thought the strange dog was friendly, but suddenly it turned on me and bit me.  □ Bob knows a lot about lions, and he says that no matter how well they are trained, there is always the danger that they’ll turn on you.

turn on the waterworks  Fig. to begin to cry.  □ Every time Billy got homesick, he turned on the waterworks.  □ Sally hurt her knee and turned on the waterworks for about twenty minutes.

Turn on, tune in, drop out.  A slogan (popularized by Dr. Timothy Leary) promoting the use of LSD among young people.  □ The key phrase in the heyday of acid was “turn on, tune in, drop out.”  □ Millions heard “turn on, tune in, drop out” and did just that.

turn one’s back  (on someone or something) 1.  Lit. to turn one’s body so that one’s back faces someone or something.  □ I turned my back on the dead horse and walked slowly away.  □ I turned my back on the shouting man and left the
turn over a new leaf

Fig. to begin again, fresh; to reform and begin again. (Fig. on turning to a fresh page. The leaf is a page—a fresh, clean page.)

Why don't you turn over a new leaf and surprise everyone with your good characteristics?

turn (over) in one's grave and roll (over) in one's grave

Fig. to show enormous disfavor for something that has happened after one's death. □ If our late father heard you say that, he'd turn over in his grave. □ Please don't change the place around too much when I'm dead. I do not wish to be rolling in my grave all the time.

turn someone inside out

Fig. to search some place thoroughly. □ I will find that book if I have to turn this place inside out! □ I turned the room inside out and still didn't find it.

turn someone aside to divert someone from the flow of people. □ The attendant turned the poorly dressed man aside. □ The attendant turned aside all the persons who arrived late.

turn someone down to issue a refusal to someone. □ We had to turn Joan down, even though her proposal was okay. □ We turned down Joan, even though her credentials were good.

turn someone off to dull someone's interest in someone or something. □ The boring prof turned me off to the subject. □ The preacher set out to turn off the congregation to sin.

turn someone on to excite or interest someone. □ Fast music with a good beat turns me on. □ That stuff doesn't turn on anyone.

turn someone or an animal (away) (from something) to cause someone or an animal to avoid moving toward something; to cause someone or an animal to avoid moving toward harm. □ The police officer turned the pedestrian away from the scene of the accident. □ He turned the horses away from the gate.

turn someone or an animal out of something and turn someone or an animal out to eject someone or an animal from a place. □ She turned her own son out of the house. □ You wouldn't turn a cat out on a night like this, would you? □ She actually turned out her own brother!

turn someone or something against someone or something to cause someone to defy or revolt against someone or something; to make someone antagonistic toward someone or something. □ He turned the whole board against Molly. □ She turned the city council against the proposed law.

turn someone or something back to cause someone or something to stop and go back; to cause someone or something to retreat. □ The border guards turned us back because we had no passports. □ They turned back the bus because the bridge was down.

turn someone or something in! to submit or refer someone or something to someone or a group, especially in some official capacity. □ The good citizen turned his neighbor in for watering his lawn during the wrong hours. □ I turned in the report to the treasurer.

turn someone or something inside out to evert someone or something; to pull the inside of someone or something out to become the outside. (With people, this refers to mutilation.) □ I felt like the explosion was going to turn me inside out. □ Ken turned his pockets inside out.
turn someone or something into someone or something to change someone or something into someone or something else. □ The magician tried to turn Ginny into a robin. □ She turned the parrot into a dove.

turn someone or something over 1 to rotate someone or something so that the side that was on the bottom is now on the top. □ The nurse turned the patient over so they could give her some medicine. □ They turned over the unconscious patient.

turn someone or something over 1 to someone or something to release or assign someone or something to someone or something. □ The deputy turned the bank robber over to the sheriff. □ I turned over the money I found to the police.

turn someone or something to something to aim someone or something to face something. □ The nurse turned the old man to the sun so he could get warm. □ Ken turned the plant to the light.

turn someone or something toward someone or something to turn someone or something to face someone or something. □ The nurse turned the old man toward his daughter, who had come to visit him. □ Ken turned the microphone toward the speaker.

turn someone or something up 1 Lit. to increase the volume of a device emitting the sound of someone or something. □ I can't hear the lecturer. Turn her up. □ Turn up the radio, please. 2 Fig. to discover or locate someone or something. □ See if you can turn up any evidence for his presence on the night of January 16. □ Have you been able to turn up a date for Friday night?

turn someone or something upside down 1 Lit. to invert someone or something. □ The wrestler turned his opponent upside down and dropped him on his head. □ I turned the bottle upside down, trying to get the last drip out. 2 Fig. to upset someone or something; to thoroughly confuse someone or something. □ The whole business turned me upside down. It'll take days to recover.

turn someone out 1 Lit. to send someone out of somewhere. □ I didn't pay my rent, so the manager turned me out. □ I'm glad it's not winter. I'd hate to turn out someone's head. □ I'd hate to turn out someone in the snow. 2 Fig. to train or produce someone with certain skills or talents. □ The state law school turns lawyers out by the dozen. □ A committee accused the state university of turning out too many veterinarians.

turn someone's head Fig. [for flattery or success] to distract someone; to cause someone not to be sensible. □ Don't let our praise turn your head. You're not perfect! □ Her successes had turned her head. She was now quite arrogant.

turn someone's stomach Fig. to upset one's stomach. □ The violent movie turned my stomach. □ The rich, creamy food turned John's stomach.

turn someone's water off 1 Sl. to deflate someone; to silence someone. □ He said you were stupid, huh? Well, I guess that turns your water off! □ That really turned off her water.

turn something around and turn something about to reverse the direction of something; to cause something to face the opposite direction. □ Turn the car around and head it in the other direction. □ If you turn the chair around, we can see one another while we talk.

turn something aside 1 to evade something. □ Ann turned the awkward questions aside. □ She turned aside the questions she didn't want to answer.

turn something down 1. to bend or fold something down. □ He turned his coat collar down when he got inside the house. □ Timmy had turned down his cuffs and caught one of them in his bicycle chain. 2. to decrease the volume of something. □ Please turn the radio down. □ Can't you turn down that stereo? 3. to reject something; to deny someone's request. □ The board turned our request down. □ She had turned down John's offer of help, too.

turn something off 1 to switch something off so that it stops running or operating. □ Please turn the light off. □ Turn off the lights as you leave.

turn something on 1 to switch something on to make it run. □ I turned the microwave oven on and cooked dinner. □ I turned on the lights when the sun went down.

turn something out 1. to manufacture or produce something in numbers. □ The factory turns too few cars out. □ The factory turns out about seventy-five cars a day. 2. to turn off a light. □ Please turn the hall light out. □ Turn out the light.

turn something over 2 in one's mind Fig. to think about something. □ I have to turn your suggestion over in my mind a bit before I decide what to do. □ After Alice had turned the matter over in her mind, she gave us her verdict. □ Please take some time to turn over this matter in your mind.

turn something to good account to use something in such a way that it is to one's advantage; to make good use of a situation, experience, etc. □ Pam turned her illness to good account and did a lot of reading. □ Many people turn their retirement time to good account and take up interesting hobbies.

turn something to one's advantage to make an advantage for oneself out of something (which might otherwise be a disadvantage). □ Sally found a way to turn the problem to her advantage. □ The ice cream store manager was able to turn the hot weather to her advantage.

turn something under (something) to fold something underneath something. □ Please turn the frayed edge of the sheet under so that it does not show. □ Please turn the edge under.

turn something up 1. to bend or fold something up. (See also turn up.) □ Please turn your cuffs up. They are getting muddy. □ He turned up his coat collar to keep the rain off his neck. 2. to turn playing cards face up. □ Please turn all the cards up. □ Sally turned up the cards one at a time.

turn something upside down Fig. to throw things all about in a thorough search for someone or something. □ We turned this place upside down, looking for the lost ring. □ Please don't turn everything upside down, looking for your book.

turn tail (and run) Fig. to flee; to run away in fright. □ I couldn't just turn tail and run, but I wasn't going to fight that monster, either. □ Sometimes turning tail is the only sensible thing to do.
**turn the clock back** and **turn back the clock** 1. Lit. to set a clock to an earlier time. 

**turn thumbs up** (on someone or something) Fig. to use force to persuade someone to do something; to increase the pressure on someone to do something. 

**turn the tide** 

**turn the other cheek** Fig. to ignore abuse or an insult. 

**turn the other way** Fig. to look away and ignore someone or something. 

**turn the tables** (on someone or something) Fig. to cause a reversal in someone’s plans; to make one’s plans turn back on one. 

**turn the corner** Fig. to pass a critical point in a process. 

**turn three hundred and sixty degrees** Go to do a three-sixty. 

**tweak something off (of) someone or something** Fig. to remove something from someone or something; to remove something from someone or something by pinching. 

**twizzle** one’s thumbs Fig. to pass the time by twirling one’s thumbs. 

**two good men and true** Fig. a jury composed of trustworthy men. 

**turtle** Fig. to turn upside down. (See also turn belly up.) 

**three** hundred and **sixty** degrees **Go to** do a three-sixty.
twiddle with something to play with something; to play with something, using one's fingers; to fiddle with something. □ I asked Jason to stop twiddling with the pencils. □ Someone is twiddling with the stereo controls.

twilight years Fig. the last years before death. □ In his twilight years, he became more mellow and stopped yelling at people.

twine around something to weave or coil around something. □ The snake twined around the branch. □ As the vine grew, it twined around the lamppost.

twinkle with something [for someone's eyes] to sparkle because of something. □ Her eyes twinkled with laughter. □ Tom's eyes twinkled with recognition when he saw Gwen again.

twist around to turn around part way at the waist, without moving one's feet or legs. □ Nancy twisted around to get a better look at who was sitting behind her. □ I had to twist around to see who was there.

a twist of fate and a turn of fate Fig. a fateful event; an unanticipated change in a sequence of events. □ A strange turn of fate brought Fred and his ex-wife together at a New Year's Eve party in Queens.

twist (slowly) in the wind Fig. to suffer the agony of some humiliation or punishment. (Alludes to an execution by hanging.) □ I'll see you twist in the wind for trying to frustrate this investigation. □ The prosecutor was determined that Richard would twist slowly in the wind for the crime.

twist someone around one's little finger and wind someone around one's little finger Fig. to manipulate and control someone. □ Bob really fell for Jane. She can twist him around her little finger. □ Billy's mother has wound him around her little finger. He's very dependent on her.

twist someone's arm Fig. to pressure someone. (Fig. on the image of hurting someone until they agree to cooperate.) □ I had to twist her arm a little, but she agreed. □ Do I have to twist your arm, or will you cooperate?

twist someone's words (around) to restate someone's words inaccurately; to misrepresent what someone has said. □ Stop twisting my words around! Listen to what I am telling you! □ You are twisting my words again. That is not what I said!

twist something around someone or something to wrap something around someone or something. □ Max twisted the wire around Lefty, and totally immobilized him. □ I twisted the rope around the post and tied a knot.

twist something into something to change or distort something into something else, as if by twisting. □ Kelly twisted the balloons into the shape of a dog. □ Ann twisted the silver wires into an earring.

twist something off (of) something and twist something off† to take something off something by twisting. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ Fran twisted the top off of the bottle of mineral water and poured it. □ She twisted off the top.

twist something out of something to remove something from something by twisting. □ Flo twisted the cork out of the bottle and smelled the wine. □ Roger twisted the bulb out of its socket and replaced it with a good one.

twist up 1. to move upward in a twisting path. □ The smoke twisted up into the sky. □ As the car twisted up the narrow path, we got a good view of the valley. 2. to become twisted. □ The rope twisted up and had to be unwound.

two bricks shy of a load Go to a few cards shy of a full deck.

two can play (at) this game (as well as one). Fig. Both competitors—not just one—can compete in this manner or with this strategy. (See also a game that two can play.) □ You are not the only one who knows how to cheat and lie. Two can play this game.

two heads are better than one. Prov. Two people working together have a better chance of solving a problem than one person working alone. □ Come over here and help me balance my checkbook. Two heads are better than one. □ Jane: Can you figure out what this insurance document means? Alan: Why ask me? I don't know anything about insurance. Jane: Neither do I, but two heads are better than one.

two is company, (but) three's a crowd. and Two's company, (three's a crowd). Prov. A way of asking a third person to leave because you want to be alone with someone. (Often implies that you want to be alone with the person because you are romantically interested in him or her.) □ When Lucy followed Mark and Nora into the drawing room, Nora turned to her and said, “Two's company, but three's a crowd.” □ Bill: Can I go to lunch with you and Tom? Jane: Two's company, three's a crowd, Bill.

two jumps ahead of someone Fig. a good way ahead of someone. □ Her market research kept her two jumps ahead of her competitors. □ I was just starting to think of vacation plans, not realizing that my wife was two jumps ahead of me. She had already made hotel reservations.

two of a kind Fig. people or things of the same type or that are similar in character, attitude, etc. □ Jack and Tom are two of a kind. They're both ambitious. □ The companies are two of a kind. They both pay their employees badly.

two shakes of a lamb's tail Fig. quickly; rapidly. □ I'll be there in two shakes of a lamb's tail. □ In two shakes of a lamb's tail, the entire pile of bricks had collapsed.

two sheets to the wind Go to three sheets in the wind.

*two strikes against one 1. two strikes on a baseball batter, three being the number that will put the batter “out.” (Such a player is in a vulnerable position. Typically: get ~; have ~.) □ Sammy has two strikes against him and might just strike out. 2. Fig. a critical number of things against one; a position wherein success is unlikely or where the success of the next move is crucial. (Fig. on ①. “Typically: get ~; have ~.) □ Poor Bob had two strikes against him when he tried to explain where he was last night. □ I can't win. I've got two strikes against me before I start.

two (w)hoops and a holler Rur. a short distance. □ Lexington? That's just two whoops and a holler from here. □ We're just two hoops and a holler from the downtown.

two wrongs do not make a right. Prov. Someone else may do something bad and not be punished, but that does
not mean you are allowed to do bad things. □ Jill: I’d really like to humiliate Fred, after he made fun of me in front of everyone at lunch. Jane: Now, now, Jill. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

a **two-edged sword** and a **double-edged sword** Fig. something that offers both a good and bad consequence. □ The ability to get your insurance to pay for it is a double-edged sword. They may raise your rates. □ Her authority in the company is a two-edged sword. She makes more enemies than allies.

**two-fisted** Fig. [of a male] aggressive and feisty. □ Perry is a real, two-fisted cowboy, always ready for a fight or a drunken brawl.

a **two-time loser** a confirmed loser. □ Poor Richard is a two-time loser. □ Martin is a two-time loser, or at least he looks like one.

**two-time** someone Sl. to cheat on or betray one’s spouse or lover by dating or seeing someone else. □ When Mrs. Franklin learned that Mr. Franklin was two-timing her, she left him. □ Ann told Bob that if he ever two-timed her, she would cause him a lot of trouble.

a **two-way street** a reciprocal situation. □ This is a two-way street, you know. You will have to help me someday in return. □ Friendship is a two-way street.

type over something to type one letter over another. □ Just type over the o with an e. No one will notice.

type something into something and **type something in** to insert information into a form or a place on a form by typing or keying it. □ Please type your name and address into this box. □ Please type in your name.

type something out to make some information presentable by typing or keying it. □ Please type this out before you submit it to the board for approval. □ Can you type out this report before quitting time?

type something up to type a handwritten document; to type a document, perhaps using a computer. □ I will give this to you as soon as I type it up. □ Please type up this document.
under construction Fig. being built or repaired. □ We cannot travel on this road because it's under construction. □ Our new home has been under construction all summer. We hope to move in next month.

under control Fig. manageable; restrained and controlled; not out of control. (*Typically: be ~; bring someone or something ~; get someone or something ~; have someone or something ~; keep someone or something ~.) □ We finally got things under control and functioning smoothly. □ The doctor felt she had the disease under control and that I would get well soon.

under fire Fig. during an attack; being attacked. (*Typically: be ~; resign ~; think ~.) □ There was a scandal in city hall, and the mayor was forced to resign under fire. □ John is a good lawyer because he can think under fire.

under no circumstances and not under any circumstances Fig. absolutely never. □ Andy: Under no circumstances will I ever go back there again! Rachel: Why? What happened? □ Sue: Can I talk you into serving as a referee again? Mary: Heavens, no! Not under any circumstances!

under normal circumstances Fig. normally; typically. □ "We'd be able to keep the dog at home under normal circumstances," said Mary to the vet. □ "Under normal circumstances you'd be able to return to work in a week," explained the doctor.

under oath Fig. bound by an oath; having taken an oath. □ You must tell the truth because you are under oath. □ I was placed under oath before I could testify in the trial.

under one's belt 1. Fig. eaten or drunk and in one's stomach. (Fig. on the image of swallowed food ending up under one's belt. *Typically: get something ~; have something ~.) □ I need to have something filling under my belt. I've had it with just soup. □ I want to get a nice juicy steak under my belt. 2. Fig. achieved; counted or scored. (Fig. on 1.) *Typically: have something ~.) □ Minnie has over four hundred wins under his belt. □ This fighter pilot has over 20 kills under his belt. 3. Fig. learned; mastered. (Fig. on 1.) *Typically: get something ~.) □ Finally, she got good painting techniques under her belt. □ When I get the right procedures under my belt, I will be more efficient.

under one's breath Fig. [spoken] so softly that almost no one can hear it. (*Typically: curse ~; curse someone or something ~; mutter ~; mutter something ~; say something ~.) □ John was muttering something under his breath, and I don't think it was very pleasant. □ I'm glad he said it under his breath. If he had said it out loud, it would have caused an argument.

under one's own steam Fig. by one's own power or effort. □ I missed my ride to class, so I had to get there under my own steam. □ John will need some help with this project. He can't do it under his own steam.

under pressure 1. and *under a deadline; *under the gun (about something) Fig. facing or enduring something such as pressure or a deadline. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I have to get back to work. I am under a deadline. □ I am under a lot of pressure lately. □ The management is under the gun for the mistakes made last year. 2. [of a gas or liquid] being forced, squeezed, or compressed. (*Typically: be ~; deliver something ~; put...
something ~ .) □ The gas in the pipes leading to the oven are under pressure.

under someone’s care Go to in the care of someone.

*under someone’s thumb Fig. under someone’s control and management. (*Typically: get someone ~ ; have someone ~ ; hold someone ~ ; keep someone ~ .) □ You can’t keep your kids under your thumb all their lives. □ I don’t want to have these things under my thumb. I’m not the manager type.

*under someone’s wing(s) Fig. receiving someone’s care and nurturing. (*Typically: get someone ~ ; have someone ~ ; take someone ~ .) □ John wasn’t doing well in geometry until the teacher took him under her wing. □ I had a number of the new workers under my wing for a few weeks.

under the aegis of someone and under the auspices of someone Fig. under the sponsorship or protection of someone or some group; under the control or monitoring of someone or some group. □ The entire project fell under the aegis of Thomas. □ The entire program is under the auspices of Acme-Global Paper Co., Inc.

under the auspices of someone Go to previous.

under the circumstances Fig. in a particular situation; because of the circumstances. □ I’m sorry to hear that you’re ill. Under the circumstances, you may take the day off. □ We won’t expect you to come to work for a few days, under the circumstances.

under the counter Fig. [bought or sold] in secret or illegally. (Compare this to over the counter.) □ The drugstore owner was arrested for selling liquor under the counter. □ The clerk sold dirty books under the counter.

under the gun (about something) Go to under pressure.

under the influence of (alcohol) Euph. drunk; nearly drunk; affected by alcohol. □ She behaves quite rudely when under the influence of alcohol. □ Ed was stopped by a police officer for driving while under the influence.

under the sun Fig. anywhere on earth at all. □ This is the largest cattle ranch under the sun. □ Isn’t there anyone under the sun who can help me with this problem?

under the table 1. Sl. intoxicated. □ Jed was under the table by midnight. □ By 3:00 in the morning, everyone was under the table. 2. Fig. secret; clandestine. (This is hypenated before a nominal.) □ It was strictly under-the-table deal. □ The mayor made a few bucks under the table, too.

under the weather 1. ill. □ I feel sort of under the weather today. □ Whatever I ate for lunch is making me feel a bit under the weather. 2. intoxicated. □ Daddy’s had a few beers and is under the weather again. □ Wally’s just a tad under the weather.

under the wire Fig. just barely in time or on time. □ I turned in my report just under the wire. □ Bill was the last person to get in the door. He got in under the wire.

*under way Fig. moving; running; started. (*Typically: be ~ ; get something ~ ; have something ~ ; take something ~ .) □ The time has come to get this game under way. □ Now that the president has the meeting under way, I can relax.

*under wraps Fig. concealed; suppressed. (*Typically: be ~ ; have ~ ; hold ~ ; keep ~ .) □ We kept the candi-

date’s conviction under wraps until after the election. □ The plan we had under wraps had to be scrapped anyway.

undertake to do something to try to do something; to take the responsibility of doing something. □ The carpenter undertook to repair the door frame. □ I will undertake to fix it.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. Prov. A person who has a lot of power and prestige also has a lot of responsibilities, and therefore worries more than other people. (From Shakespeare’s play, Henry IV, Part II.) □ Susan began to have trouble sleeping shortly after she was promoted to head of her department. “Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown,” her friends teased.

The unexpected always happens. Prov. The things you do not foresee will happen to you; when you plan, you cannot think of everything that might happen. □ It took us an hour to drive to the restaurant, and when we got there, it was closed. I would never have expected a restaurant to be closed on a Friday night, but the unexpected always happens. Especially to me.

unfamiliar territory an area of knowledge unknown to the speaker. □ We are in unfamiliar territory and I don’t know the answer. □ Astronomy is unfamiliar territory for me, and I cannot answer any questions about the stars.

unfold into something 1. [for something folded up] to unfold into something. □ The greeting card unfolded into a little paper house. □ It unfolded into a cute scene. 2. Fig. [for a story] to develop into something interesting. (Fig. on ①.) □ The story unfolded into a real mystery. □ The tale unfolded into a farce.

unfold something into something to spread something out into something. □ The child unfolded the page into a model village. □ I unfolded the brochure into a large colorful sheet of advertising.

unify someone or something into something to combine people or things into a united whole. □ The mayor unified his party into a powerful force. □ I unified the committee into a strong body.

Union is strength. Prov. If people join together, they are more powerful than if they work by themselves. □ The students decided to join together in order to present their grievances to the faculty, since union is strength. □ We cannot allow our opponents to divide us. Union is strength.

unite against someone or something to join against someone or something. □ We will unite against the opposing forces. □ We must unite against the incumbent legislators.

unite for something to join together for some purpose. □ All the forces united for the attack. □ We will unite for a great party.

unite in something to come together in something. □ Let us unite in our efforts. □ We will unite in song.

unite someone against someone or something to cause people to join together against someone or something. □ The mayor united his staff against the federal investigators. □ Ted united us against John. □ They united themselves against the enemy.

unite someone in something to join two or more people in something, usually marriage. □ The preacher united the couple in matrimony. □ A judge united them in marriage.
unite someone or something into something to form something by merging people together; to form something by merging things together. □ Let us unite the party into a powerful political force. □ We will unite ourselves into a powerful force.

unite someone or something (together!) to join people or groups of people together. □ They united all the workers together for the strike. □ The event united together the people who cared about the quality of life.

unite someone or something with someone or something to join people or things, in any combination. □ We united Tom with his brother Arnold during the evening. □ We united our committee with the president in an effort to expand our influence.

unite with someone to join with someone; to go or come together with someone. □ I was pleased to unite with my family for the holidays. □ The brothers united with their sister after many years of separation.

United we stand, divided we fall. Prov. People who join together as a group are much harder to defeat than if they were to be separated. □ The tenants of this building must band together if we are to make the landlord agree to our demands. United we stand, divided we fall! □ We had better all agree on what we are going to say to the boss before we go in there and say it. United we stand, divided we fall.

*an unknown quantity Fig. a person or thing about which no one is certain. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ John is an unknown quantity. We don’t know how he’s going to act. □ The new clerk is an unknown quantity. Things may not turn out all right.

unleash someone or something against someone or something to turn someone or something loose against someone or something. □ The army unleashed a horrible attack upon the enemy. □ Max unleashed his bullies against the helpless merchants.

unleash someone or something (up)on someone or something to turn someone or something loose on someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The air force unleashed a bombing attack upon the enemy. □ The mob chief unleashed his tough guys on Lefty.

unload someone or something on(to) someone to get rid of a burdensome person or thing on someone else. □ I unloaded my obnoxious little cousin onto his aunt. □ I didn’t mean to unload my problems onto you.

unload something from something to take things off of something; to remove the burden from something. □ Please unload the groceries from the car. □ I unloaded the groceries from the bags.

unsung hero Fig. a hero who has gotten no praise or recognition. □ The time has come to recognize all the unsung heroes of the battle for low-cost housing.

until all hours Fig. until very late. □ Mary is out until all hours, night after night. □ If I’m up until all hours two nights in a row, I’m just exhausted.

until all hours (of the day and night) Go to all hours (of the day and night).

until hell freezes over Go to when hell freezes over.

(un)til the cows come home Rur. until the last; until very late. (Referring to the end of the day, when the cows come home to be fed and milked.) □ We were having so much fun that we decided to stay at the party until the cows came home. □ Where’ve you been? Who said you could stay out till the cows come home?

Until we meet again. Go to Good-bye for now.

*up a blind alley Fig. at a dead end; on a route that leads nowhere. (*Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ I have been trying to find out something about my ancestors, but I’m up a blind alley. I can’t find anything. □ The police are up a blind alley in their investigation of the crime.

up a creek Go to up the creek (without a paddle).

*up a storm Fig. [doing or making] a great amount with fury or intensity. (*Typically: cook ~; gab ~; sing ~; kick ~; talk ~.) □ Whenever we get together, we always talk up a storm. □ Everyone was gabbing up a storm and didn’t hear the chairman come in.

up a tree 1. confused; without an answer to a problem; in difficulty. □ This whole business has me up a tree. □ I’m up a tree, and I need some help. 2. intoxicated. □ Only two glasses of booze and he was up a tree for sure. □ My buddy here is up a tree and needs a place to crash for the night.

*up against someone or something in opposition to someone or something, as in a contest. (*Typically: be ~; come ~; go ~; run ~; team ~.) □ Let’s team up against Paul and Tony in the footrace. □ We came up against a very strong team.

*up against something 1. Fig. resting firmly against something. (*Typically: be ~; place something ~.) □ The car is up against the back of the garage! Back out a little! 2. Fig. in conflict with something; facing something as a barrier. (Fig. on ①. *Typically: be ~; go ~.) □ I am up against some serious problems.

*up against the wall Fig. in serious difficulties. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; push someone ~.) □ Let’s face it, we’re up against the wall this time. □ It’s when you’re up against the wall that your true character shows.

*(up and) about and *up and around out of bed and moving about. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I’m up and about, but I’m not really well yet. □ The flu put Alice into bed for three days, but she was up and around on the fourth.

up and at ‘em Fig. up and taking action. □ Dad woke me at seven, saying, “Up and at ‘em!” □ It’s six-thirty. Time for us to be up and at ’em.

up and away Fig. [of a bird or an airplane] up into the air and into flight. □ After a few seconds of speeding down the runway, our flight to Ticswin was up and away. □ Just before the cat pounced on the sparrows, they were up and away and the cat was left with empty paws and jaws.

up and did something Rur. did something suddenly. □ That summer, she up and died. □ He had lived here for twenty years, and then one day, he up and left for good.

up and running Fig. [of a machine] functioning. □ As soon as we can get the tractor up and running, we will plant the corn crop.

*up before someone Fig. standing in front of someone to receive something. (Especially in front of a judge. *Typically: be ~; come ~; stand ~.) □ Have you been up before me before? □ I have never been up before any judge.
*up for auction Fig. to be sold at an auction. (*Typically: be ~; come ~; go ~; put something ~.) □ The old farm where I lived as a child is up for auction.

up for grabs 1. Fig. available for anyone; not yet claimed. □ The election is up for grabs. Everything is still very chancy. □ I don't know who will get the promotion. It's up for grabs.

2. Fig. in total chaos. □ This is a madhouse. The whole place is up for grabs. □ When the market crashed, the whole office was up for grabs.

*up for reelection Fig. to be running for reelection to an office or position. (*Typically: be ~; come ~.) □ The governor is up for reelection in the fall. □ Lily is up for reelection this fall.

*up for sale Fig. available for purchase. (*Typically: be ~; come ~; put something ~.) □ When this lot comes up for sale, let me know. □ Is this property up for sale?

*up for something 1. Fig. [of someone] mentally ready for something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; get oneself ~.) □ The team is up for the game tonight. □ We are all up for the contest. 2. Sl. agreeable to something. (*Typically: be ~.) □ I'm up for a pizza. Anybody want to chip in? □ Who's up for a swim?

up front 1. in the forefront; under fire (at the front). □ You guys who are up front are gonna get the most fire. □ Things were sort of up in the air the last time we talked. 2. Fig. very angry. (Fig. on 1.) □ Wally was up in arms about the bill for the broken window. □ I am really up in arms about what happened.

up in the air (about someone or something) Fig. undecided about someone or something; uncertain about someone or something. □ I don't know what Sally plans to do. Things were sort of up in the air the last time we talked. □ Let's leave this question up in the air until next week.

up in years and advanced in years; along in years; on in years Fig. old; elderly. □ My uncle is up in years and can't hear too well. □ Many people lose their hearing somewhat when they are along in years.

up North to or at the northern part of the country or the world. □ I don't like living up North. I want to move down South where it's warm. □ When you say "up North," do you mean where the polar bears live or just in the northern states?

up on someone or something Fig. knowledgeable about someone or something. □ Ask Tom about the author of this book. He's up on stuff like that.

up one side and down the other Rur. thoroughly. □ She scolded him up one side and down the other. □ They shopped the whole downtown up one side and down the other.

up stakes to prepare for leaving and then leave. (Up has the force of a verb here. The phrase suggests pulling up tent stakes in preparation for departure.) □ They just upped stakes and left without saying good-bye. □ It's that time of the year when I feel like upping stakes and moving to the country.

up the ante and raise the ante 1. Fig. to raise the opening stakes in a betting game. □ Pete upped the ante on that the poker game to $100 per hand. □ Don't up the ante any more. You're betting far too much money already. □ Fig. to increase a price. (Fig. on 2.) □ Sensing how keen the people looking at the house were, Jerry upped the ante another $5,000. □ "Don't try to up the ante on us," said the man, "We know what the asking price is."

up the creek (without a paddle) and up a creek; up shit creek Inf. Fig. in an awkward position with no easy way out. □ I'm sort of up the creek and don't know what to do. □ You are up a creek! You got yourself into it, so get yourself out.

up the pole Fig. intoxicated. □ You sound a little up the pole. Why don't you call back when you're sober? □ She's up the pole and shouldn't drive.

up the river Sl. in prison. (Underworld.) □ Gary was up the river for a couple of years, but that doesn't make him an outcast, does it? □ The judge who sent him up the river was indicted for accepting bribery. If Gary had only known sooner!

up the wall Fig. in a very bad situation; very upset or anxious. □ He's really up the wall about Mary's illness. □ We were all up the wall until the matter was resolved.

up to doing something [feeling] able to do something. □ Do you feel up to going back to work today? □ She just isn't up to staying up so late.

*up to here (with something) having had as much as one can bear. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I'm up to here with your excuses! □ We are all up here with this mystery.

up to no good Fig. doing something bad. □ I could tell from the look on Tom's face that he was up to no good. □ There are three boys in the front yard. I don't know what they are doing, but I think they are up to no good.

up to one's ears (in something) Go to up to one's neck (in something).

up to one's eyeballs (in something) Go to up to one's neck (in something).

up to one's knees Fig. deep in something, such as paperwork or water. (The idea is that it is hard to move or make progress. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ We're up to our knees with orders and getting more all the time. □ The orders are up to our knees.

*up to one's neck (in something) and *up to one's ears (in something); *up to one's eyeballs (in something) having a lot of something; Fig. very much involved in something; immersed in something. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ I can't come to the meeting. I'm up to my neck in these reports. □ Mary is up to her ears in her work. □ I am up to my eyeballs in things to do! I can't do any more!

up to par Fig. as good as the standard or average; up to standard. □ I'm just not feeling up to par today. I must be coming down with something. □ The manager said that the report was not up to par and gave it back to Mary to do over again.
up to snuff and up to scratch Fig. as good as is required; meeting the minimum requirements. □ Sorry, Tom. Your performance isn’t up to snuff. You’ll have to improve or find another job. □ My paper wasn’t up to scratch, so I got an F.

*up to someone or something Fig. decided by someone. (*Typically: be ~; become ~; leave something ~.) □ If it were up to me, I would say yes. □ It is up to the decision of the judges!

up to something 1. Fig. [of someone] plotting something. □ I think they are up to something. □ I am sure that Lily and Max are up to something evil. 2. Fig. [of someone] well enough or rested enough to do something. □ I’m not quite up to the party. □ Are you up to a game of volleyball? 3. to be as good as something; to be good enough for something. □ This work’s not up to the standard of the class. □ Your last essay was not up to your best.

*up to speed 1. Fig. moving, operating, or functioning a normal or desired rate. (*Typically: be ~; bring something ~; get ~; get something ~.) □ Terri did everything she could to bring her workers up to speed, but couldn’t. □ Can we get this production line up to speed? 2. and *up to speed on something Fig. fully apprised about someone or something; up-to-date on the state of someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; bring someone ~; get ~; get someone ~.) □ Please bring me up to speed on this matter. □ I’ll feel better about it when I get up to speed on what’s going on.

*up to the minute Fig. current. (*Typically: be ~; bring something ~.) □ This report is up to the minute and fresh from the wire services.

*up with someone Fig. even with someone; caught up with someone. (*Typically: be ~; catch ~; get ~.) □ I’m up with the best of them. □ Are you up with your colleagues on this one?

up-and-coming Fig. enterprising and alert. □ Jane is a hard worker—really up-and-coming. □ Bob is also an up-and-coming youngster who is going to become well known.

upbraid someone for something to scold someone for doing something. □ The judge upbraided David severely for his crime. □ Walter upbraided his son for deserting the car.

update someone about something and update someone on something to tell someone the latest news about someone or something. □ The judge apprised me about the current situation in France. □ Please update me about Jane.

upgrade someone or something to something to raise someone or something to a higher grade or rank. □ Please upgrade me to first class. □ They upgraded the terrorist alert status to red.

upgrade to something to move up to a higher grade or rank. □ I would like to upgrade to a first-class seat. □ Please upgrade me to a better room.

an uphill battle and an uphill struggle Fig. a hard struggle. □ Convincing the senator to see our point of view was an uphill battle, but we finally succeeded.

upon impact Fig. at the place or time of an impact. □ The car crumpled upon impact with the brick wall. □ The man who fell from the top of the building died on impact.

*(up)on someone Fig. to be someone’s obligation or responsibility. (*Typically: be ~; lie ~.) □ The obligation is upon you to settle this. □ The major part of the responsibility is on you.

upper crust Fig. the higher levels of society; the upper class. (From the top, as opposed to the bottom, crust of a pie.) □ Jane speaks like that because she pretends to be from the upper crust, but her father was a miner. □ James is from the upper crust, but he is penniless.

*the upper hand (on someone) Fig. a position superior to someone; the advantage of someone. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ John is always trying to get the upper hand on someone. □ He never ends up having the upper hand, though.

upper story Go to top story.

uproot someone from some place Fig. to cause someone to move from a well-established home or setting. □ You should not uproot people from the land in which they were born. □ I just couldn’t uproot myself from my home.

uproot something from some place to take up a plant or tree, roots and all. □ Wally uprooted the bush from the backyard and replanted it on the other side of the house. □ Who uprooted a rosebush from my garden?

upset someone’s plans Fig. to ruin someone’s plans. □ I hope it doesn’t upset your plans if I’m late for the meeting. □ No, it won’t upset my plans at all.

upset the apple cart Fig. to mess up or ruin something. □ Tom really upset the apple cart by telling Mary the truth about Jane. □ I always knew he’d tell secrets and upset the apple cart.

the upshot of something Fig. the result or outcome of something. □ The upshot of my criticism was a change in policy. □ The upshot of the argument was an agreement to hire a new secretary.

*upside-down Fig. in a financial state such that one owes more money on a car, truck, house, etc., than its resale value. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ When I tried to trade in the car, I found that I was upside-down and couldn’t close the deal without more money. □ I took a loan period that was too long and was upside-down in two years.

*up-to-date modern or contemporary. (*Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ Is the room up-to-date, or is it standard? □ Your knowledge is not really up-to-date on this matter.

up-to-date modern; up to the current standards of fashion; having the most current information. □ I’d like to see a more up-to-date report on Mr. Smith. □ This is not an up-to-date record of the construction project.

up-to-the-minute the very latest or most recent. □ I want to hear some up-to-the-minute news on the hostage situation. □ I just got an up-to-the-minute report on Tom’s health.

urban legend Fig. a myth or piece of folklore that is totally false. □ That story about the rats in the sewer being as big as dogs is an urban legend. It’s just not so.

urge someone along to encourage someone to continue or go faster. □ We urged them along with much encouragement. □ They won’t do well, but we urged them along anyway.

urge someone forward to encourage someone to move forward. □ The generals urged the troops forward. □ Sally urged Timmy forward into the classroom.
urge someone to do something to try to get someone to do something.  □ I urge you to go skiing a try.  □ Ken urged Lily to finish her dinner.

urge something (up)on someone to try to get someone to take something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)  □ Arnold urged the new policy on the employees. □ He urged restraint upon them.

use a firm hand Go to a firm hand.

use every trick in the book Fig. to use every method possible.  □ I used every trick in the book, but I still couldn’t manage to get a ticket to the game Saturday.  □ Bob tried to use every trick in the book, but he still failed.

use foul language Euph. to swear. □ There’s no need to use foul language. □ When she gets angry, she tends to use foul language.

use one’s head and use one’s noggin; use one’s noodle Fig. to use one’s own intelligence. (The words noggin and noodle are slang terms for “head.”) □ You can do better in math if you’ll just use your head.  □ Jane uses her noggin and gets things done correctly and on time. □ Yes, she sure knows how to use her noodle.

use one’s noggin Go to previous.

use one’s noodle Go to use one’s head.

use some elbow grease Fig. use some effort, as in scrubbing something. (As if lubricating one’s elbow would solve this problem? Come on, you just use your head.  □ Jane uses her noggin and gets things done correctly and on time. □ Yes, she sure knows how to use her noodle.

use some shut-eye Go to some shut-eye.

use someone or something as an excuse to blame someone or something for a failure. (See also use someone or something as something.)  □ John used his old car as an excuse for not going to the meeting. □ My husband was sick in bed, and I used him as an excuse.

use someone or something as something to make someone or something function as something. (See also use someone or something as an excuse.) □ You have used me as your tool! □ I don’t like your using my car as your private taxi.

use someone or something for something to make use of someone or something for a specific purpose. □ Would you please use Don for your errands? □ You can use my car for the trip.

use someone up Fig. to use all the effort or talent a person has. □ His career simply used him up. □ I used myself up. I’m done. I can’t function anymore.

use something before something 1. to consume or use something before using something else. □ Use this jar before that one. This one is older. □ I used the old one before the one you just bought. 2. to consume or use something before a specified date. □ I will use this bottle of catsup before May. □ You should use this one before the date stamped on the bottom.

use something by something to consume or complete the use of something by a specified time. □ Please use this jar of mayonnaise by the last day of the month. □ Use this one by next week.

use something over (again) to reuse something. □ Do I have to use this stuff over again? □ Yes. Please use it over.

use something up 1 to consume or use all of something. □ Use the flour up. I have more in the cupboard. □ Use up every bit of it. Go ahead.

use something with something to use something in a particular manner. □ Use this tool with a lot of skill and caution. □ Use this one with great care.

use strong language Euph. to swear, threaten, or use abusive language. □ I wish you wouldn’t use strong language in front of the children. □ If you feel that you have to use strong language with the manager, perhaps you had better let me do the talking.

use the bathroom and use the toilet Euph. to urinate or defecate. □ May I be excused to use the bathroom? □ I have to use the toilet.

use the race card Go to the race card.

use the toilet Go to use the bathroom.

use your head for more than a hatrack and use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart□ □ How are we going to solve this problem? Come on, use your head for more than a hatrack. □ Instead of whining about it, why don’t you use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart?

use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart Go to previous.

used to do something to have done something [customarily] in the past. □ We used to go swimming in the lake before it became polluted. □ I used to eat nuts, but then I became allergic to them.

*used to someone or something Fig. accustomed to someone or something: familiar and comfortable with someone or something. (Typically: be ~; become ~; get ~.) □ I am used to eating better food than this. □ I am used to the doctor I have and I don’t want to change.

user friendly Fig. easy to use. (Hyphenated before nominals.) □ The set-up instructions for the printer were very user friendly. □ I have a user-friendly computer that listens to my voice and does what I tell it.

usher someone or something into some place and usher someone or something in 1 to escort or lead a person, a group, or something into a place. □ The guard ushered the group into the palace. □ They ushered in the visitors.

usher someone or something out of some place and usher someone or something out 1 to escort or lead someone or a group out of a place. □ We ushered them from the room. □ The woman ushered out the guest.

usher someone to something to escort or lead someone to something, such as a seat, the door, etc. □ The well-dressed gentleman ushered the bride to the altar. □ Her father ushered her to the altar.

utilize someone or something for something to use someone or something for something or for some purpose. □ Is there any way you can utilize Peter for the project? □ Can you utilize this contraption for anything?
vaccinate someone or an animal against something to inoculate or immunize someone or an animal against some disease. □ They had to vaccinate us against yellow fever. □ The vet vaccinated the horse against everything that threatened it.

vaccinate someone or an animal with something to inoculate or immunize someone or an animal with some substance. □ This time the doctor vaccinated Tom with killed virus. □ The vet vaccinated the cat with something that would prevent rabies.

vacillate between someone and someone else or something and something else to waver between a choice of people or a choice of things. □ He kept vacillating between Fred and Alice. □ Wayne vacillated between chocolate and vanilla.

vacuum something out to clean an enclosed area out with a vacuum cleaner. □ Please vacuum this car out now! □ Can you vacuum out the car?

vacuum something up (from something) to clean something up from something with a vacuum cleaner. □ Fred vacuumed the dirt up from the carpet. □ He vacuumed up the birdseed from the kitchen floor.

vain as a peacock Go to proud as a peacock.

value someone or something above someone or something to hold someone or something to be more important than someone or something. □ I value her above all things. □ He values his car above his family!

value someone or something as something to hold someone or something in esteem as something; to find someone or something to be as good as something. □ I value you as a close friend. □ I value this watch as a keepsake.

value someone or something for something to hold someone or something in esteem for a particular quality. □ I value him for his skill in negotiation. □ I value this car for its speed and dependability.

value something at something to consider something to be worth a certain amount. □ The museum curator valued the vase at one million dollars. □ I value this vase at one million dollars.

vanish away to disappear. (The away is considered redundant.) □ The pizza vanished away in no time at all. □ The city lights vanished away as dawn broke.

vanish from something to disappear from something or some place. □ The money vanished from the desk drawer. □ My glasses have vanished from sight again.

vanish into something to disappear by going into something. □ All the deer vanished into the forest. □ Money seems to vanish into a black hole.

vanish into thin air Cliché to disappear without leaving a trace. □ My money gets spent so fast. It seems to vanish into thin air. □ When I came back, my car was gone. I had locked it, and it couldn’t have vanished into thin air!

Variety is the spice of life. Prov. Cliché You should try many different kinds of experiences, because trying different things keeps life interesting. □ I know we usually spend our summer vacation camping out, but I think we should try something different this year. Variety is the spice of life.

vary between someone and someone else and vary between something and something else to fluctuate in choosing between people or things. □ In choosing a bridge partner, Sam varied between Tom and Wally. □ I varied between chocolate and vanilla cake for dessert.

vary between something and something else to fluctuate between one thing and another. □ The daytime temperatures vary between 80 and 90 degrees. □ She varies between angry and happy.

vary (from something) (in something) to differ from something. □ This one varies from that one in many ways. □ It varies from the other one a little.

vary from something to something to fluctuate over the range from something to something. □ The colors vary from red to orange. □ It varies from warm to very hot during the summer.

vary with something 1. to be at variance with someone’s figures or a sum or estimate. □ My figures vary with yours considerably. □ Her estimate varies with yours by a few dollars. 2. to change according to something. □ The rainfall in New York State varies with the season. □ His mood varies with the stock market average.

vault into something to jump or dive into something. □ The diver vaulted into the pool. □ He vaulted into bed and pulled up the covers.

vault over someone or something to jump or leap over someone or something. □ Molly vaulted over Ted and kept on running. □ She vaulted over the trunk.

veer (away) (from something or something) to swerve away from someone or something; to turn aside to avoid someone or something. □ The plane veered away from the mountain. □ The car veered from the children who were in its path.

veer off (from someone or something) to turn or steer sharply away from someone or something. □ The bird veered off from the cluster of trees. □ The bird veered off and missed hitting the post.

veer toward someone or something to turn sharply or swerve toward someone or something. □ The car suddenly veered toward me. □ The horse veered toward the side of the bridle path.
the very last Fig. the end; an absolute end of something. □ At the very last of the movie, the hero gets killed. □ Bill stayed at the party until the very last.

the (very) picture of something Fig. the perfect example of something; an exact image of something. □ The young newlyweds were the picture of happiness. □ My doctor told me that I was the very picture of good health.

the very thing Fig. the exact thing that is required. □ The vacuum cleaner is the very thing for cleaning the stairs. □ I have the very thing to remove that stain.

vest someone with something to grant power, rights, or ownership to someone. □ Who vested you with the power to order me around? □ The dictator vested himself with the power to imprison almost anyone.

vest something in someone or something to grant sole power or control over something to someone or some group. □ The king vested all the military power in his own hands. □ The constitution vests the power to tax in the legislature.

* a vested interest in something Fig. a personal or biased interest, often financial, in something. (Typically: have ~; give someone ~.) □ Margaret has a vested interest in wanting her father to sell the family firm. She has shares in it and would make a large profit. □ Bob has a vested interest in keeping the village traffic-free. He has a summer home there.

vive (with someone) (for someone or something) and vie (with someone) (over someone or something) to compete or contend with someone for someone or something. □ They vied with each other for Mary's favor. □ I really don't want to have to vie with Randy for recognition.

the villain of the piece Fig. someone or something that is responsible for something bad or wrong. (Fig. on the villainous role in a drama.) □ I wonder who told the newspapers about the local scandal. I discovered that Jane was the villain of the piece. □ We couldn't think who had stolen the meat. The dog next door turned out to be the villain of the piece.

vim and vigor Cliché energy; enthusiasm. □ Show more vim and vigor! Let us know you're alive. □ She's sure got a lot of vim and vigor.

vindicate someone of something to clear or acquit someone of something. □ The police sought to vindicate Donald of the charges. □ They vindicated themselves of the charges with a clear alibi.

virtual reality Fig. computer imaging that attempts to mimic real scenes or places. □ The movie had so much virtual reality that the regular photographic scenes began to look funny.

Virtue is its own reward. Prov. You should not be virtuous in hopes of getting a reward, but because it makes you feel good to be virtuous. □ Bill: If I help you, will you pay me? Fred: Virtue is its own reward.

visible to the naked eye Go to the naked eye.

a visit from the stork Fig. a birth. (According to legend, babies are brought to their parents by a stork.) □ I hear that Maria is expecting a visit from the stork. □ The young couple had a visit from the stork.

visit something (upon) someone Fig. to inflict something upon someone. (Stilted. Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The FBI visited a plague of investigations on the mayor's staff. □ The storm visited disaster on the little village.

visit the plumbing Euph. to go to the bathroom. □ I think I'd better visit the plumbing before we go. □ I want you kids to visit the plumbing before we get in the car.
visit with someone to pay a social call on someone. □ I would like to come by and visit with you for a while. □ I will enjoy visiting with you.

visualize someone or something as someone or something to imagine or envision someone as someone or something or something as something. □ I can almost visualize you as the president. □ I visualize this room as a meeting place for everyone.

visually impaired Euph. blind or partly blind. □ I am visually impaired, but I like TV just as much as the next person. □ The disease left him visually impaired.

*a voice (in something) and *a say (in something) Fig. a part in making a decision. (Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I’d like to have a voice in choosing the carpet. □ John wanted to have a say in the issue also. □ He says he seldom gets a say.

volunteer as something to submit oneself as a person ready or willing to do something. □ Would you be willing to volunteer as a marcher? □ I will volunteer as a helper in the hospital.

volunteer for something 1. to submit oneself for some task without being asked. □ I volunteered for the job. □ I didn’t volunteer for this. □ On Sundays she volunteers as a receptionist at the hospital.

volunteer for something 2. to work as an unpaid volunteer for a charity, etc. □ On Sundays she volunteers as a receptionist at the hospital.

vomit something out† Fig. [for something] to spill forth a great deal of something. □ The volcano vomited the lava out for days. □ It vomited out hot lava for months.

vomit something up† to bring up something from the stomach by vomiting. □ The dog vomited the chocolate cake up. □ Fido vomited up the rabbit.

vote a split ticket Fig. to cast a ballot on which one’s votes are divided between two or more parties. □ I always vote a split ticket since I detest both parties. □ Mary voted a split ticket for the first time in her life.

vote a straight ticket Fig. to cast a ballot on which all one’s votes are for members of the same political party. □ I’m not a member of any political party, so I never vote a straight ticket. □ I usually vote a straight ticket because I believe in the principles of one party and not in the other’s.

vote against someone or something to cast a ballot against someone or something. □ Are you going to vote against the proposal? □ I plan to vote against David.

vote for someone or something to cast a ballot in favor of someone or something. □ Did you vote for Alice? □ I plan to vote for the tax freeze. □ Of course, I voted for myself! Wouldn’t you?

a vote of confidence Fig. a poll taken to discover whether or not a person, party, etc., still has the majority’s support. □ The government easily won the vote of confidence called for by the opposition. □ The president of the club resigned when one of the members called for a vote of confidence in his leadership.

a vote of thanks Fig. a speech expressing appreciation and thanks to a speaker, lecturer, organizer, etc., and inviting the audience to applaud. □ John gave a vote of thanks to Professor Jones for his talk. □ Mary was given a vote of thanks for organizing the dance.

vote someone into something and vote someone in† to elect someone to office or to membership in a group. □ The other party finally voted a candidate into office. □ The people voted the new officers in.

vote someone on (to something) to elect someone to something, such as a board. □ Let’s vote Christine onto the board. □ We voted Dave on last term.

vote someone or something down† to defeat someone or something in an election. □ The community voted the proposal down. □ They voted down the proposal.

vote someone out of something and vote someone out† to remove one from office by defeating one in an election. □ They voted her out of office. □ The electorate voted out a number of incumbents.

vote something into law and vote something in† to take a vote on a proposal and make it a law. □ They voted the proposal into law. □ If we vote in this proposal, will that solve everything?

vote something through† to get something through a set of procedures by voting in favor of it. □ They were not able to vote the bill through. □ They voted the bill through.

vote (up) on someone or something to make a decision about someone or something by ballot. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The committee decided to vote on it. □ Are we going to vote on this?

vote with one’s feet Fig. to express one’s dissatisfaction with something by leaving, especially by walking away. □ I think that the play is a total flop. Most of the audience voted with its feet during the second act. □ I am prepared to vote with my feet if the meeting appears to be a waste of time.

vouch for someone or something to support or back someone or something; to endorse someone or something. □ I can vouch for Tom. □ Irene will vouch for my honesty.
wade across something to walk across something covered by water. □ Let's wade across the stream at this point. □ If I wade across it, I will get wet.

wade in(to something) 1. to walk into an area covered by water. □ The horse waded right into the stream. □ He waded right in. 2. Fig. to get quickly and directly involved in something. (Fig. on ①.) □ Don't just wade into things. Stop and think about what you are doing. □ Just wade in and get started.

wade through something 1. to walk with effort through a substance, such as water, mud, garbage, etc. □ The soldiers waded through the mud on the way to battle. □ They waded through the mess to get to where they were going. 2. Fig. to struggle through something with difficulty. (Fig. on ①.) □ You mean I have to wade through all these applications? □ I have to wade through forty term papers in the next two days.

waffle around and waffle about to be indecisive; to be wishy-washy about making a decision. □ Make up your mind. Stop waffling around. □ Now, don't waffle about. Make up your mind.

wag one’s chin Rur. to talk. □ She loves to visit. She’ll wag her chin for hours. □ He was on the phone, wagging his chin to his buddy.

wage something against someone or something to carry on something against someone or a group. □ They waged war against the aggressors. □ Are you still waging your battle against your father?

wager on someone or something to bet on someone or something. □ I wouldn’t want to wager on the outcome. □ I’ll wager on Bill, the fastest runner in town.

wager something on someone or something to bet a certain amount of money on someone or something. □ I’ll wager twenty bucks on you. □ I would never wager anything on that horse!

wait (around) (for someone or something) to stay somewhere until something happens or someone or something arrives. □ I’ll wait around for you for an hour or so. □ I don’t want to wait around.

wait at something (for someone or something) to stay at something or some place until something happens or someone or something arrives. □ Wait at the door for me. □ I waited at the office for your call.

wait for the next wave Go to catch the next wave.

wait for the other shoe to drop Fig. to wait for the inevitable next step or the final conclusion. □ He just opened his mail and moaned. Now, I’m waiting for the other shoe to drop when he finds the subpoena.

wait on someone hand and foot Fig. to serve someone very well, attending to all personal needs. □ I don’t mind bringing you your coffee, but I don’t intend to wait on you hand and foot. □ I don’t want anyone to wait on me hand and foot. I can take care of myself.

wait (on) tables Fig. to serve food and tend diners, as at a restaurant. □ I waited on tables for years to pay my college tuition.

wait one’s turn Fig. to keep from doing something until everyone ahead of you has done it. □ You can’t cross the intersection yet. You must wait your turn. □ I can’t wait my turn. I’m in a tremendous hurry.

wait something out to wait until something ends. □ I will wait the summer out, if and if nothing happens, I’ll write again. □ I can wait out the storm inside.

Wait up (a minute)! Wait for me while I catch up with you! □ Tom, who was following Mary down the street, said, “Wait up a minute! I need to talk to you.” □ John: Sally! Sally! Wait up! Sally: What’s happening?

wait up (for someone or something) 1. Fig. to stay up late waiting for someone to arrive or something to happen. □ I’ll be home late. Don’t wait up for me. □ We waited up for the coming of the new year, and then we went to bed. 2. and hold up (for someone or something) Fig. to wait for someone or something to catch up. □ Hey! Don’t go so fast. Wait up for me. □ Hold up! You’re going too fast.

wait up (until something) to delay going to bed until a certain time or until something happens or someone arrives. □ Are you going to wait up until midnight? □ We waited up until we heard him come in the back door.

wait (up)on someone Fig. to pay homage to someone. (Stilted.) □ Do you expect me to wait upon you like a member of some medieval court? □ She waited on her grown children as if they were gods and goddesses.

wait-and-see attitude Fig. a skeptical attitude; an uncertain attitude in which someone will just wait to see what happens before reacting. □ John thought that Mary couldn’t do it, but he took a wait-and-see attitude. □ His wait-and-see attitude seemed to indicate that he didn’t really care what happened.

waiting in the wings Fig. ready or prepared to do something, especially to take over someone else’s job or position. □ Mr. Smith retires as manager next year, and Mr. Jones is just waiting in the wings. □ Jane was waiting in the wings, hoping that a member of the hockey team would drop out and she would get a place on the team.

wake someone or an animal up to cause someone or an animal to awaken. □ Please don’t wake me up until noon. □ Wake up your brother at noon.

wake someone (up) from something to awaken someone from something, such as a sound sleep, a nap, dreams, etc. □ Henry woke Fred up from his dreams. □ He woke up Fred from a deep sleep.

wake someone up (to something) to cause someone to become alert and pay attention. (Does not refer to some-
wake the dead  Fig. to be so loud as to wake those who are "sleeping" the most soundly: the dead. a You are making enough noise to wake the dead. b Stop hollering! You'll wake the dead!

wake up to awaken; to become alert. a Wake up! We have to get on the road. b It's time to wake up!

Wake up and smell the coffee. Prov. Try to pay attention to what's going on. a Things have changed around here, Wallace J. Hodder! Wake up and smell the coffee!

wake (up) from something to awaken from something, such as a sound sleep, sleep, dreams, etc. a She woke up from a deep sleep. b Elaine woke up from her dreams with a start.

wake (up) to something and awaken to something to awaken and face something, such as a problem, sunlight, music, noise, etc. a I love to wake up to soft music. b We woke to the smell of freshly brewed coffee.

walk a tightrope  Fig. to be in a situation where one must be very cautious. a I've been walking a tightrope all day. I need to relax. b Our business is about to fail. We've been walking a tightrope for three months.

walk across something to move across something on foot. a We walked across the bridge carefully. b Jerry walked across the field and examined the fence on the other side.

walk ahead of someone or something to move on ahead of someone or something on foot. a Please walk ahead of me where I can see you. b The road was so bad, I had to walk ahead of the car and look for potholes.

walk all over someone or something 1. Lit. to tread on someone or something. a Who walked all over the posters I had spread out on the floor? b The rioters walked all over a child who had fallen in the confusion. 2. Fig. to treat someone or something very badly; to beat someone or something soundly in a competition. a The prosecution walked all over the witness. b The attorney walked all over my case.

walk along to move along on foot. a I was just walking along when my heel broke off. b I'm in no hurry. I'll just walk along at my own speed.

walk along something to move beside something on foot. a Let's not walk along the road. It's too dangerous. b Walk along the wall where it's safer.

walk arm in arm Go to arm in arm.

walk around to move around walking; to pace around. a I need to walk around and get some fresh air. b Why don't we walk around for a while before we go in?

walk around something 1. to avoid something by passing around it. a Let's walk around this muddy place in the path. 2. to tour something or some place on foot. a I will walk around the park while I am waiting for you. b Let me walk around the grounds and see what potential they offer.

walk away from someone or something 1. to depart from someone or something on foot. a Don't walk away from me while I am talking to you. b I walked away from the concert by myself. 2. to abandon someone or something; to go away and leave someone or something. a Todd walked away from the problem. b I walked away from him and never saw him again.

walk away with someone or an animal to lead, take, accompany, or carry someone or an animal away. a I walked away with my brother. b The young man walked away with the heifer.

walk away with something and walk off with something 1. Fig. to win something easily. (With little more effort than is required to carry off the winning trophy.) a John won the tennis match with no difficulty. He walked away with it. b Our team walked away with first place. 2. Fig. to take or steal something. a I think somebody just walked off with my purse! b Somebody walked off with my daughter's bicycle.

walk back (to) something to return to something or some place on foot. a I walked back to my office alone. b She walked back home. c Thanks for the offer of a ride. I'll walk back.

walk down something to go down something on foot. a She walked down the path and turned to the right. b Todd was walking down the road when they caught up with him.

walk hand in hand Go to hand in hand.

walk in (a) single file Go to in (a) single file.

walk in on someone or something to interrupt someone or something by entering a place. a I didn't mean to walk in on you. I didn't know anyone was in here. b Alice walked in on the meeting by accident.

walk in(to) something to enter something on foot. a We walked into the parking garage and tried to find our car. b He walked in and sat down.

walk off to walk away; to leave on foot abruptly. a She didn't even say good-bye. She just walked off. b He walked off and never looked back.

walk off the job 1. Fig. to abandon a job abruptly. a I was so mad I almost walked off the job. b Fred almost walked off the job when he saw how bad things were. 2. Fig. to go on strike at a workplace. a The workers walked off the job and refused to negotiate. b They walked off the job and called a strike.

walk off with something Go to walk away with something.

walk on to continue walking. a Walk on. Go all the way to the end. b I knew I wasn't there yet, so I just walked on.

walk on air  Fig. to be very happy; to be euphoric. a Ann was walking on air when she got the job. b On the last day of school, all the children are walking on air.

walk on eggs and walk on thin ice  Fig. to proceed very cautiously; to be in a very precarious position. (Fig. on the image of someone walking on something that offers little support and may collapse at any moment.) a I have to remember that I'm walking on eggs when I give this speech. b Careful with radical ideas like that. You're walking on thin ice.

walk on eggshells 1. Fig. to walk very carefully; to take steps gingerly. a Since he stumbled and fell against the china cabinet, Bill has been walking on eggshells. 2. Fig. to be very diplomatic and inoffensive. a I was walking on eggshells trying to explain the remark to her without offending her further.
walk on stage and off again Fig. to play a very small role where one goes on stage and quickly leaves again. □ It was a very small part. I walked on stage and right off again.

walk on thin ice Go to walk on eggs.

walk out of something to exit something or some place. □ We walked out of the shop when we had made our purchases. □ She went to the door and walked out.

walk out on someone Fig. to abandon someone; to leave one’s spouse. □ Mr. Franklin walked out on Mrs. Franklin last week. □ Bob walked out on Jane without saying goodbye.

walk out on something Fig. to leave a performance (of something by someone). □ We didn’t like the play at all, so we walked out. □ John was giving a very dull speech, and a few people even walked out on him.

walk out with someone to exit something or some place with someone on foot. □ After the play, Jane and I walked out together and had a nice talk. □ We walked out with Mr. Wilson, who had sat next to us during the show.

walk over (to someone or something) to move to someone or something on foot; not to hesitate to approach someone or something. □ He walks soft just to mislead people. □ Fred walked right in.

walk right in to enter on foot without hesitation. □ He went up to the door, opened it, and walked right in. □ Please just walk right in!

walk (right) into a trap to fall right into a trap or deception. □ You walked right into my trap. Now I have you right where I want you. □ The unsuspecting agent walked into the FBI setup.

walk (right) into someone or something to bump into someone or something. □ Fred walked right into the edge of the door and broke his nose. □ Sam walked into Liz and frightened her.

walk right up (to someone or something) to move up close to someone or something, on foot; not to hesitate to approach someone or something. □ Walk right up to him and ask him what you want to know. □ Just walk right up.

walk soft to be unobtrusive; to be gentle and humble. □ I try to walk soft and not rock the boat. □ The guy’s a tyrant. He walks soft just to mislead people.

walk someone out to accompany someone out, walking. □ I’ll walk you out. The exit is hard to find. □ Please let me walk you out so you don’t get lost.

walk someone over to someone or something to accompany someone a short distance on foot to someone or something. □ I’ll walk her over to the personnel department and show her what to do. □ I will walk her over to Richard. I think he’s in his office. □ She walked herself over to the window and looked out.

walk someone’s feet off Fig. to walk too much and tire out someone’s feet, including one’s own. □ I’ve gone all over town today. I walked my feet off, looking for just the right present for Jill. □ I need to know where I am going before I leave so I won’t walk my feet off.

walk someone through something 1. to lead or accompany someone through an opening, arch, doorway, etc. □ Mike walked Mary through the arch into a lovely garden. □ Todd walked Rita through the doorway, into the ballroom. 2. Fig. to lead someone through a complex problem or thought process. □ Mary walked Jane through the complex solution to the calculus problem. □ Do I have to walk you through this solution?

walk tall Fig. to be brave and self-assured. □ I know I can walk tall because I’m innocent. □ You go out on that stage and walk tall. There is no reason to be afraid.

walk the floor Fig. to pace nervously while waiting. □ While Bill waited for news of the operation, he walked the floor for hours on end. □ Walking the floor won’t help. You might as well sit down and relax.

walk the plank Fig. to suffer punishment at the hand of someone. (Fig. on the image of pirates making their blindfolded captives die by walking off the end of a plank jutting out over the open sea.) □ Fred may think he can make the members of my department walk the plank, but we will fight back. □ Tom thought he could make John walk the plank, but John fought back.

walk through something Fig. to rehearse something in a casual way; to go through a play or other performed piece, showing where each person is to be located during each speech or musical number. □ Let’s walk through this scene one more time.

walk together [for two or more people] to walk as a group. □ Let’s all walk together so we can talk to one another. □ We walked together for a while.

walk up something 1. to move up an incline or stairs on foot. □ Sally will have to walk up the stairs by herself. 2. to walk the length of something. □ I walked slowly up the hall.

walk up to someone or something to approach someone or something on foot. □ I walked up to the manager and told him my problem. □ Eric walked up to the door and rang the bell.

walk with someone to walk in the company of someone. □ Why don’t you walk with me for a while? □ Can I walk with you?

walk with something 1. to walk with the aid of something, such as a cane, crutches, etc. □ You can recognize her easily. She walks with a cane. □ Dan walks with the help of a crutch. 2. to walk in a characteristic manner, such as with a limp, halting gait, a sprightly step, etc. □ Martha’s uncle walks with a limp. □ I have always walked with a halting gait.

wall someone or something in! to contain someone or something behind or within a wall. (Implies a constriction of space, but not necessarily an inescapable area. See wall something up.) □ The count walled his prisoner in permanently. □ Jane decided to wall in the little garden at the side of the house. □ She walled the garden in.

wall someone or something off! to separate or segregate someone or something by building a wall. □ She sat right across from me at her desk, listening to every phone call I made. Finally, the manager walled her off so we now can carry on our business in privacy. □ They walled off the south door to the building.

wall something off! (from someone or something) to deny access to an area by building a wall as a barrier. □ The manager was told to wall the incinerator area off from the machinery area. □ Please wall off the incinerator area.
wall something up 1. to seal something up behind a wall. □ We simply walled the old furnace up. It was cheaper than removing it. □ They walled up the old furnace. 2. to fill up an opening, such as a window or door, by building a wall. □ We will have to hire someone to wall the doorway up. □ They walled up the doorway.

wallow (around) in something to roll around in something. □ Pigs enjoy wallowing around in mud. □ They wallow in mud to keep cool.

wallow in something Fig. to experience an abundance of something. (Fig. on wallow (around) in something.) □ Roger and Wilma are just wallowing in money. □ Claire spent the entire day wallowing in self-pity. □ The villagers are all wallowing in superstition.

Walls have ears. Prov. Someone may be listening. (A warning that you think your conversation is being overheard.) □ Jill: Did I tell you what I found out about Fred? He—Jane. Shh! Walls have ears. □ Don't say anything about our business dealings in here. Walls have ears.

wall-to-wall (with) something Fig. covered with something in all places. (From wall-to-wall carpeting.) □ The hallway is wall-to-wall with Jimmy's toys. □ The beach was wall-to-wall tourists.

waltz around something Fig. to move around or through a place happily or proudly. □ She waltzed around the room, very pleased with herself. □ Who is that person waltzing around, trying to look important?

waltz in(to some place) Fig. to step or walk into a place briskly and easily. □ She waltzed into the room and showed off her ring. □ Eric waltzed in and said hello.

waltz off Fig. to depart briskly and easily. □ They said good-bye and waltzed off.

waltz off (with something) Fig. to take something away easily. □ The thieves waltzed off with a giant screen television in broad daylight. □ They just picked the thing up and waltzed off. Nobody asked them any questions.

waltz through something Fig. to get through something easily. □ I waltzed through my comps and started on my research in my second year of grad school. □ I tried to waltz through my assignment, but it was too hard.

waltz up (to someone) Fig. to approach someone boldly. □ He just waltzed up to her and introduced himself. □ He waltzed up and said hello.

wander about and wander around to stroll or amble around without any purpose evident; to roam around. □ We just wandered about downtown all morning, looking at the shop windows. □ It’s fun to wander around in a strange town.

wander away (from someone or something) and wander off (from someone or something) to roam away from someone or something. □ The little boy wandered away from his mother. □ He wandered off from his sister. □ The dog wandered off.

wander from something to stray from something, such as a path, a set of rules, etc. □ Please do not wander from the path I have set for you. □ If you wander from our guidelines, your finished project may not be acceptable.

wander in(to something) to stray or roam into something or some place. □ A deer wandered into the parking lot and frightened some of the shoppers. □ Someone wandered in and sat down.

wander off (from someone or something) Go to wander away (from someone or something).

wangle out of something Fig. to get out of having to do something; to argue or deceive one's way out of a responsibility. □ Don't try to wangle out of this mess. You must stay and fix the problems you made. □ Mary managed to wangle out of staying late again.

wangle something from someone and wangle something out of someone Fig. to obtain, through argument or deception, something from someone. □ Are you trying to wangle money from me? □ You can't wangle any money out of me.

Wanna make sumpin’ of it? Go to Want to make something of it?

want a knuckle sandwich Go to a knuckle sandwich.

want a pick-me-up Go to a pick-me-up.

Want a piece of me? Go to (You) want a piece of me?

want first crack at something Go to first crack at something.

want for nothing Fig. not to lack anything; to have everything one needs or desires. □ The Smiths don't have much money, but their children seem to want for nothing. □ Lisa's husband spoils her. She wants for nothing.

want for something Fig. to lack something; to need something. □ I certainly don't want for advice. In fact, I have had too much. □ We don't want for helpers around here.

want in(to) something to want to come into something or some place. □ It’s cold out here! I want into the house. □ The dog wants in.

want off (of something) to desire to be off or get off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ I want off of this bus this very minute! □ Stop this train! I want off!

want out (of something) 1. to desire to get out of something or some place. □ I want out of this stuffy room. □ Where's the door? I want out. 2. Fig. to desire to be relieved of a responsibility. □ I want out of this responsibility. I don't have the time to do it right. □ This job is no good for me. I want out. 3. Fig. to want to remove oneself from some association or relationship. □ I want out. This relationship is stifling me.

want so bad one can taste it Go to so bad one can taste it.

want someone for something 1. to desire someone for some job or purpose. □ I want Fred for my team. □ We all want you for a candidate. 2. to hunt or seek someone as a criminal suspect. □ The police want Max for questioning. □ They want him for a number of crimes.

want someone or something back to desire the return of someone or something. □ Timmy wanted his mother back very badly. □ I want my money back!

want someone or something in something to desire that someone or something be in something or some place. □ I want you in my office immediately. □ I want some coffee in this room now!
warm

warm

warm and cozy. (*Also: warm as toast

ward

war over

warm up to

warm body

warm something off† to hold someone or something off; to fight someone or something off. □ The army was able to ward the attackers off repeatedly. □ We couldn’t ward off the attackers any longer.

warm as toast very warm and cozy. (*Also: as ~.) □ The baby will be warm as toast in that blanket. □ We were as warm as toast by the side of the fire.

warm someone or something up† to make someone warmer; to take the chill off someone or something. □ I put him by the fire to warm him up a little. □ We warmed up our feet before the fire. □ Could you warm up my coffee, please?

warm someone up† to make someone warmer. □ Stand by the fire and warm yourself up. □ Warm up the kids and then give them some cookies. 2. Fig. to help someone get physically prepared to perform in an athletic event. (As if exercising or loosening up someone’s muscles.) □ The referee told the coach to warm his team up so the game could begin. □ You have to warm up the team before a game. □ Be sure to warm yourself up before playing. 3. Fig. to prepare an audience for another—more famous—performer. (Fig. on 2.) □ A singer came out to warm us up for the main attraction. □ This comedian is a superb choice to warm up the audience.

warm something over† 1. to reheat food to serve it as leftovers. □ I’ll just warm the rest over for lunch tomorrow. □ Jane warmed over yesterday’s turkey. 2. Fig. to bring up a matter that was thought to have been settled. (Fig. on 1.) □ Please don’t warm that business over again. It is settled and should remain that way. □ Don’t warm over that matter. We have discussed it enough.

warm the bench Fig. [for a player] to remain out of play during a game—seated on a bench. □ John spent the whole game warming the bench. □ Mary never warms the bench. She plays from the beginning to the end.

warm the cockles of someone’s heart Fig. to make someone feel warm and happy. □ It warms the cockles of my heart to hear you say that. □ Hearing that old song again warmed the cockles of her heart.

warm up 1. [for the weather or a person] to become warmer or hotter. □ I think it is going to warm up next week. 2. Fig. [for someone] to become more friendly. (A warm person is a friendly person.) □ Todd began to warm up halfway through the conference. □ After he had worked there for a while, he began to warm up. 3. and warm up for something Fig. to prepare for some kind of performance or competition. □ The team had to warm up before the game. □ They have to warm up.

warm up to someone or something Fig. to become more fervent and earnest toward someone, something, or a group; to become more responsive and receptive to someone, a group, or something. □ After we talked, he began to warm up to us a little. □ I warmed up to the committee as the interview went on.

warmed over not very original; rehashed. □ I am not interested in reading warmed over news on a computer screen. □ The lecture sounded sort of warmed over, but it wasn’t too dull.

warn someone about someone or something to advise someone about the dangers associated with someone or something. □ Didn’t I warn you about the dangers of going there? □ I warned you about Alice.

warn someone against someone or something to advise someone against someone, something, or doing something. □ We warned them all against going to the region at this time. □ I warned her against Gerald.

warn someone away from someone or something to advise someone to avoid someone or something. □ We warned her away from the danger, but she did not heed our warning. □ Why didn’t you warn me away from Roger?

warn someone of something to advise someone that something bad is likely to happen. □ I wish you had warned us of what was going to happen. □ Please warn John of the heavy traffic he may run into.

warn someone off† to advise a person to stay away. □ We placed a guard outside the door to warn people off until the gas leak could be fixed. □ The guards warned off everyone in the vicinity.

warts and all Cliché even with the flaws. □ It’s a great performance—warts and all. □ Yes, we admire each other very much, warts and all.

was had Go to been had.

wash away to be carried away by water or some other liquid. □ The bridge washed away in the flood. □ All the soil washed away and left the rocks exposed.

wash off ((of) someone or something) to be carried off of or away from someone or something by the action of water or another liquid. (Of is usually retained before pro-
washes

wash

one’s dirty linen in public

Go to air one’s dirty linen in public.

wash

one’s hands of someone or something

Fig. to end one’s association with someone or something. (Fig. on the notion of getting rid of a problem by removing it as if it were dirt on the hands.)

- I washed my hands of Tom. I wanted no more to do with him.
- That car was a real headache. I washed my hands of it long ago.

wash out 1.

Inf. to fail and be removed from something, such as school.
- I studied all I could, but I still washed out.
- I don’t want to wash out. It’s my whole future.

2.

Inf. to have a serious wreck; to wipe out.
- The little car washed out on the curve.
- The vehicles have a tendency to wash out when cornering.

3.

Inf. to lose a large amount of money.
- Fred washed out on that stock deal.

4.

Inf. to break down or collapse from exhaustion.
- The whole play began to wash out during the second act.

Finally, after a long day, I just washed out. They had to call the paramedics.

wash over

someone

Fig. [for a powerful feeling] to flood over a person.
- A feeling of nausea washed over me.
- A strong feeling of satisfaction washed over me.

wash overboard

[for someone or something] to be carried overboard (off the deck of a ship) by water.
- Our chairs washed overboard in the storm.

wash something away

[for a flood of water] to carry someone or something away.
- The flood washed the boats away.
- The high water washed away much of the sand along the shoreline.

wash something off

[for something by washing.
- She washed the muddy children off with a hose and put their clothes right into the washing machine.
- Jane washed off the children.

wash something overboard

[for water] to flood up and carry someone or something off the deck of a ship into the sea.
- The high seas washed two of the sailors overboard.

wash something up 1.

[for someone or something by washing.
- Please wash the baby up as long as you are changing the diaper.
- I’ll wash up the baby.

Sam will wash himself up before dinner.

2. [for water or the waves] to bring someone or something up onto the shore or beach.
- Look what the waves washed up! A bottle with a note in it!
- The waves washed a bottle up.

wash something out 1.

[for something by flooding with water, alcohol, etc.
- The doctor washed the area down and began to stick up the wound.
- She washed down the wound with alcohol to clean it thoroughly.
- Todd washed the driveway down with water.

2. Fig. to use fluid to aid the swallowing of food or medicine.
- Molly washed the pills down with a gulp of coffee.

wash something out

[with something] 1.

to clean something by flooding with water, alcohol, etc.

- Fresh water will wash the seawater away.
- Let’s wash away these muddy footprints.

2. Fig. to get rid of something by flooding it down the sewer, drain, sink, etc.
- Wash all the soap suds down the drain and clean the sink, please.

Please wash all that stuff down the drain.

wash something down

[with something]

to clean something by flooding with water, alcohol, etc.

- The professor washed the area down and began to stick up the wound.

wash something out

when cornering.

I don’t want to wash out. It’s my whole future.

wash out when cornering.

Wilbur is washed up.

The professor washed over half the class.

Look what the waves washed up! A bot-

thing by washing.

The dirt washed off of the floor easily.

sand along the shoreline.

The storm washed our chairs over-

to bring someone or something up onto the
dirty linen in public

wall

that car was a real

headache. I washed my hands of it long ago.

washing out 1.

someone or something

[for a flood of water]

to flood

up† 1.

someone or something

out† 1.

inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something, such as school.
- I studied all I could, but I still washed out.
- I have to get home and wash my trousers of this stain.

I washed down the pills with a glass of water.

She washed down the pills with a gulp of coffee.

Please wash all that stuff down the drain.

wash things out

(Inf.)

to get rid of something

Inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something,

something

washed out

the whole class.

wash something up

[for a powerful feeling]

to flood

up† 1.

someone or something

out† 1.

inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something, such as school.
- I studied all I could, but I still washed out.
- I have to get home and wash my trousers of this stain.

I washed down the pills with a glass of water.

Please wash all that stuff down the drain.

wash something out

when cornering.

I don’t want to wash out. It’s my whole future.

wash out when cornering.

Wilbur is washed up.

The professor washed over half the class.

Look what the waves washed up! A bot-

thing by washing.

The dirt washed off of the floor easily.

sand along the shoreline.

The storm washed our chairs over-

to bring someone or something up onto the
dirty linen in public

wall

that car was a real

headache. I washed my hands of it long ago.

washing out 1.

someone or something

[for a flood of water]

to flood

up† 1.

someone or something

out† 1.

inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something, such as school.
- I studied all I could, but I still washed out.
- I have to get home and wash my trousers of this stain.

I washed down the pills with a glass of water.

She washed down the pills with a gulp of coffee.

Please wash all that stuff down the drain.

wash things out

(Inf.)

to get rid of something

Inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something,

something

washed out

the whole class.

wash something up

[for a powerful feeling]

to flood

up† 1.

someone or something

out† 1.

inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something, such as school.
- I studied all I could, but I still washed out.
- I have to get home and wash my trousers of this stain.

I washed down the pills with a glass of water.

Please wash all that stuff down the drain.

wash something out

when cornering.

I don’t want to wash out. It’s my whole future.

wash out when cornering.

Wilbur is washed up.

The professor washed over half the class.

Look what the waves washed up! A bot-

thing by washing.

The dirt washed off of the floor easily.

sand along the shoreline.

The storm washed our chairs over-

to bring someone or something up onto the
dirty linen in public

wall

that car was a real

headache. I washed my hands of it long ago.

washing out 1.

someone or something

[for a flood of water]

to flood

up† 1.

someone or something

out† 1.

inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something, such as school.
- I studied all I could, but I still washed out.
- I have to get home and wash my trousers of this stain.

I washed down the pills with a glass of water.

She washed down the pills with a gulp of coffee.

Please wash all that stuff down the drain.

wash things out

(Inf.)

to get rid of something

Inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something,

something

washed out

the whole class.

wash something up

[for a powerful feeling]

to flood

up† 1.

someone or something

out† 1.

inf. to lose

someone

out of

something

Inf. to fail and be removed from something, such as school.
- I studied all I could, but I still washed out.
- I have to get home and wash my trousers of this stain.

I washed down the pills with a glass of water.

Please wash all that stuff down the drain.

wash something out

when cornering.

I don’t want to wash out. It’s my whole future.

wash out when cornering.

Wilbur is washed up.

The professor washed over half the class.

Look what the waves washed up! A bot-

thing by washing.

The dirt washed off of the floor easily.

sand along the shoreline.

The storm washed our chairs over-

to bring someone or something up onto the
dirty linen in public

wall

that car was a real

headache. I washed my hands of it long ago.
waste one's breath Fig. to waste one's time talking; to talk in vain. □ Don't waste your breath talking to her. She won't listen. □ You can't persuade me. You're just wasting your breath.

waste someone Sl. to kill someone. □ The thief tried to waste the bank guard after the bank robbery. □ The crook said, "Try that again, and I'll waste you!"

waste something away 1 to use something up wastefully; to dissipate something. □ He wasted all his money away and had to live in poverty. □ They wasted away everything and regretted it later.

waste something on someone or something to throw something away on someone or something. □ Please don't waste any sweet potatoes on me. I don't like them. □ I can't waste any more money on this car.

watch for someone or something to keep looking for someone or something to appear. □ Watch for me. I'll be wearing a red carnation in my hair. □ I will watch for the bus.

Watch it! 1. Inf. Be careful. □ Rachel: Watch it! There's a broken stair there. Jane: Gee, thanks. □ Mary: Watch it! There's a pothole in the street. Bob: Thanks. 2. Inf. Do not act or talk that way. □ Sally: I really hate John! Sue: Watch it! He's my brother! □ Bill: You girls always seem to take so long to do a simple thing like getting dressed. Mary: Watch it!

Watch my lips! and Read my lips! Inf. I am going to say something rude to you that I will not say out loud! □ You jerk! Watch my lips! □ Hey, chum! Read my lips!

watch one's step 1. be careful of one's walking or stepping. □ It's slippery here. Watch your step. 2. Fig. to act with care and caution so as not to make a mistake or offend someone. □ John had better watch his step with the new boss. He won't put up with his lateness. □ Mary was told by the teacher to watch her step and stop missing classes.

watch out for someone and look out for someone Fig. to watch over and care for someone. □ When I was a kid, my older brother always watched over me. □ I really needed someone to look out for me then.

watch out for someone or something and look out for someone or something 1. to be on guard for someone or something; to be on watch for the arrival or approach of someone or something. □ Watch out for someone wearing a white carnation. □ Look out for John and his friends. They'll be coming this way very soon. 2. and look out; watch out Fig. to try to avoid a confrontation with someone or something. □ Watch out! That car nearly hit you! □ Look out for John. He's looking for you, and he's really mad. □ Thanks. I'd better look out.

watch over someone or something to keep guard over someone or something; to care for someone or something. □ Could you please watch over my little girl while I go to the store? □ I will watch over your house while you are away.

watch someone or something like a hawk Fig. to watch someone or something very carefully. □ The teacher watched the pupils like a hawk to make sure they did not cheat on the exam. □ We had to watch our dog like a hawk in case he ran away.

watch the store Go to mind the store.

Watch your mouth! and Watch your tongue! Watch your language! Inf. Pay attention to what you are saying! Do not say anything rude! □ Hey, don't talk that way! Watch your mouth! □ Watch your tongue, garbage mouth!

A watched pot never boils. Prov. Something you are waiting for will not happen while you are concentrating on it. □ Don't just sit there staring at the phone while you wait for Lucy to call. A watched pot never boils. □ I'd better do something besides look out the window waiting for Emily to drive up. A watched pot never boils.

water over the dam and water under the bridge Fig. past and unchangeable events. □ Your quarrel with Lena is water over the dam; now you ought to concentrate on getting along with her. □ George and I were friends once, but that's all water under the bridge now.

water something down 1. to dilute something. □ Who watered the orange juice down? □ Jim watered down the orange juice. 2. to water something thoroughly. □ Will you water the lawn down tonight? □ Water down the lawn this evening so it will grow tomorrow. 3. Fig. to reduce the effectiveness or force of something. (Fig. on 1.) □ Please don't water my declaration down. □ The new laws watered down the power of the president.

water under the bridge Go to water over the dam.

watering hole 1. Lit. a place where there is water for animals (and people) to drink. □ The elephants came down to the watering hole and chased away the lions so they could drink in peace. 2. Fig. a bar or tavern. □ Fred is down at the local watering hole boozing it up.

wave at someone and wave to someone to move an upraised hand in such a way as to signal recognition to someone. □ The people in the boat waved at us. □ They waved to us after we waved at them.

wave back (at someone) to return someone's hand signal of greeting. □ I waved back at her, but she didn't see me. □ She didn't wave back.

wave someone back (from something) to motion someone to move back from something. □ The police officer waved the curious onlookers back from the scene of the crime. □ The students started to go onstage, but the teacher waved them back.

wave someone or something aside 1 to make a signal with the hand for someone or something to move aside. □ The police officer waved us aside and would not let us turn into our street. □ The officer waved aside the spectators. □ She waved all the traffic aside.

wave someone or something away 1 (from something) to make a signal with the hand for someone or something to move away from someone or something. □ The officer waved us away from the intersection where we were about to turn left. □ The guard waved away the traffic from the intersection.

wave someone or something off 1 to make a signal with the hand for someone or something to remain at a distance. □ There was someone standing in front of the bridge, waving everyone off. The bridge must have collapsed. □ He waved off all the traffic.

wave someone or something on 1 to make a signal with the hand for someone or something to move on or keep moving. □ The traffic cop waved us on. □ The cop waved on the hordes of pedestrians.
wave something around
to raise something up and move it around so that everyone can see it. When Ruth found the money, she waved it around so everyone could see it. She kept waving around the dollar she found in the street.

wave to someone
Go to wave at someone.

waver between someone and someone else
to vacillate between choosing one person or another. I had to appoint the new manager, and I was wavering between Jane and Janet. We wavered between Bill and Bob for the position.

waver between something and something else
to vacillate between choosing one thing and another; to linger indecisively between doing one thing or another. The captain was wavering between St. Thomas and St. Croix. We wavered between chocolate and vanilla.

wax and wane
Fig. to increase and then decrease, as the phases of the moon. As the moon waxes and wanes, so does the height of the tide change. We saw sentiment about the tax proposal waxes and wanes with each passing day.

wax angry and wax wroth
Fig. to speak in anger and with indignity. Seeing the damage done by the careless children caused the preacher to wax wroth at their parents.

wax eloquent
Fig. to speak with eloquence. Perry never passed up a chance to wax eloquent at a banquet.

wax poetic
Fig. to speak poetically. I hope you will pardon me if I wax poetic for a moment when I say that your lovely hands drift across the piano keys like swans on a lake.

wax wroth
Go to wax angry.

the way it plays
Sl. the way it is; the way things are. The world is a rough place, and that’s the way it plays. It’s tough, but that’s the way it plays.

way off (base)
Inf. Fig. on the wrong track; completely wrong. I think you’re way off base. Try again. Sorry. You are way off. You should just give up.

way out 1.
extreme; arcane. Some of your ideas are really way out. What a way-out hairdo. heavily intoxicated. That guy is way out—can’t even walk.

(way) over there
in a place some distance away. I see a house way over there in the field. My hat is over there on the table.

The way to a man’s heart is through his stomach. Prov. If you want a man to love you, you should feed him good food. Sue: I want Keith to notice me, but he doesn’t even know I’m alive. Mother: Invite him over and cook him a good meal. The way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.

We aim to please.
Fig. We try hard to please you. (Usually a commercial slogan, but can be said in jest by one person, often in response to Thank you.) Mary: This meal is absolutely delicious! Waiter: We aim to please. Tom: Well, Sue, here’s the laundry detergent you wanted from the store. Sue: Oh, thanks loads. You saved me a trip. Tom: We aim to please.

[we are]
See the entries beginning with we’re.

(We) don’t see you much around here anymore.
and (We) don’t see you around here much anymore.
Fig. We haven’t seen you for a long time. (The we can be replaced with I.) Bill: Hello, Tom. Long time no see. Tom: Yes, Bill. We don’t see you much around here anymore. “We don’t see you around here much anymore,” said the old pharmacist to John, who had just come home from college.

We had a lovely time.
Go to I had a lovely time.

We must do this again (sometime).
Go to Let’s do this again (sometime).

We must learn to walk before we can run.
Prov. You must master a basic skill before you are able to learn more complex things. Maria wanted to make a tailored jacket as her first sewing project, but her mother convinced her that she should make something much simpler; she would have to learn to walk before she could run.

We need to talk about something.
An expression urging or ordering someone to discuss something. Bill: Can I come over tonight? We need to talk about something. Mary: I guess so. “Mr. Franklin,” said Bill’s boss sort of sternly, “I want to see you in my office for a minute. We need to talk about something.”

We were just talking about you.
A phrase said when a person being discussed appears on the scene. (Compare this with Speak of the devil.) Tom: Speak of the devil, here comes Bill. Mary: We were just talking about you, Bill. Sally (approaching Tom and Bill): Hi, Tom. Hi, Bill. What’s new? Bill: Oh, Sally! We were just talking about you.

[we will]
See the entries beginning with we’ll.

*weak as a baby and *weak as a kitten
Cliché [of someone] physically very weak. (Also: as —.) Six weeks of illness left the athlete as weak as a baby. John is as weak as a kitten because he doesn’t eat well.

weak as a kitten
Go to previous.

the weak link (in the chain)
Fig. the weak point or person in a system or organization. Joan’s hasty generalizations about the economy were definitely the weak link in her argument.

weak sister
a timid person, usually a male. It looks like Dave is the weak sister on the team. We’ve got to pull together and stop playing like a bunch of weak sisters.

a wealth of something
Fig. a large amount of something.

There’s a wealth of information on parrots at the library.
The junkyard had a wealth of used car parts.

wear someone (away†) from something
Fig. to force someone or something away from someone or something. Facing the same problems year after year was wearing away at the president of the company. The rain wore away at the stone through time.

wear down
Fig. to break down with wear; to erode.

The steps had worn down so much that each one was curved and slanted dangerously.
wear more than one hat and wear two hats Fig. to have more than one set of responsibilities; to hold more than one office. □ The mayor is also the police chief. She wears more than one hat. □ I have too much to do to wear more than one hat. □ He wears two hats; he’s both CEO and chairman of the board.

wear off [for the effects of something] to become less; to stop gradually. □ The effects of the painkiller wore off and my tooth began to hurt. □ I was annoyed at first, but my anger wore off.

wear off ((of) something) [for something] to be ground or rubbed away. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The paint has worn off the porch steps. □ The finish is wearing off.

wear on (for a period of time) Fig. [for an event] to continue for a long period of time. □ The lecture seemed to wear on for hours. □ It wore on until I went to sleep.

wear on someone Fig. to bother or annoy someone. □ We stayed with them only a short time because my children seemed to wear on them. □ Always being short of money wears on a person after a while.

wear one’s heart on one’s sleeve and have one’s heart on one’s sleeve Fig. to display one’s feelings openly and habitually, rather than keep them private. □ John always has his heart on his sleeve so that everyone knows how he feels. □ Because she wears her heart on her sleeve, it’s easy to hurt her feelings.

wear out to become worn from use; to become diminished or useless from use. □ My car engine is about to wear out. □ It takes a lot of driving to wear out an engine.

wear out one’s welcome Fig. to stay too long (at an event to which one has been invited); to visit somewhere too often. □ Tom visited the Smiths so often that he wore out his welcome. □ At about midnight, I decided that I had worn out my welcome, so I went home.

wear someone down1 1. Fig. to exhaust someone. □ This hot weather wears me down. □ The steamy weather wore down the tourists and made them stay in their hotels. 2. Fig. to reduce someone to submission or agreement by constant badgering. □ Finally they wore me down and I told them what they wanted to know. □ The interrogation wore down the suspect.

wear someone out1 Fig. to exhaust someone; to make someone tired. □ The coach made the team practice until he wore them out. □ If he wears out everybody on the team, nobody will be left to play in the game.

wear someone to a frazzle Fig. to exhaust someone. □ Her work wears her to a frazzle. □ Taking care of all those kids must wear you to a frazzle.

wear something away1 to erode something. □ The constant rains wore the side of the cathedral away. □ The flooding wore away the topsoil.

wear something down1 to grind something away; to erode something. □ The constant rubbing of the door wore the carpet down. □ The rubbing of the door wore down the carpet.

wear something off (of) something and wear something off1 to grind or rub something off something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The grinding of the bottom of the boat on the sandbanks wore the barnacles off the hull. □ The sand wore off the barnacles.

wear something out1 to make something worthless or non-functional from use. □ I wore my shoes out in no time at all. □ I wore out my shoes in less than a month.

wear something (up)on something to have something on someone as clothing or adornment. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ I wore a lovely diamond pin upon my blouse. □ I wore the flower on my lapel.

wear the britches (in the family) and wear the pants (in the family) Rur. to be in charge in the family. □ Jane bosses her husband around something scandalous. It’s clear that she wears the britches in the family. □ I don’t intend to let my wife wear the pants in the family. □ Mary’s a strong-minded woman, but her husband still wears the britches.

wear the pants (in the family) Go to previous.

wear through something to grind or rub through something. □ My heel finally wore through the carpeting beneath the accelerator of my car. □ The constant rubbing of hands wore through the paint on the railing.

wear two hats Go to wear more than one hat.

wear (upon) someone to diminish someone’s energy and resistance; to bore or annoy someone. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ You could see that the lecture was beginning to wear upon the audience. □ This kind of thing really wears on me.

wear (upon) something to grind or rub at something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) □ The bottom of the door is wearing upon the carpet and leaving marks. □ It is wearing on the carpet.

weary of someon or something to become tired of or bored with someone or something. □ I am beginning to weary of you. Isn’t it time you were going? □ We soon wearied of chicken twice a week.

weary someone with something to tire or bore someone with something. □ He wearied her with his constant requests. □ Please don’t weary me with your complaints.

weasel out of something 1. Fig. to squeeze one’s way out of something. □ Somehow, the child managed to weasel out of the hole she was stuck in. □ The mouse tried to weasel out. 2. Fig. to evade or avoid a job or responsibility. (Fig. on 1.) □ Don’t try to weasel out of your responsibility! □ You can’t weasel out! You have to do it.

weather permitting Fig. if the weather allows it. □ Weather permitting, we will be there on time. □ The plane lands at midnight, weather permitting.

weather the storm 1. Fig. to experience and survive a storm. □ We decided to stay in the building and weather the storm there with the other visitors. 2. Fig. to experience something and survive it. (Fig. on 1.) □ The manager went on another shouting rampage and frightened his assistants. The rest of us stayed in our offices to weather the storm.

weave around to move about, changing directions at random. □ The drunken driver wove around all over the road. □ He was weaving around everywhere.

weave in and out (of something) Fig. to move, drive, or walk in and out of something, such as traffic, a line, etc.
Weave something from something

☐ The car was weaving in and out of traffic dangerously. ☐ The deer ran rapidly through the forest, weaving in and out of the trees.

Weave something from something 1. to make a fabric from some type of fiber. ☐ They weave this cloth from a fine plant fiber. ☐ This cloth is woven from silk threads. 2. Fig. to make a story or explanation out of a small amount of information. (Fig. on (1.) ☐ You have woven the entire tale from something you heard me say to Ruth. ☐ Your explanation has been woven from supposition.

Weave something into something 1. to form fibers into a fabric. ☐ They could weave the threads into simple cloth with a primitive loom. ☐ We will weave this wool into a rug. 2. Fig. to turn separate episodes into a story. (Fig. on (1.) ☐ Skillfully, the writer wove the elements into a clever story. ☐ Memories from her childhood were woven into a series of short stories.

Weave through something to move through something by turning and dodging. ☐ The car wove through traffic, almost hitting a number of other cars. ☐ We wove through the jungle vines, trying to avoid touching the poisonous ones.

Wed someone to someone to marry someone to someone else. ☐ Her parents wedded her to a young prince when she was only twelve. ☐ They cannot wed her to anyone if she has already married someone of her own choosing.

Wed someone to something Fig. to join someone firmly to a concept. (Fig. on wed someone to someone.) ☐ Don't try to wed me to your way of doing things. I have my own way. ☐ Don't wed yourself to that idea.

Wed(ded) to someone married to someone. ☐ The couple will have been wed to each other for fifty years next June. ☐ Anne is wed to one of my cousins.

Wedded to something Fig. mentally attached to something; firmly committed to something. (Fig. on wed(ded) to someone.) ☐ The manager was wedded to the idea of getting new computers. ☐ The mayor was wedded to the new budget plan.

Wedge someone or something (in!) between people or things to work someone or something into a tiny space between people or things. ☐ The usher wedged us in between two enormously fat people, and we were all very uncomfortable. ☐ They wedged in the package between Jake and the wall. ☐ We had to wedge Timmy between Jed and the side of the car.

The wee hours (of the night) Go to the small hours (of the night).

Weed someone or something out Fig. to remove someone or something unwanted or undesirable from a group or collection. (Fig. on removing weeds from the soil.) ☐ We had to weed the less productive workers out one by one. ☐ The auditions were held to weed out the actors with the least ability. ☐ I'm going through my books to weed out those that I don't need anymore.

Week in, week out Fig. every week, week after week. ☐ We have the same old food, week in, week out. ☐ I'm tired of this job. I've done the same thing—week in, week out—for three years.

Weeks running Go to days running.

Weep about someone or something to cry about someone or something; to mourn someone or something. ☐ She was weeping about her grandfather, who had passed away in the night. ☐ There is no use weeping about spilled milk.

Weep for joy Fig. to cry out of happiness. ☐ She was so happy, she wept for joy. ☐ We all wept for joy at the safe return of the child.

Weep for someone or an animal to cry out of sorrow for someone or an animal. ☐ She wept for her puppy when it was terribly sick. ☐ Please don't weep for me after I'm gone.

Weep over someone or something to cry about someone or something. ☐ No need to weep over me. I'll do all right. ☐ There is no point in weeping over something you can't do anything about.

Weigh against someone or something Fig. to count against someone or something; [for some fact] to work against someone or something. ☐ I hope my many absences do not weigh against me on the final grade. ☐ This will weigh against you.

Weigh in (at something) Fig. to present oneself at a certain weight. (Usually said of boxers.) ☐ The fighter weighed in at over two hundred pounds. ☐ The contenders weighed in yesterday.

Weigh on someone's mind Fig. [for something] to be in a person's thoughts; [for something] to be bothering someone's thinking. ☐ This problem has been weighing on my mind for many days now. ☐ I hate to have things weighing on my mind. I can't sleep when I'm worried.

Weigh someone down Fig. [for a thought] to worry or depress someone. ☐ All these problems really weigh me down. ☐ Financial problems have been weighing down our entire family.

Weigh someone or something down to burden someone or something. ☐ The heavy burden weighed the poor donkey down. ☐ The load of bricks weighed down the truck.

Weigh someone's words 1. Fig. to consider carefully what someone says. ☐ I listened to what he said, and I weighed his words very carefully. ☐ Everyone was weighing his words. None of us knew exactly what he meant. 2. Fig. to consider one's own words carefully when speaking. ☐ I always weigh my words when I speak in public. ☐ John was weighing his words carefully because he didn't want to be misunderstood.

Weigh something against something to ponder something by balancing it against something. ☐ I weighed going to town against staying here and sleeping and I decided to stay here. ☐ When I weigh your suggestion against my own ideas, I realize that I must follow my own conscience.

Weigh something out to weigh something as it is distributed. ☐ The merchant weighed the cuts of meat out for each of the waiting women. ☐ They weighed out the grain carefully.

Weigh something up Fig. to find out the weight of something. ☐ I can't tell you how much this will cost until I weigh it up. ☐ Liz weighed up the meat and jotted down the price.

Weigh (up)on someone Fig. to burden or worry someone. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.) ☐ The problems at the office were beginning to weigh upon Mr. Franklin. ☐ My problems began to weigh on me.

A weight off one's mind Go to a load off one's mind.
**weight** someone or something down\(^1\) (with something) to place a heavy weight in or on someone or something; to press down or hold down someone or something with a heavy weight. □ The inquisitors weighted the accused down with stones, but he still refused to say what they wanted. □ Karen weighted down the papers with an ornamental paperweight.

**weight** something against someone or something to bias something against someone or something. □ The prosecutor tried to weight the evidence against the defendant. □ The police weighted the case against the accused company.

**weird out** Sl. to become emotionally disturbed or unnerved; to flip out. □ The day was just gross. I thought I would weird out at noon. □ I weirded out at the news of Frankie’s death.

**weirded out** Sl. disturbed or unnerved by drugs or events. □ I was totally weirded out and couldn’t control myself. □ After the blowup, Fred was really weirded out.

**Welcome aboard.** Fig. Welcome to employment at our company. (See also on board. Invariably said in greeting to a new employee.) □ Glad to meet you. Welcome aboard.

**welcome** someone into something and welcome someone in\(^1\) to greet one as one is ushered into something or some place. □ The Franklins welcomed us into their home. □ Please welcome in our new members.

**welcome** someone or something back\(^1\) to greet the return of someone or something. □ We are delighted to welcome you back to our house. □ The students welcomed back the teacher who had been ill.

**welcome** someone to something to greet someone who has come into something or some place. □ I am very pleased to welcome you to Adamsville! □ They welcomed us to the party and showed us where to put our coats and hats.

**welcome** someone with open arms Go to receive someone with open arms.

**welcome** someone with something to present something to someone as a sign of greeting. (See also receive someone with open arms.) □ The natives welcomed us with garlands of flowers. □ I welcomed the visitors with gifts and good wishes.

**welcome to do something** free to do something; allowed to do something. □ The audience is welcome to ask questions at the end of the speech. □ You are welcome to help yourself to anything in the kitchen.

**Welcome to our house.** an expression said by a host or hostess when greeting guests and bringing them into the house. □ Andy: Hello, Sally. Welcome to our house. Come on in. Sally: Thanks. It’s good to be here. □ Tom: Welcome to our house. Make yourself at home. Henry: Thanks, I’m really tired.

**weld** someone and someone else together Fig. to bind people together. (Fig. on weld something and something else together.) □ Their experiences in the war welded Tom and Sam together for life. □ They were welded together by their common goals.

**weld** something and something else together to attach things to one another by welding. □ The worker welded the ends of the rods together. □ See if you can weld these plates together.

**Well begun is half done.** Prov. Beginning a project well makes it easier to do the rest.; Once you have begun a project well, you do not need to put in much more effort to finish it. □ Jill: I’m afraid I’ll never be able to finish writing this report. Jane: You’ve already written a good introduction. Well begun is half done.

**Well, bust my buttons!** Rut. What a surprise! □ Well, bust my buttons! It’s good to see you! □ Well, bust my buttons! You did all the dishes!

*well disposed to(ward) someone or something Fig. friendly with someone or something; having a positive or favorable attitude toward someone or something. (*Typically: be ~; become ~.) □ I am not well disposed toward Walter. □ We are quite well disposed to all of them.

**Well done!** Fig. You did that nicely! □ Sally: Well done, Tom. Excellent speech. Tom: Thanks. □ In the lobby after the play, Tom was met with a chorus of well-wishers saying, “Well done, Tom!”

*(We’ll*) have to do lunch sometime. and *Let’s do lunch sometime.* We must have lunch together sometime. (A vague statement that may lead to lunch plans.) □ Rachel: Nice to talk to you, Tom. We have to do lunch sometime. Tom: Yes, good to see you. I’ll give you a ring. □ Tom: Can’t talk to you now. Catch you later. Mary: We’ll have to do lunch sometime. □ John: Good to see you, Tom. Tom: Right. Let’s do lunch sometime. John: Good idea. I’ll call you. □ Mary: Catch you later. Sue: Sure. Let’s do lunch. Mary: Okay. Call me. Bye.

(Well,) I never! 1. Inf. I have never been so humiliated! □ Bill: Just pack up your things and get out! Jane: Well, I never! □ Tom: Look, your manners with the customers are atrocious! Jane: Well, I never! 2. Inf. I never heard of such a thing. □ Tom: Now they have machines that will do all those things at the press of a button. Sally: Well, I never! I had no idea! □ John: Would you believe I have a whole computer in this pocket? Alice: I never!

(Well,) I’ll be! Rut. I am very surprised! □ Charlie: Joe and Sally got married last weekend. Jane: Well, I’ll be! □ I’ll be! Bill got the top score on the test!

**well in hand** Fig. under control. □ Is that matter well in hand? □ We have everything well in hand. Don’t worry.

*well into something* Fig. far into something or far along in something. (“Typically: be ~; get ~.”) □ It was well into the morning before she awoke. □ The car was well into the tunnel when it broke down.

**well out (of something)** to gush out of something. □ I opened the door and the water welled out.

**well out(side) of something** far outside something. □ We were well out of the city when the air-raid sirens went off.

**well over** [for a liquid] to fill up and spill over. □ The laundry tub finally welled over as it became too full. □ The milk glass began to well over, and Timmy began to cry.

**Well said.** Fig. You said that very well, and I agree. □ As Sally sat down, Mary complimented her, “Well said, Sally. You made your point very well.” □ John: And I for one will never stand for this kind of encroachment on my rights again! Mary: Well said! Bob: Well said, John! Fred: Yes, well said.

**Well, shut my mouth!** Rut. I am very surprised! □ Well, shut my mouth! I didn’t know you were in town! □ Tom:
The governor’s on the phone and wants to talk to you. Jane: Well, shut my mouth!

We’ll try again some other time. Go to Maybe some other time.

well up (from something) and well up (out of something) [for a liquid] to gush or pour up and away from something. □ The blood welled up from the wound. □ Clear water welled up out of the rocks. □ A gusher of muddy water welled up. □ Tears welled up out of the baby’s eyes.

well up in years Euph. aged; old. □ Jane’s husband is well up in years. He is nearly seventy-five. □ Joan’s well up in years but healthy.

well up (inside someone) Fig. [for a feeling] to seem to swell and move inside one’s body. □ A feeling of revulsion began to well up inside Fred. □ Burning resentment welled up, and George knew he was going to lose his temper.

well up (out of something) Go to lose up (from something).

well up with something to fill up or gush with something, such as water. □ Her eyes welled up with tears. □ The basement drain welled up with the floodwaters.

(Well,) what do you know? Inf. a way of expressing surprise at finding something that is unexpected; an expression of mild surprise at something someone has said. (No answer is expected or desired.) □ Andy: Well, what do you know? Here’s a brand new shirt in this old trunk. □ Tom: These two things fit together like this. John: Well, what do you know?

well-heeled and well-fixed; well-off Fig. wealthy; with sufficient money. □ My uncle can afford a new car. He’s well-heeled. □ Everyone in his family is well-off.

well-to-do Fig. wealthy and of good social position. (Often with quite, as in the examples.) □ The Jones family is quite well-to-do. □ There is a gentleman waiting for you at the door. He appears quite well-to-do.

welsh on someone to renounce on a bet or an agreement made with someone. (Also spelled welch.) □ You had better not welsh on me if you know what is good for you. □ Max welshed on the mob boss and made a lot of trouble for himself.

welsh on something (with someone) to renounce on a bet or agreement made with someone. (Also spelled welch.) □ Max welshed on his bet with Lefty. That was not a wise thing to do. □ It is not wise to welsh on a bet.

welter in something 1. to roll about or wallow in something; to be immersed in or surrounded by something. □ Most breeds of pigs will welter happily in mud. □ I hate having to welter in the heat. 2. [for someone or something] to drip or run with liquid, such as blood, sweat, water, etc. □ Three minutes into the jungle, we were weltering in our own sweat. □ The wounded man weltered in his blood. 3. Fig. to be immersed in something such as activity, work, demands, etc. (Fig. on ①.) □ Toward the peak of the season, we welter in orders for our goods. □ She was weltering in work, eager to take a break.

(We’re) delighted to have you (here). Go to (I’m) delighted to have you (here).

(We’re) glad you could come. Go to (I’m) glad you could come.

Were you born in a barn? Rur. an expression chiding someone who has left a door open or who is ill-mannered or messy. □ Andy: Close the door! Were you born in a barn? Bob: Sorry. □ Fred: Can’t you clean this place up a little? Were you born in a barn? Bob: I call it the messy look.

wet behind the ears and not dry behind the ears; hardly dry behind the ears Fig. young and inexperienced. □ John’s too young to take on a job like this! He’s still wet behind the ears! □ He may be wet behind the ears, but he’s well-trained and totally competent. □ Tom is going into business by himself? Why, he’s hardly dry behind the ears.

a wet blanket Fig. a dull or depressing person who spoils other people’s enjoyment. □ Jack’s fun at parties, but his brother’s a wet blanket. □ I was with Arnie and she was being a real wet blanket.

wet one’s whistle Rur. to take a drink. □ He stopped at the bar to wet his whistle. □ I don’t need a big glass of water. Just enough to wet my whistle.

wet someone or something down† to put water onto someone or something. □ Mother wet the children down with a hose while she was washing the car. □ Karen wet down the children with the hose. □ We wet the new concrete down to help it cure in all the heat.

We’ve had a lovely time. Go to I’ve had a lovely time. a whack at something Go to a try at something.

whack something off† 1. Sl. to complete something easily or quickly. □ If you want a pair of these, I can whack them off for you in a few minutes. □ The artisan whacked off a set of the earrings in a few minutes. 2. Sl. to cut or chop something off. □ A tree branch is rubbing against the house. I guess I’ll go out and whack that branch off. □ Whack off that other branch while you are at it.

whack something up† Sl. to chop something up. □ In about an hour, he had whacked the tree up into small logs. □ Have you whacked up the chicken for frying yet?

whacked (out) Sl. intoxicated. □ Gee, is he ever whacked!

whack at something to complete something easily or quickly. □ Go to a try at something.

whack someone or something up† Sl. to damage someone or something. □ Bob got mad at Greg and whacked him up. □ Clara whacked up her car yesterday.

were you born in a barn? Rur. an expression chiding someone who has left a door open or who is ill-mannered or messy. □ Andy: Close the door! Were you born in a barn? Bob: Sorry. □ Fred: Can’t you clean this place up a little? Were you born in a barn? Bob: I call it the messy look.

wet behind the ears and not dry behind the ears; hardly dry behind the ears Fig. young and inexperienced. □ John’s too young to take on a job like this! He’s still wet behind the ears! □ He may be wet behind the ears, but he’s well-trained and totally competent. □ Tom is going into business by himself? Why, he’s hardly dry behind the ears.

a wet blanket Fig. a dull or depressing person who spoils other people’s enjoyment. □ Jack’s fun at parties, but his brother’s a wet blanket. □ I was with Arnie and she was being a real wet blanket.

wet one’s whistle Rur. to take a drink. □ He stopped at the bar to wet his whistle. □ I don’t need a big glass of water. Just enough to wet my whistle.

wet someone or something down† to put water onto someone or something. □ Mother wet the children down with a hose while she was washing the car. □ Karen wet down the children with the hose. □ We wet the new concrete down to help it cure in all the heat.

We’ve had a lovely time. Go to I’ve had a lovely time. a whack at something Go to a try at something.

whack something off† 1. Sl. to complete something easily or quickly. □ If you want a pair of these, I can whack them off for you in a few minutes. □ The artisan whacked off a set of the earrings in a few minutes. 2. Sl. to cut or chop something off. □ A tree branch is rubbing against the house. I guess I’ll go out and whack that branch off. □ Whack off that other branch while you are at it.

whack something up† Sl. to chop something up. □ In about an hour, he had whacked the tree up into small logs. □ Have you whacked up the chicken for frying yet?

whacked (out) Sl. intoxicated. □ Gee, is he ever whacked!

whack at something to complete something easily or quickly. □ Go to a try at something.

whack someone or something up† Sl. to damage someone or something. □ Bob got mad at Greg and whacked him up. □ Clara whacked up her car yesterday.

were you born in a barn? Rur. an expression chiding someone who has left a door open or who is ill-mannered or messy. □ Andy: Close the door! Were you born in a barn? Bob: Sorry. □ Fred: Can’t you clean this place up a little? Were you born in a barn? Bob: I call it the messy look.

wet behind the ears and not dry behind the ears; hardly dry behind the ears Fig. young and inexperienced. □ John’s too young to take on a job like this! He’s still wet behind the ears! □ He may be wet behind the ears, but he’s well-trained and totally competent. □ Tom is going into business by himself? Why, he’s hardly dry behind the ears.

a wet blanket Fig. a dull or depressing person who spoils other people’s enjoyment. □ Jack’s fun at parties, but his brother’s a wet blanket. □ I was with Arnie and she was being a real wet blanket.

wet one’s whistle Rur. to take a drink. □ He stopped at the bar to wet his whistle. □ I don’t need a big glass of water. Just enough to wet my whistle.

wet someone or something down† to put water onto someone or something. □ Mother wet the children down with a hose while she was washing the car. □ Karen wet down the children with the hose. □ We wet the new concrete down to help it cure in all the heat.

We’ve had a lovely time. Go to I’ve had a lovely time. a whack at something Go to a try at something.

whack something off† 1. Sl. to complete something easily or quickly. □ If you want a pair of these, I can whack them off for you in a few minutes. □ The artisan whacked off a set of the earrings in a few minutes. 2. Sl. to cut or chop something off. □ A tree branch is rubbing against the house. I guess I’ll go out and whack that branch off. □ Whack off that other branch while you are at it.

whack something up† Sl. to chop something up. □ In about an hour, he had whacked the tree up into small logs. □ Have you whacked up the chicken for frying yet?

whacked (out) Sl. intoxicated. □ Gee, is he ever whacked!

whack at something to complete something easily or quickly. □ Go to a try at something.
today. Mary: What a pity! □ Mary: The cake is ruined! Sally: What a shame!

What a shame! Go to previous.

What about (doing) something? Would you like to do something? □ What about going on a picnic? □ What about a picnic?

What about (having) something? Inf. Would you like to have something? □ What about having another drink? □ What about another drink?

What about it? Inf. So what?: Do you want to argue about it? (Contentious.) □ Bill: I heard you were the one accused of breaking the window. Tom: Yeah? So, what about it? □ Mary: Your piece of cake is bigger than mine. Sue: What about it?

What about you? 1. Fig. What is your choice? (Compare this with How about you?) □ Tom: I’m having the pot roast and a cup of coffee. What about you? Mary: I want something fattening and unhealthy. □ Sally: I prefer green and purple for this room. What about you? Mary: Well, purple’s okay, but green is not right for this room. 2. What will happen to you? □ Mary: My parents are taking my brothers to the circus. Sue: What about you? Mary: I have a piano lesson. □ Mary: All my friends have been accepted to colleges. Sue: What about you? Mary: Oh, I’m accepted too.

What are you drinking? 1. Fig. a phrase inquiring what someone is already drinking so that the person who asks the question can offer another drink of the same thing. □ Bill: Hi, Tom. Nice to see you. Can I get you something to drink? Tom: Sure. What are you drinking? Bill: Scotch and water. □ Waiter: What are you drinking, madam? Sue: It’s just soda. No more, thanks. Waiter: Very good. 2. Fig. a phrase inquiring what is being drunk at a particular gathering so that the person asking can request the same drink. (A way of finding out what drinks are available.) □ Mary: Do you want a drink? Sue: Yes, thanks. Say, that looks good. What are you drinking? Mary: It’s just ginger ale. □ Bill: Can I get you something to drink? Jane: What are you drinking? Bill: I’m having gin and tonic. Jane: I’ll have that too, thanks.

What are you drinking at? Fig. What are you implying? □ What are you drinking at? What are you trying to say? □ Why are you asking me all these questions? What are you drinking at?

What are you having? Fig. What food or drink are you planning to order? (Either part of a conversation or a request from food service personnel. In a restaurant, sometimes the host or hostess will signal to a guest to order first by saying this. Sometimes a guest will ask this of a host or hostess to determine the price range that is appropriate.) □ Waiter: Would you care to order now? Tom: What are you having? Mary: You order. I haven’t made up my mind. □ Waiter: May I help you? Tom: What are you having, Pop? Father: I’ll have the roast chicken, I think, with fries. Tom: I’ll have the same.

What brings you here? Fig. What is your reason for being here? (A polite request for this information. More polite than “Why are you here?”) □ Tom: Hello, Mary. What brings you here? Mary: I was invited, just like you. □ Doctor: Well, John, what brings you here? John: I’ve had this cough for nearly a month, and I think it needs looking into.

What can I do for you? Go to How may I help you?

What can I say? Inf. I have no explanation or excuse. What do you expect me to say? (See also What do you want me to say?) □ Bill: Why on earth did you lose that big order? Sally: What can I say? I’m sorry! □ Bob: You’re going to have to act more aggressive if you want to make sales. You’re just too timid. Tom: What can I say? I am what I am.


What can’t be cured must be endured. Prov. If you cannot do anything about a problem, you will have to live with it. □ Alan: No matter what I do, I can’t make the dog stop barking in the middle of the night. Jane: What can’t be cured must be endured, then, I guess.

What difference does it make? Does it really matter? □ Does it cause any trouble? □ What if I choose to leave home? What difference does it make? □ So Jane dropped out of the club. What difference does it make?


What do you know (about that)? Inf. That is very interesting. □ Tom: I heard that Jim and Mary are getting married. Jane: Well! What do you know about that? □ What do you know? Bill finally sold his house.


What do you think? What is your opinion? □ Mary: This is our new company stationery. What do you think? Bill: Stunnin’. Simply stunning. □ Mary: We’re considering moving out into the country. What do you think? Sue: Sounds good to me.
What do you think of that?


What do you think of this weather? a phrase used to open a conversation with someone, often someone one has just met. □ Sue: Glad to meet you. Mary: Mary! Mary! John: What do you think you’re doing here? □ “What do you think you’re doing here?” said Fred to a frightened rabbit trapped in the garage.

What do you want me to say? Inf. You caught me and I’m sorry, and I don’t know what more to say. □ What do you want me to say? I apologized. There is nothing more I can do. □ Okay, so I’m wrong. What do you want me to say?

What does that prove? Fig. So what?; that does not mean anything. (A defensive expression. The heaviest stress is on that. Often with so, as in the examples.) □ Tom: It seems that you were in the apartment the same night that it was robbed. Bob: So, what does that prove? Tom: Nothing, really. It’s just something we need to keep in mind. □ Rachel: You’re late again on your car payment. Jane: What does that prove? Rachel: Simply that you can’t afford the car and we are going to repossess it.

What else can I do? Go to What more can I do? What else can I do? in other way can I serve you? (Said by shopkeepers, clerks, and service personnel.) □ Bill: What else can I do for you? Bob: Please check the oil. □ “Here’s your prescription. What else can I do for you?” said the pharmacist.

*what for 1. Fig. a scolding; a stern lecture. (“Typically: get ~; give someone ~.) □ Billy’s mother gave him what for because he didn’t get home on time. □ I will really give you what for if you don’t straighten up. 2. Why?; For what reason? □ Father: “I want you to clean your room.” Child: “What for? It’s clean enough.” □ What did you do that for?


What goes up must come down. Prov. Anything that has risen or been raised up must eventually fall down. □ When it came time to move out of our second-floor apartment, we looked at our large, heavy sofa with dismay, not sure how we would get it down the stairs. “What goes up must come down,” my husband said, “Somehow.”


What have you been up to? Inf. I haven’t seen you for a long time, so tell me what you have been doing? □ Hi, Tom. Where have you been? What have you been up to? □ What have you been up to? Busy, I am sure.

What if...? What would be the result if something were true? □ What if you had all the money you want? □ What if everyone thought you were great?

What if I do? Does it matter to you if I do it?; What difference does it make if I do it? □ Tom: Are you really going to sell your leather coat? Bob: What if I do? □ Jane: You’re not going to go out dressed like that, are you? Sue: So what if I do?

What if I don’t? Does it matter to you if I do not do it?; What difference does it make if I do not do it? □ Bob: You’re certainly going to tidy up a bit before going out, aren’t you? Tom: What if I don’t? □ Father: You are going to get in by midnight tonight or you’re grounded. Fred: So what if I don’t? Father: That’s enough! You’re grounded as of this minute!

What (in) the devil? and What (in) the dickens? Inf. What has happened?; What? (Often with the force of an exclamation.) □ What in the devil? Who put sugar in the salt shaker? □ What the dickens? Who are you? What are you doing in my room?

What (in) the dickens? Go to previous. What (in) the devil? 1. Inf. What has happened?; What? □ What in the hell? Who did this? □ What the hell happened here? 2. Inf. What does it matter? Why not? (Usually with the force of an exclamation.) □ Give her a new one. What the hell! □ Don’t be such a cheapskate. Get the nice one. What the hell!

What in (the) Sam Hill? Inf. What has happened?; What? (An elaboration of what. Sam Hill is a euphemism for hell. Often with the force of an exclamation. See examples for variations.) □ What in Sam Hill is going on around here? □ What in the Sam Hill do you think you are doing?

[what is] See also the entries beginning with what’s.

What is it? What do you want from me?; Why do you want to get my attention? □ Tom: John, can I talk to you for a minute? John: What is it? □ Sue: Jane? Jane: What is it? Sue: Close the door, please.

what makes someone tick Fig. something that motivates someone; something that makes someone behave in a certain way. (Fig. on what makes something tick.) □ William is sort of strange. I don’t know what makes him tick. □ When you get to know people, you find out what makes them tick.

what makes something tick Fig. the sense or mechanism that makes something run or function. (With reference to the ticking of a clock representing the functioning of the clock.) □ I don’t know what makes it tick. □ I took apart the radio to find out what made it tick.

what makes you think so? 1. Lit. Why do you think that?; What is your evidence for that conclusion? □ Tom: This bread may be a little old. Alice: What makes you think so? Tom: The green spots on the edges. □ Bob: Congress is in session again. Tom: What makes you think so? Bob: My wallet’s empty. 2. Inf. Is that not totally obvious? (Sarcas-


What's done is done. Prov. It is final and in the past. □ It's too late to change it now. What's done is done. □ What's done is done. The past cannot be altered.


What's going down? Go to What's coming off?

What's going on? (around here)? What is happening in this place? What is the explanation for the strange things that are happening here? □ Bill: There was an accident in the factory this morning. Bob: That's the second one this week. What's going on around here? □ Mary: What's all the noise? What's going on? Sue: We're just having a little party.

What's got(ten) into someone? What is bothering someone? What caused someone to act that way? (Past or perfect only. The has is contracted except for emphasis.) □ I just don't know what's gotten into her. □ I don't know what got into me.

What's happen(ing)? Sl. Hello, what's new? □ Hey, dude! What's happening? □ What's happen? How's it goin'? What's his face and what's his name Sl. someone whose name has been forgotten; someone whose name is being avoided. □ Was what's his name there? I never can remember his name. □ I can't remember what's his face's name either.

What's his name Go to previous.

What's in a name? Prov. The name of a thing does not matter as much as the quality of the thing. (From Shakespeare's play, Romeo and Juliet.) □ Sue: I want to buy this pair of jeans. Mother: This other pair is much cheaper. Sue: But it doesn't have the designer brand name. Mother: What's in a name?

What's in it for me? Inf. What is the benefit for me in this scheme? □ Bob: Now that plan is just what is needed. Bill: What's in it for me? What do I get out of it? □ Sue: We signed the Wilson contract yesterday. Mary: That's great! What's in it for me?


What's keeping someone? What is delaying someone? (The someone is replaced by a person's name or a pronoun.) □ Bob: Wasn't Mary supposed to be here? Bill: I thought so. Bob: Well, what's keeping her? Bill: How should I know? □ Bill: I've been waiting here for an hour for Sally. Sue: What's keeping her?

What’s new with you? Inf. A typical greeting, often a response to What’s new?  
Mary: What’s new with you?  
Sally: Oh, nothing. What’s new with you? Mary: The same.  
Fred: Hi, John! How are you? John: Great! What’s new with you?  

What’s on tap for today? Inf. What is on the schedule for today? What is going to happen today? (As a beer that is on tap and ready to be served.)  
Tom: Good morning, Fred. Fred: Morning. What’s on tap for today? Tom: Trouble in the morning and difficulty in the afternoon. Fred: So nothing’s new. Sally: Can we have lunch today? Sue: I’ll have to look at my schedule and see what’s on tap for today.  

What’s poppin’? Sl. Hello, what is happening?  
What’s poppin’? Anything new?  
What’s poppin’, G?  

What’s sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Prov. What is good for one person is good for another. What is good for the man in a couple is good for the woman.  
Fred: I have this funny feeling in my chest. Bill: To get my computer repaired. Who do I talk to? What’s the problem?  

What’s shakin’ (bacon)? Sl. How are you? What is new?  
What’s shakin’ bacon? What’s going down?  

What’s that? What did you say?  
Tom: We’re leaving tomorrow. Jane: What’s that?  
What’s that? Did you say “Iowa” or “Idaho”?  

What’s the (big) idea? Inf. Why did you do that? (Usually said in anger.)  
Please don’t do that! What’s the idea?  
Why did you shove me? What’s the big idea?  

What’s the catch? Sl. What is the drawback? It sounds good, but are there any hidden problems? Sounds too good to be true. What’s the catch?  
This looks like a good deal. What’s the catch?  

What’s the damage? Sl. What are the charges? How much is the bill?  
Bill: That was delicious. Waiter, what’s the damage? Waiter: I’ll get the check, sir.  
Waiter: Your check sir. Tom: Thanks, Bill. What’s the damage? Tom: Let me pay my share. Tom: Nonsense, I’ll get it. Bill: Okay this time, but I owe you one.  

What’s the drill? 1. Inf. What is going on here?  
Bill: I just came in. What’s the drill? Tom: We have to carry all this stuff out to the truck.  
“What’s the drill?” asked Mary. “Why are all these people sitting around like this?”  
2. Inf. What are the rules and procedures for doing this?  
Bill: I need to apply for new license plates. What’s the drill? Is there a lot of paperwork? Clerk: Yes, there is.  
Bill: I have to get my computer repaired. Who do I talk to? What’s the drill?  
Bob: You have to get a purchase order from Fred.  

What’s the good of something? What is the point of something? Why bother with something?  
What’s the good of my going at all if I’ll be late? There is no need to get there early. What’s the good of that?  

What’s the (good) word? Sl. Hello, how are you?  
Hi, Jim! What’s the good word?  
Haven’t seen you in a long time. What’s the good word?  

What’s the matter (with you)? 1. Lit. Is there something wrong with you?  
Are you ill?  
Bill: What’s the matter with you? Fred: I have this funny feeling in my chest. Bill: Sounds serious.  
Bob: I have to stay home again today. Bill: What’s the matter with you? Have you seen a doctor?  
Mary: Oh, I’m so miserable! Sue: What’s the matter? Mary: I lost my contact lenses and my glasses.  
Inf. How very stupid of you! How can you be so stupid? (Usually said in anger.)  
As Fred stumbled over the step and dumped the birthday cake on the floor, Jane screamed, “What’s the matter with you? The party is in fifteen minutes and now we have no cake!”  
Mary: I think I just lost the Wilson account. Sue: What! What’s the matter with you? That account pays your salary!  

What’s the problem? 1. Lit. What problem are you presenting to me?  
Bill (coming in): I need to talk to you about something. Tom: What’s the problem, Bill?  
“What’s the problem?” said Mary, peering at her secretary over her glasses.  
Inf. A question asking what the problem is and implying that there should not be a problem.  

What’s the scam? and What’s the deal? Sl. What is going on around here? (Often implies that something seems to be wrong.)  
There is a big rumpus down the hall. What’s the scam?  
I gave you a twenty, and you give me five back. What’s the deal? Where’s my other five?  

What’s the scoop? Inf. What is the news? What’s new with you?  
Bob: Did you hear about Tom? Mary: No, what’s the scoop?  
“Hi, you guys!” beamed John’s little brother. “What’s the scoop?”  

What’s (there) to know? Inf. This doesn’t require any special knowledge, so what are you talking about?  
Bill: Do you know how to wind a watch? Bob: Wind a watch? What’s there to know?  
Sue: We must find someone who knows how to repair a broken lawn mower. Tom: What’s to know? Just a little tightening here and there. That’s all it needs.  

What’s up? Inf. Hello, what is happening?  
What’s up? How’re you doing?  
Hey, Chuck! What’s up?  

What’s up, doc? Cliché What’s happening around here? What are you doing?  
Your bike’s spread out all over the garage. What’s up, Doc?  

What’s with someone or something? Why is someone or something in that condition? What’s going on with someone or something?  
Mary: What’s with Tom? He looks depressed. Bill: He broke up with Sally. “What’s with this stupid coffee maker? It won’t get hot!” groused Alice.  

What’s wrong? There is something wrong here. What has happened?  
Mary: Oh, good grief! Bill: What’s wrong? Mary: I forgot to feed the cat.  
Sue (crying): Hello, Sally? Sally: Sue, what’s wrong? Sally: Oh, nothing. Tom left me.  

What’s your age? Sl. Hello, how are you?  
Tim: What’s your age? Joe: Hey, Tim, what’s going on with you? Yo, Sam! What’s your age?  

What’s yours? Go to What’ll it be?  

What’s yours is mine, and what’s mine is mine. Prov. A humorous way of saying, “Everything belongs to me.” (A jocular variant of “What’s yours is mine, and
what’s mine is yours,” an expression of generosity.) □ I know you won’t mind lending me your radio. After all, what’s yours is mine, and what’s mine is mine. □ The thief took his confederate’s share of the money they had stolen, saying, “What’s yours is mine, and what’s mine is mine.”


what someone or something is cracked up to be what someone or something is supposed to be. □ I wanted to find out whether this stuff was what it is cracked up to be. □ This pizza isn’t what it’s cracked up to be. □ It comes just like this. What you see is what you get. The ones in the box are just like this one.

What someone said. Sl. I agree with what someone just said, although I might not have been able to say it as well or so elegantly. □ What John said. And I agree 100 percent. □ What you said. That’s my feeling, too.

What the deuce? Sl. What has happened? What? (Deuce is an old word for devil.) □ What the deuce! Who are you? □ What the deuce! Who did this?

What the devil? and What the fuck?: What the hell? What the shit? What has happened? What? (Often with the force of an exclamation. What the fuck? and What the shit? are taboo.) □ What the devil? Who put sugar in the salt shaker? □ What the fuck? Who are you? What are you doing in my room? □ What the shit are you doing here? You’re supposed to be at work.

What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over. Prov. You cannot be upset by something you do not know about. □ When Robbie cracked his mother’s favorite vase, he simply turned the cracked side toward the wall. “What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over,” he thought.

What the fuck? Go to What the devil?

What the heck! Inf. It doesn’t matter! (Often with the force of an exclamation.) □ Oh, what the heck! Come on in. It doesn’t matter. □ Oh, what the heck! I’ll have another beer. Nobody’s counting.

What the hell? Go to What the devil?

What was the name again? Please tell me your name again. (More typical of a clerk than of someone just introduced.) □ Clerk: What was the name again? Bill: Bill. □ What was the name again? I didn’t write it down,” confessed Fred.

[what will] See also the entries beginning with what’ll.

What will be, will be. Go to What must be, must be.

what with something because of something. □ What with the children being at home and my parents coming to stay, I have too much to do. □ The Smiths find it difficult to manage financially, what with Mr. Smith losing his job and Mrs. Smith being too ill to work.

What would you like to drink? an offer to prepare or serve a drink. □ Bill: Come in and sit down. What would you like to drink? Andy: Nothing, thanks. I just need to relax a moment. □ Waiter: What would you like to drink? Alice: Do you have any grape soda? Waiter: I’ll bring you some ginger ale, if that’s all right. Alice: Well, okay. I guess.

What would you say if...? an expression introducing a request for an opinion or a judgment. □ Bill: What would you say if I ate the last piece of cake? Bob: Go ahead. I don’t care. □ Mary: What would you say if we left a little early? Sally: It’s okay with me.

What you don’t know won’t hurt you. and What you don’t know can’t hurt you. Prov. If you do not know about a problem or a misdeed, you will not be able to make yourself unhappy by worrying about it. (Often used to justify not telling someone about a problem or misdeed.) □ Ellen: What a beautiful diamond necklace! Thank you! But how on earth did you get the money to pay for it? Fred: What you don’t know won’t hurt you.

What you see is what you get. The product you are looking at is exactly what you get if you buy it. □ It comes just like this. What you see is what you get. □ What you see is what you get. The ones in the box are just like this one.

What(ever) goes around, comes around. Prov. The results of things that one has done will someday have an effect on the person who started the events. □ So he finally gets to see the results of his activities. What goes around, comes around. □ Now he is the victim of his own policies. Whatever goes around comes around.

Whatever turns you on. 1. Inf. Whatever pleases or excites you is okay. □ Mary: Do you mind if I buy some of these flowers? Bill: Whatever turns you on. □ Mary: I just love to hear a raucous saxophone play some smooth jazz. Bob: Whatever turns you on, baby. 2. Inf. a comment implying that it is strange to get so excited about something. (Essentially sarcastic.) □ Bob: I just go wild whenever I see pink gloves on a woman. I don’t understand it. Bill: Whatever turns you on. □ Jane: You see, I never told anybody this, but whenever I see snow falling, I just go sort of mushy inside. Sue: Weird, Jane, weird. But, whatever turns you on.

Whatever will be, will be. Go to What must be, must be.

What’ll it be? and Name your poison.; What’ll you have?; What’s yours? Inf. What do you want to drink? What do you want?; How can I serve you? (Typically said by a bartender or bar waiter or waitress.) □ Tom: What’ll it be, friend? Bill: I’ll just have a ginger ale, if you don’t mind. □ Waitress: What’ll you have? Bob: Nothing, thanks.

wheedle someone into something to get someone to agree to do something by begging or flattery. □ She is always trying to wheedle us into coming for a visit. □ She can’t wheedle me into doing that!

wheedle something away from someone and wheedle something out of someone to get something away from someone by begging or flattery. □ The crooks wheedled the old lady’s money away from her. □ Tim wheedled a few dollars out of his uncle.

wheel and deal to take part in clever (but sometimes dishonest or immoral) business deals. □ John loves to wheel and deal in the money markets. □ Jack got tired of all the wheeling and dealing of big business and retired to run a pub in the country.

wheel around to turn around quickly; to change direction quickly. □ She wheeled around quickly to face him. □ Suddenly, Roger wheeled around and started chasing Wally.
wheel someone or something around¹ to push or steer around someone or something on wheels.  
I had to wheel my great-uncle around all day when we visited the zoo.  
I wheeled around my uncle so he could enjoy the park.  
I wheeled the heavy shopping cart around the grocery store.

wheel someone or something away² to push away someone or something on wheels.  
The nurse wheeled the old man away, into the shelter of the porch.  
She wheeled away the old man.

wheel someone or something into something and wheel someone or something in¹ to bring someone or something into something or some place on wheels.  
The orderly wheeled the man into the operating room.  
The orderly wheeled in the patient.

wheel someone or something off² to push or steer someone or something on wheels some distance away.  
The nurse wheeled the old man off.  
Karen wheeled off the patient.

wheel someone or something out of something and wheel someone or something out¹ to push or steer someone or something out of something on wheels.  
The nurse wheeled the new mother out of the hospital.  
Liz wheeled out the new mother.

wheeze something out¹ to say something, while wheezing; to say something, using a wheeze for a voice. (As if one is out of breath.)  
He was out of breath from running and was only able to wheeze a few words out.  
Liz wheezed out a quick hello.

when all is said and done Cliché when everything is finished and settled; when everything is considered.  
When all is said and done, this isn't such a bad part of the country to live in after all.  
When all is said and done, I believe I had a very enjoyable time on my vacation.

When do we eat? What time is the next meal served? (Indicates that the speaker is hungry, but considered impolite.)  
Bill: This is a lovely view, and your apartment is great. When do we eat? Mary: We've already eaten.  
Weren't you just leaving? Bill: I guess I was.  
Andy: Wow! Something really smells good! When do we eat? Rachel: Oh, mind your manners.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do. Prov. Behave however the people around you behave. Adapt yourself to the customs of the places you visit.  
Jill: Everyone in my new office dresses so casually. Should I dress that way, too?  
Jane: By all means. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

when it comes right down to it Cliché all things considered; when one really thinks about something.  
When it comes right down to it, I'd like to find a new job.  
When it comes right down to it, he can't really afford a new car.

when it comes to something as for something; speaking about something.  
When it comes to fishing, John is an expert.  
When it comes to trouble, Mary really knows how to cause it.

when least expected when one does not expect something.  
An old car is likely to give you trouble when least expected.  
My pencil usually breaks when least expected.

When one door shuts, another opens. Prov. When you lose one opportunity, you often find a different one.  
Jane: I just found out I’m failing two classes. I’ll never get into college with grades like this.  
Jill: Well, maybe you’ll find something better than college. When one door shuts, another opens.

when one is good and ready when one is completely ready.  
I’ll be there when I’m good and ready.  
Ann will finish the job when she’s good and ready and not a minute sooner.

when one’s ship comes in Fig. when one becomes rich and successful.  
When my ship comes in, we’ll live in one of these huge mansions on the hill, my lass.  
When your ship comes in, Otto. I’ll probably die of amazement!

When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window. and When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window. Prov. If a couple gets married because they are in love, but they do not have enough money, they will stop loving each other when the money runs out.  
You young folks may think you can live on love alone, but when poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.  
After Susan lost her job, she and her unemployed husband had a big argument.  
When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.

when push comes to shove and if push comes to shove Fig. when things get a little pressed; when the situation gets more active or intense.  
When push comes to shove, you know I’ll be on your side.  
If push comes to shove at the meeting, the front office can back you up with some statistics.

When the cat’s away, the mice will play. Prov. When no one in authority is present, the subordinates can do as they please.  
When the teacher left for a few minutes, the children nearly wrecked the classroom.  
When the cat’s away, the mice will play.  
Jill: You shouldn’t be reading a novel at your desk.  
Jane: But the boss isn’t here. And when the cat’s away, the mice will play.

when the chips are down Fig. at the final, critical moment; when things really get difficult.  
When the chips are down, I know that I can depend on Jean to help out.  
I knew you would come and help when the chips were down.

when the dust settles 1. Lit. when the dust falls out of the air.  
When the dust settles, we will have to begin sweeping it up.  
Fig. when things have calmed down.  
When the dust settles, we can start patching up all the hurt feelings.

when the fat hit the fire Go to the fat hit the fire.

when the fat lady sings Go to till the fat lady sings.

when the going gets tough and if the going gets tough; when the going gets rough; if the going gets rough as things get extremely difficult; when it becomes difficult to proceed.  
When the going gets tough, I will be there to help you.  
If the going gets tough, just give me a call.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Prov. When things are difficult, strong people take action and do not despair. (Can be used to encourage someone to take action.)  
The football team was losing the game, so at halftime the coach reminded them that when the going gets tough, the tough get going.  
Jill: I don’t think I can walk all the way to the top of this hill; it’s so steep!  
Jane:
Where will I find you?

Don't give up. When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

**when the shit hits the fan** SL. when all the expected trouble materializes. □ When the shit hits the fan, you had better be prepared to support those of us who are involved in this mess.

**when the time is ripe** Fig. at exactly the right time. □ I'll tell her the good news when the time is ripe. □ When the time is ripe, I'll bring up the subject again.

When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window. Go to When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.

**when you get a chance** Go to next.

**when you get a minute** and **when you get a chance** a phrase introducing a request, especially to talk to someone. □ Bill: Tom? Tom: Yes. Bill: When you get a minute, I'd like to have a word with you. □ “Please drop over for a chat when you get a chance,” said Fred to Bill.

**Where can I wash up?** and **Is there some place I can wash up?** Euph. a way of asking where the toilet or bathroom is without referring to one's need to use it. (Of course, this is also appropriate to ask where one can wash one's hands.) □ The minute he got to the house, he asked Fred, “Where can I wash up?” □ Fred: Welcome. Come in. Bill: Oh, is there some place I can wash up?

**Where do (you think) you get off?** Inf. What do you think you are doing? Who do you think you are? (A sharp reply to something offensive or impolite.) □ How rude! Where do you think you get off? □ Where do you get off, talking to me like that?

**Where have you been all my life?** Inf. an expression of admiration usually said to a lover. □ Mary: I feel very happy when I'm with you. John: Oh, Mary, where have you been all my life? □ John grasped her hand, stared directly at her left ear, and stuttered, “Where have you been all my life?”

**Where (have) you been hiding (yourself)?** Go to next.

**Where (have) you been keeping yourself?** and **Where (have) you been hiding (yourself)?** Inf. I haven't seen you for a long time. Where have you been? □ Bill: Hi, Alice! Where have you been keeping yourself? Alice: Oh, I've been around. How are you doing? Bill: Okay. □ John: What's up? Bill: Hi. man. Where you been keeping yourself? John: Oh: I've been busy.

**Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.** Prov. If knowing something makes you unhappy, it would be better not to know it. (Also the cliché: **ignorance is bliss.**) □ Ellen: The doctor didn't tell Dad that Mom probably won't recover from her illness. Do you think we should tell him? Bill: No. It would only make him unhappy and ruin their last months together. Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

**Where in the world...?** Inf. Where? (An intensive form of where. See examples for variations.) □ Where in the world have you been? □ Where in the world did I put my glasses?

**Where is the restroom?** the appropriate way of asking for the toilet in a public place. □ Bob: 'Scuse me. Waiter: Yes, sir. Bob: Where is the restroom? Waiter: To your left, sir.

**Mary: Where is the restroom, please? Clerk: Behind the elevators, ma'am.**

**where it's at** SL. what one is aiming for; what is needed. (This does not refer to a place.) □ Keep on trying. That's where it's at! □ Good strong friends. That's where it's at.

**Where on (God's green) earth?** Inf. (Exactly) where? (An intensive form of where. See examples for variations.) □ Where on God's green earth did you get that ridiculous hat? □ Where on earth is my book? □ Where on God's green earth were you?

**where one is coming from** one's point of view. □ I think I know what you mean. I know where you're coming from. □ Man, you don't know where I'm coming from! You don't understand a single word I say.

**Where's the beef?** Inf. Where is the substance? Where is the important content? □ That's really clever and appealing, but where's the beef? □ Where's the beef? There's no substance in this proposal.

**Where's the fire?** Inf. Where are you going in such a hurry? (Typically said by a police officer after stopping a speeding driver.) □ Officer: Okay, where's the fire? Mary: Was I going a little fast? □ "Where's the fire?" Bob called ahead to Sue, who had gotten well ahead of him in her excitement.

**where someone is at** SL. what mental condition someone is in. □ I know where you're at. I know what you are talking about. □ You said it! I know just where you're at!

**where someone lives** Inf. at one's core; in one's personal situation. □ That really hits you where you live, doesn't it? □ Yes, that gets me where I live.

**where someone's head is at** Inf. the state of one's mental well-being. □ As soon as I figure where my head is at, I'll be okay. □ He doesn't know where his head is at.

**where the action is** where important things are happening. □ I want to be where the action is. □ Right there in city hall. That's where the action is.

**where the rubber meets the road** Fig. at the point in a process where there are challenges, issues, or problems. □ Now we have spelled out the main area of dissent. This is where the rubber meets the road.

**where the sun don't shine** SL. in a dark place, namely the anus. □ I don't care what you do with it. Just put it where the sun don't shine. □ For all I care you can shove it where the sun don't shine.

**Where there's a will, there's a way.** Prov. Cliché If you truly want to do something, you will find a way to do it, in spite of obstacles. □ We'll get this piano up the stairs somehow. Where there's a will, there's a way. □ I have no doubt that Bob will find a publisher for his novel. Where there's a will, there's a way.

**Where there's life there's hope.** Go to While there's life there's hope.

**Where there's smoke there's fire.** Go to (There's) no smoke without fire.

**Where will I find you?** Please give me directions for finding you. (Said when people are arranging a meeting somewhere.) □ Sue: Where will I find you? Bob: I'll be sitting in the third row somewhere. □ Tom: We'll get to the farm about noon. Where will we find you? Sally: Probably
wherewithal (to do something)

in the barn. If you can’t find me, just go up to the house and make yourself comfortable on the porch.

* the wherewithal (to do something) the means to do something, especially energy or money. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ He has good ideas, but he doesn’t have the wherewithal to carry them out. □ I could do a lot if only I could get the wherewithal.

what someone’s appetite Fig. to cause someone to be interested in something and to be eager to have, know, learn, etc., more about it. □ Seeing that film really whetted my sister’s appetite for horror films. She now sees as many as possible. □ My appetite for theater was whetted when I was very young.

whether or not either if something is the case or if something is not the case; one way or the other. □ I’ll drive to New York regardless of whether or not it rains. □ I’m going to the mall whether you come with me or not.

which brings me to the (main) point a transitional phrase that introduces the main point of a discussion. □ Bill: Keeping safe at times like this is very important—which brings me to the main point. Does your house have an adequate burglar alarm? Sally: I knew you were trying to sell me something! Out! □ Lecturer: ... which brings me to the point. John (whispering): Thank heavens! I knew there was a point to all this.

*a whiff of something 1. Lit. the smell or odor of something. (*Typically: get ~; catch ~; have ~; take ~; give someone ~.) □ Did you get a whiff of the turkey roasting? Yummy. □ I caught a whiff of something rather unpleasant in the attic. I think there is a dead mouse up there. 2. Fig. a bit of knowledge of something. (*Typically: get ~; catch ~; have ~; take ~; give someone ~.) □ The boss got a whiff of the problems in the accounting department. □ No one will get a whiff of your trouble with the police. I’ll see to that.

while a period of time away (doing something) to spend or waste time doing something. □ I whiled an hour away just staring at the sea. □ Liz whiled away the entire afternoon, snoozing. □ I just loved to while away the hours.

While there’s life there’s hope. and Where there’s life there’s hope. Prov. Cliché As long as you are alive, you should be hopeful, because it is possible that your situation will improve. □ Nancy: What will we do, now that our house and everything we own has burned up? Bill: While there’s life there’s hope. □ Ellen: Ever since my divorce, it seems as if I have nothing to hope for. Jane: I know things seem bleak, but where there’s life there’s hope.

whine about someone or something to whimper or complain about someone or something. □ Please don’t whine about Sally. She is sorry she couldn’t come to your party, but it’s not the end of the world. □ The dog is whining about its hurt paw.

whine something out to say something in a whine; to say something, using a whine for a voice. □ She whined her complaint out so everyone could hear it. □ John whined out his usual complaints.

whip around 1. to reverse suddenly. (As with the tip of a whip.) □ The rope suddenly whipped around and struck me in the face. □ A branch whipped around and tore my shirt. 2. to turn around very quickly and suddenly. □ John whipped around when he heard the noise. □ Claire whipped around to face her opponent.

whip back (on someone) [for something] to snap back and strike someone. □ The branch whipped back and struck Jill in the leg. □ It whipped back and slapped my side.

whip into something Fig. to go quickly into something or some place. □ They whipped into the parking space before I could get there. □ I whipped into the store to pick up a few things.

whip someone into a state Fig. to excite, arouse, or foment someone into some state. (Based on whip someone into doing something.) □ The cruel captain whipped his men into a frenzy. □ The angry cries from the audience whipped the speaker into a rage.

whip someone into doing something to beat someone into doing something. □ The cruel captain whipped his men into going on with the journey. □ You can’t whip me into betraying my friends.

whip someone or something around to cause someone or something to reverse direction quickly. □ The roller coaster whipped around the riders, right and left, until they were almost sick. □ The sharp turn whipped me around, but I wasn’t hurt.

whip someone or something into shape to cause someone or something to be in a better condition. □ The coach was not able to whip the players into shape before the game. □ I think I can whip this proposal into shape quickly. □ Hey, Tom, whip yourself into shape. You look a mess.

whip someone or something on to force someone or something to continue by whipping or beating. □ The rider whipped his horse on, faster and faster. □ The stagecoach driver whipped the team of horses.

whip someone up to excite or stir up someone. □ Well, you’ve certainly whipped them up with that speech. □ Harry whipped up the crowd with a few good jokes.

whip something away (from someone) to jerk something away from someone suddenly. □ The mugger whipped Sally’s purse away from her and ran. □ The thief whipped away the purse.

whip something into shape Go to lick something into shape.

whip something into something to beat one soft ingredient into another. □ Whip the butter into the egg and make a smooth paste. □ First, you must whip the egg whites into the cream.

whip something off to do or create something quickly. □ If you need another receipt, I can whip one off in a jiffy. □ She whipped off another set of earrings for the tourist. 2. Inf. to remove something, such as an item of clothing, quickly. □ He whipped the coat off and dived into the water. □ I whipped off my cap.

whip something out 1. Inf. to complete making or working on something quickly. □ I think I can whip one out for you very quickly. □ The factory whips out twenty of these every minute. 2. Inf. to jerk something out [of some place]. □ Liz whipped a pencil out of her pocket. □ She whipped out a pencil and signed the contract.

whip something over (to someone) Fig. to send or give something to someone with great speed. □ I will whip this
letter over to Mr. Franklin right away. □ Sam whipped the package over to Alice immediately.

**whip** something up**†** to prepare, create, or put something together. □ I haven't written my report yet, but I'll whip one up before the deadline. □ I will whip up the most beautiful arrangement you have ever seen.

**whip** something written off**†** to someone Inf. to write and send off a letter to someone quickly. □ After I got her letter, I whipped an answer off to her the same afternoon. □ Liz whipped off a letter to her grandmother.

**whip** through something Fig. to work through something very fast. □ Do this carefully. Don't just whip through it. □ She whipped through her homework and went outside to play.

a **whipping boy** Fig. someone who is punished for someone else's misdeeds. □ The president has turned out to be the whipping boy for his party.

**whirl** around to turn around very quickly. □ I caught him on the shoulder and he whirled around to see who it was. □ Todd whirled around and grabbed Max by the wrists.

**whirl** someone or something around**†** to turn someone or something around quickly. □ I grabbed him by the shoulder and whipped him around to face me. □ I whirled around the book display and found what I wanted.

**whisk** someone around**†** to move someone around rapidly from place to place. □ I didn't get much chance to see the city. They just whisked me around. □ We whisked around the visitor from place to place.

**whisk** someone or an animal off**†** to brush [someone] off someone or an animal. □ The barber quickly whisked him off and collected the fee. □ The barber whipped the customer.

**whisk** someone or something away**†** to move someone or something out of the way rapidly. □ The firemen came and whisked the students away to a safe place. □ The agents whisked away a number of people.

**whisk** someone or something off**†** (to something) to move someone or something to something or some place rapidly. □ The government agents whisked the witness off to a secret place. □ They whisked off the suspect to a holding cell.

**whisk** something off (of) someone or something and **whisk** something off**†** to brush something off someone or something. (Of is usually retained before pronouns.) □ The barber whisked the loose hairs off the customer. □ The barber whisked off the loose hairs.

**whisper** about someone or something to speak about someone or something in a quiet, breathy voice, as if telling secrets. □ I hope they aren't whispering about me. □ Everyone is whispering about the incident in the lunchroom.

**whisper** something around to spread secrets or gossip around. □ Now, don't whisper this around, but Sam is going to run away from home. □ If you whisper this around, you will spoil the surprise.

**whistle at** someone or something to indicate approval or disapproval of someone or something by whistling. □ The men whistled at the beautiful woman who walked by. □ Everyone whistled at the enormous roast of beef the cook's assistant carried in.

**whistle** for someone or something to summon someone or something by whistling. □ I stood on the corner and whistled for a cab, but they all ignored me. □ I whistled for the dog, but it did not appear.

**whistle** in the dark Fig. to guess aimlessly; to speculate as to a fact. □ Am I close, or am I just whistling in the dark? □ She was whistling in the dark. She has no idea of what's going on.

**white** as a ghost Go to next.

*white* as a sheet and *white* as a ghost; *white* as snow; *white* as the driven snow [of someone] extremely pale, as if frightened. (*Also: as ~.*) □ Marilyn turned as white as a sheet when the policeman told her that her son had been in a car wreck. □ Did something scare you? You're white as a sheet! □ Jane made up the bed with her best linen sheets, which are always as white as snow. □ We have a new kitten whose fur is white as the driven snow.

**white** as snow Go to previous.

**white** as the driven snow Go to white as a sheet.

**white** elephant something that is large and unwieldy and is either a nuisance or expensive to keep up. □ Bob's father-in-law has given him an old Rolls Royce, but it's a real white elephant. He has no place to park it and can't afford the gas for it. □ Those antique vases Aunt Mary gave me are white elephants. They're ugly and I have no place to put them.

**white** knuckle something to survive something threatening through strained endurance, that is to say, holding on tight. □ The flight from New York was terrible. We had to white knuckle the entire flight.

**whittle** at something to cut or carve at something. □ He just sat there, whittling at a chunk of wood. □ I am not carving anything, I am just whittling at some wood.

**whittle** someone down to size Fig. to reduce someone's ego; to cause someone to have better, more respectful behavior. (Fig. on whittle someone down to size.) □ After a few days at camp, the counselors had whittled young Walter down to size. □ It took some doing, but they whittled him down to size.

**whittle** something away**†** to cut or carve something away. □ The carver whittled the wood away until only a small figure was left. □ He whittled away the wood.

**whittle** something down (to size) and **whittle** something down**†** to cut or diminish something to a more appropriate size or to the proper size. □ I whittled the peg down to size and it fit in the hole perfectly. □ You are going to have to whittle down expenses.

**whittle** something out of something to carve something out of something. □ The young man whittled a small boat out of wood. □ Can you whittle an elephant out of this chunk of wood?

**whiz** past someone or something to move or travel past someone or something at a high speed. □ The train whizzed past one little town after another. □ I whizzed past Chuck because I did not recognize him.

**whiz** (right) through something 1. to speed through a place. □ One car after another whizzed right through the little town. □ We whizzed through the kitchen, stopping just
Who cares?

Who do you think you're kidding? Inf. Why do you think you can lord it over people that way? Why are you so arrogant? (Usually in anger.)

Who do you think you are? You can't talk to me that way! Bob: Says who? (Usually in anger.)

Who do you think you're talking to? Inf. Do you know the importance of the person who you are talking to? (Assumes that the caller is not waiting on the telephone or at the door.)

Who do you wish to speak to?; Who do you want to talk to?; Who do you want (to talk to)?

Who do you think you're kidding? Inf. You aren't fooling anyone.; Surely, you don't think you can fool me, do you?;

Who do you think you are? You can't talk to me that way! Bob: Says who? (Usually in anger.)

Who do you think you're talking to? Inf. Do you know the importance of the person who you are talking to? (Assumes that the caller is not waiting on the telephone or at the door.)

Who do you wish to speak to?; Who do you want to speak to?; Who do you wish to speak to?

Who's calling, please? Who is this making this telephone call? 

Who's there? and Who is it? a question phrase indicating surprise or amazement; I would never have guessed that something so surprising could happen. (No answer is expected.)

Who cares? Does anyone really care?; It is of no consequence.

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who's on the line? Go to next.

Who's on the phone? and Who's on the line? Who is on the telephone line now?; Who just called on the telephone? (The caller may still be waiting.)

Who do you want to speak to?; Who do you wish to speak to?

Who is this? Who is calling, please? Tom: This is Tom Wilson returning his call.

Who's on the phone? and Who's on the line? Who is on the telephone line now?; Who just called on the telephone? (The caller may still be waiting.)

Who's the devil? Go to next.


Who is it? Go to Who's there?

Who is this? Who is making this telephone call?; Who is on the other end of this telephone line?; Who's on the line?; Who is on the phone?

Who knows? Who knows the answer to that question?

Who's calling, please? Who is this making this telephone call? 

Who's on the line? Go to next.

Who's there? and Who is it? a question asking who is on the other side of a door or concealed in some other place. 

Who would have thought?; Who would have thought?

Who's your friend? Sl. Who is that following along behind you?; Who's your friend? Tom: Oh, this is my little brother, Willie. John: Hi, Willie. 

Who was it? Who called on the telephone or who was at the door? (Assumes that the caller is not waiting on the telephone or at the door.)

Who was it?

Who would have thought?; Who could have thought?

Who's your friend? Sl. Who is that following along behind you?; Who's your friend? Tom: Oh, this is my little brother, Willie. John: Hi, Willie. 

Who would have thought?; Who could have thought?

Who would have thought?; Who could have thought?

Who cares? Does anyone really care?; It is of no consequence.

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?

Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?; Who cares?
the **whole kit and caboodle** Inf. a group of pieces of equipment or belongings. (The word *caboodle* is used only in this expression.) □ When I bought Bob’s motorhome, I got furniture, refrigerator, and linen—the whole kit and caboodle. □ The salesman managed to sell John the whole kit and caboodle.

a (whole) **mess of** someone or something Rur. a lot of someone or something. □ We went out on the lake and caught a whole mess of bluegill. □ I cooked up a mess of chili and had all my friends over to eat it.

a (whole) **new ball game** Fig. a completely different situation; something completely different. □ Now that you’re here, it’s a whole new ball game. □ With a faster computer, it’s a whole new ball game.

the **whole nine yards** Sl. the entire amount; everything, as far as possible. □ For you I’ll go the whole nine yards. □ You’re worth the whole nine yards.

a **whole nother thing** Rur. a completely different matter. (Often “corrected” to a whole other thing. The word *nother* is a shortening of another.) □ Borrowing! That’s a whole nother thing! I thought you said stealing!

the **whole shebang** everything; the whole thing. □ Mary’s all set to give a fancy dinner party. She’s got a fine tablecloth, good crystal, and silverware, the whole shebang. □ How much do you want for the whole shebang?

the **whole shooting match** Go to the whole ball of wax.

the **whole wide world** Fig. everywhere; everywhere and everything. □ It’s the best in the whole wide world. □ I’ve searched the whole wide world for just the right hat.

the **whole works** everything; the complete amount. □ I cashed my paycheck and lost the whole works playing the ponies.

**Whom the gods love die young.** Prov. Virtuous or gifted people die at an early age, because the gods want those people to be with them in the afterlife. □ So many brilliant authors and artists died before the age of fifty that it’s easy to believe that whom the gods love die young.

**Whoop it up** to celebrate, especially with cheers and whoops. □ It was a very noisy party. Everyone was whooping it up well past midnight. □ The campaign workers whooped it up for their candidate. □ I can’t get out there and whoop it up for something I don’t believe in.

**Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap?** Go to next.

**Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?** and Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap? Prov. Why pay for something that you can get for free otherwise. (Sometimes used to describe someone who will not marry because sex without any commitment is so easy to obtain. Jocular and crude.) □ I don’t have a car because someone always gives me a ride to work. Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free? □ Mary told her daughter, “You may think that boy will marry you because you’re willing to sleep with him, but why should he buy a cow if he can get milk for free?”

**why don’t you?** a question tag that is put onto the end of a command. □ Andy: Move aside, why don’t you? Bob: Okay. Sorry. I didn’t know I was in the way. □ “Just keep bugging me, why don’t you?” threatened Wally. □ Andy: Try it again, why don’t you? Sue: I hope it get right this time.

**Why keep a dog and bark yourself?** Prov. You should not do something you have hired someone else to do. □ Ellen: The cleaning lady washes my floors every Tuesday, but I always wash them over again. Jane: Don’t be silly, Ellen. Why keep a dog and bark yourself?


the **whys and wherefores of** something the reasons or causes relating to something. □ I refuse to discuss the whys and wherefores of my decision. It’s final. □ Bob doesn’t know the whys and wherefores of his contract. He just knows that it means he will get a lot of money when he finishes the work.

**wide of the mark** 1. Lit. far from the target. (“Typically: **be** ~; **fall** ~.) □ Tom’s shot was wide of the mark. □ The pitch was quite fast but wide of the mark. □ The arrow fell wide of the mark. 2. Fig. inadequate; far from what is required or expected. (“Typically: **be** ~; **fall** ~.) □ Jane’s efforts were sincere but wide of the mark. □ He failed the course because everything he did was wide of the mark.

**wide open 1.** as fast as possible; at full throttle. □ I was driving along wide open when I became aware of a flashing red light. □ It was wide open and still wouldn’t do better than eighty. 2. [of a town or place] full of crime or corruption; vice-ridden. □ This town is wide open! □ Because the prison is understaffed, it is wide open.

a **wide place in the road** a very small town. □ The town is little more than a wide place in the road. □ We stopped at a wide place in the road called Adamsville.

**wig out** Sl. to become intoxicated. □ One more drink and Wally will wig out. □ This guy haswigged out. Get him out of here.

**wiggle out of something** 1. Lit. to get out of something or some place; to squirm out of something or some place. □ The kitten was able to wiggle out of the cage in which it had been put. □ The squirrel wiggled out of the trap we caught it in. 2. Fig. to manage to get out of a job, the blame for something, or a responsibility. □ Don’t try to wiggle out of your job! □ You are to blame and don’t try to wiggle out of it!

**wild about** someone or something very excited about someone or something. □ I’m just wild about comedies. □ John is wild about antique cars.

**wild and woolly** Inf. exciting. □ Things get a little wild and woolly on a Friday evening at Wally’s place. □ The ride home was a little wild and woolly.

**Wild horses couldn’t drag someone away (from something)** Prov. Someone is determined to remain with something. □ Once Elaine starts playing a video game, wild horses can’t drag her away from it. □ Jim was determined to remain fishing at the lake. Wild horses couldn’t drag him away from it.

a **wild-goose chase** a worthless hunt or chase; a futile pursuit. □ I wasted all afternoon on a wild-goose chase.
John was angry because he was sent out on a wild-goose chase.

**will be the death of someone or something (yet)** [the thing named] will be the end or ruin of someone or something. □ This job will be the death of me! □ Rough roads will be the death of these tires.

**will come of something** will result from something. □ I don’t think that much will come of this. □ Nothing at all will come of it.

**Will do.** Inf. I will do it. □ Will do. I’ll get right on it. □ Fix the stuck window? Will do.

**will eat someone for breakfast** and **will have someone for breakfast** Fig. will defeat someone thoroughly. □ Watch out! Those guys are incredibly aggressive. They will eat you for breakfast.

**Will I see you again?** a question asked toward the end of a date implying that further dating would please the speaker. (This question leaves it open to the other party to confirm that the interest is mutual by requesting a further date. Compare this with **Can I see you again?** □ Tom: I had a wonderful time tonight, Mary. Good night. Mary: Will you see me again? Tom: That would be nice. Can I call you tomorrow? □ “Will I see you again?” asked Sally, cautiously and hopefully.

**[will not]** See the entries beginning with won’t.

**will not hear of something and won’t hear of something** will refuse to tolerate or permit something. □ You mustn’t drive home alone. I will not hear of it. □ My parents won’t hear of my staying out that late.

**will something away**† to give something away in a will. □ The old man simply willed all his money away. He said he wouldn’t need it when he was dead. □ She had willed away all of her treasures to her grandchildren.

**will something to someone** to give something to someone in a will. □ My uncle willed this chair to me. It’s an antique.

**will not** See the entries beginning with won’t.

**will stop at nothing** Cliché will do everything possible (to accomplish something); will be unscrupulous. □ Bill would stop at nothing to get his way. □ Bob is completely determined to get promoted. He’ll stop at nothing.

**Will that be all?** Go to (Will there be) anything else?

(Will there be) anything else? and Is that everything?: Is there anything else?: Will that be all?

Is there anything else you want?: Is there any other matter you wish to discuss?: Is there any other request? (These phrases are used by shopkeepers, clerks, and food service personnel to find out if the customer wants anything more.) □ Clerk: Here’s the roast you ordered. Will there be anything else? Rachel: No, that’s all. □ Waiter: Anything else? Bill: Just coffee. □ The clerk rang up the last item and asked, “Will that be all?” □ Waiter: Anything else? Jane: No, that’s everything.

**Will you excuse us, please?** Go to Could you excuse us, please?

**Will you hold?** Go to Could you hold?

**wimp out (of something)** Sl. to chicken out (of something); to get out of something difficult, inconvenient, or dangerous, leaving others to carry the burden. □ Come on! Don’t wimp out now that there’s all this work to be done. □ Ted wimped out on us.

**Win a few, lose a few.** Sometimes one succeeds, and sometimes one fails. □ Tom: Well, I lost out on that Wilson contract, but I got the Jones job. Sally: That’s life. Win a few, lose a few. □ “Win a few, lose a few,” said Fred, starring at yesterday’s stock prices.

**win all the marbles** Go to all the marbles.

**win at** to triumph at some competition. □ Will I ever be able to win at golf? □ She always wins at poker.

**win by a nose** Fig. to win by the slightest amount of difference. (Can be literal in horses races.) □ I ran the fastest race I could, but I only won by a nose. □ Sally won the race, but she only won by a nose.

**win (out) over someone or something** to defeat someone or something. □ I hope our team wins out over you guys. □ Good teamwork always wins out.

**win someone away (from someone or something)** to convince someone to dissociate from someone or something. □ We were not able to win Christine away from her strange ideas. □ We tried to win her away but failed.

**win someone or something back (from someone or something)**† to regain someone or something from someone or something. □ I hope to win the money I lost back from the other poker players. □ We were not able to win Sally back from the cult. □ We won back everything. □ We won back Sally.

**win someone over**† (to something) to succeed in making someone favorable to something. □ I hope I can win them all over to our side. □ I won over the mayor to our side.

**win someone’s heart** and **win the heart of someone** Fig. to gain the affection of someone; to win the love of someone exclusively. □ I hope to win her heart and make her my bride.

**win something at something** to win a prize in some sort of competition. □ I won this silly doll at the ring-toss game. □ Did you win anything at the fair?

**win the day** Go to carry the day.

**win the heart of someone** Go to win someone’s heart.

**win through** something to succeed by a certain method or procedure. □ Winning is no good if you have to win through dishonesty. □ Sally won through her own hard work.

**wince at something** to shrink back because of something, such as pain. □ She winced at the pain but did not cry out. □ After he had just winced at the pain for a while, he finally screamed.

**wind around** [for something, such as a road] to make a turn or turns around. □ The road wound around and ended up at the lake. □ The path wound around and came to a stop at the cabin door.

**wind around someone or something** to twist or coil around someone or something. □ The python wound around the rabbit, suffocating it. □ The vines wound around the gatepost.

**wind back** [for something, such as a road] to turn so that it heads in the direction from whence it came. □ The road we got lost on wound back and we were not able to reach
the lake on time. □ When we were lost, we found a stream in the woods, but it wound back and did not lead us in the direction we wanted.

wind down to start running or operating slower. □ Things will begin to wind down at the end of the summer. □ As things wind down, life will be a lot easier. □ The clock winds down and finally stopped.

wind into something to coil up into something. □ The snake wound into a tight coil. □ The rubber bands wound into a knot and were worthless.

wind someone around one's little finger Go to twist someone around one's little finger.

wind someone up 1. Inf. Fig. to get someone excited. □ That kind of music really winds me up! 2. Inf. Fig. to get someone set to do a lot of talking. (Fig. on winding up a clock.) □ The excitement of the day wound Kelly up and she talked almost all night. □ A good movie tends to wind me up for a while.

wind something around something to twist or coil something around something. □ Wind this cloth around your hand to stop the bleeding. □ Wind the string around this stick so it won't get all tangled up.

wind something down! to slow something down; to make something less hectic. □ Let's wind this party down and try to get people to go home. It's really late. □ We tried to wind down the party, but it kept running.

wind something in to reel something in. □ She wound in the rope that was tied to the anchor. □ Liz wound in the cable that raised the awning.

wind something off to uncoil something. □ He wound the rope off, little by little, until he had as much as he needed. □ Karen wound off as much as she needed.

wind something onto something and wind something on to coil or wrap something onto something. □ Wind this string onto the ball and save it. □ If you find the ball of string, please wind on this string.

wind something up 1. Lit. to tighten the spring in something, such as a watch or a clock. □ Please wind your watch up now—before it runs down. □ Wind up your watch before you forget. 2. Fig. to conclude something. □ Today we'll wind that deal up with the bank. □ I have a few items of business to wind up. Then I'll be with you.

wind something (up!) (into something) to coil something up into a ball or similar shape. □ Tony wound all the string up into a ball. □ Wind up the string into a ball. □ Please wind this into a ball.

wind through something [for a pathway] to twist or turn through an area. □ The trail wound through the jungle, avoiding the densest places. □ A path wound through the woods, leading us to the main road.

wind up (as) something to end up as something. □ Roger wound up as a millionaire. □ He thought he would wind up as a pauper.

wind up (by) doing something Go to end up (by) doing something.

wind up somehow to end up in some fashion. □ I don't want to wind up broke and depressed. □ You don't want to wind up like Ted, do you?

wind up (somewhere) Go to end up (somewhere).

wind up with someone or something to end up having someone or something. □ I don't want to wind up with all the kids for the weekend. □ We wound up with Thanksgiv- ing at our house again.

a window of opportunity Fig. a brief time period in which an opportunity exists. □ This afternoon, I had a brief window of opportunity when I could discuss this with the boss, but she wasn't receptive.

wine and dine someone to treat someone to an expensive meal of the type that includes fine wines; to entertain someone lavishly. □ The lobbyists wined and dined the senators one by one in order to influence them. □ We were wined and dined every night and given the best hotel accommodations in town.

wing it to improvise; to do something extemporaneously. □ I lost my lecture notes, so I had to wing it. □ Don't worry. Just go out there and wing it.

wink at someone to close one eye at a person as a sign of friendliness or flirtation. □ She winked at him and he was shocked. □ I hope she winks at me again.

wink at something to pretend not to see something; to con- done something wrong. (See also blink at something.) □ The police officer winked at my failure to make a complete stop. □ I cannot wink at blatant infractions of the law!

wink something away to blink the eyes to try to clear them of tears, dirt, etc. □ He looked up at me and tried to wink away his tears, but he was just too upset. □ Jane winked away her tears.

winner take all a situation where the one who defeats others takes all the spoils of the contest. □ The contest was a case of winner take all. There was no second place or runner-up.

winter over (some place) to spend the winter at some place. □ The bears all winter over in their dens. □ All the animals are getting ready either to migrate or to winter over. □ My parents winter over in Florida.

Wipe it off! Inf. Wipe that smile off your face! □ It's not funny. Wipe it off! □ Wipe it off! Nothing funny here, sol- dier.

wipe out 1. Inf. to crash. □ I wiped out on the curve. □ The car wiped out on the curve. 2. Inf. to fall off or away from something, such as a bicycle, skates, a surfboard, a skateboard, etc. □ I wiped out and skinned my knee. □ If I wipe out again, my mother says I'm through. 3. Inf. to fail badly. □ The test was terrible! I'm sure I wiped out. □ It was a bad test. I wiped out for sure.

wipe someone or something off to clean something off someone or something by wiping. □ She wiped the baby off and put clean clothes on him. □ Please wipe off your shoes. □ John fell in the mud and Sam wiped him off.

wipe someone or something off the face of the earth Fig. to demolish every trace of someone or something. □ A great storm will come and wipe all the people off the face of the earth. □ The wind blew my old barn off the face of the earth! Nothing was left.

wipe someone or something (off) (with something) to clean someone or something by wiping with something. □ Tony wiped the baby off with a soft cloth. □ Jane wiped off the counter with a rag. □ Tom fell in the mud and asked Ralph to wipe him off.
wipe someone out\(^1\)  1. Sl. to kill someone.  2. Max intended to wipe Lefty's gang out.  
  2a. Sl. to exhaust or debilitate someone.  3. The long walk wiped me out.  4. The trip wiped out the hikers.  5. Inf. to ruin someone financially.  6. The loss of my job wiped us out.  7. The storm ruined the corn crop and wiped out everyone in the county.

wipe someone's slate clean and wipe the slate clean
Fig. to get rid of or erase someone's (bad) record. (As if erasing information recorded on a slate.)  8. I'd like to wipe my slate clean and start all over again.  9. Bob did badly in high school, but he wiped his slate clean and did a good job in college.

wipe something away\(^1\) to clean or mop something away.  10.  ❑ Wipe all this mud away and scrub the floor clean.  ❑ Jake wiped away the mud.

wipe something down\(^1\) to rub or mop something down.  11.  ❑ Wipe the counter down and keep it clean!  ❑ Don will wipe down the counter.

wipe something off\(^1\)  1. to remove something (from something else) by wiping or rubbing.  ➔ There is mud on your shirt. Please wipe it off.  ❑ I must wipe off the ketchup from my shirt.  2. to tidy or clean something by wiping (something else) off.  ➔ Please wipe the table off. There's water on it.  ❑ Wipe off your shirt. There's ketchup on it.

wipe something (off) (on something) to remove something by wiping it on something else.  ➔ Don't wipe your feet off on the carpet.  ❑ Don't wipe off your feet on the carpet.  ❑ Wipe them on the mat.

wipe something off (one's face)  1. Lit. to remove something, such as food or dirt, from one's own face.  ➔ Wipe that peanut butter off your face!  2. Fig. to remove a smile, grin, silly look, etc., from one's face.  ➔ Wipe that silly grin off your face, private!  ❑ Wipe that smile off!

wipe something out\(^1\) Sl. to use up all of something.  ➔ I wiped the cookies out—not all at once, of course.  ❑ Who wiped out the strawberry preserves?  ❑ He's as wise as Solomon.

wipe something up\(^1\)  1. to clean something up by wiping.  ➔ Please wipe that spilled milk up.  ❑ Jim wiped up the spill.  2. to clean something dirty by wiping.  ➔ The floor was sticky so I wiped it up.  ➔ Please wipe up the countertop.

wipe the floor up\(^1\) with someone Inf. to beat or physically abuse someone. (Usually said as a threat.)  ➔ You say that to me one more time, and I'll wipe the floor up with you.  ➔ Oh, yeah! You're not big enough to wipe up the floor with anybody!

wipe the slate clean Go to wipe someone's slate clean.
wire for something to send for something by telegram.  ➔ I wired for money, but it hasn't come yet.  ➔ I will have to wire for further advice.
wire someone or something for something to send a telegram to someone or something requesting something.  ➔ I wired my father for some money. I'm sure he'll send it, officer.  ➔ Sarah wired the supplier for a replacement part.
never wish my uncle off on you, even for an hour. ☐ I wouldn't wish off my cousin Roger on anyone. ☐ I wouldn't wish this matter on you.

wishful thinking believing that something is true or that something will happen just because one wishes that it were true or would happen. ☐ Hoping for a car as a birthday present is just wishful thinking. Your parents can't afford it. ☐ Mary thinks that she is going to get a big raise, but that's wishful thinking. Her boss is so tight with money.

with a heavy heart Cliché sadly. ☐ With a heavy heart, she said good-bye. ☐ We left our summer cottage on the last day of a heavy heart.

with a vengeance Cliché with determination and eagerness. ☐ The angry soldier attacked the enemy with a vengeance. ☐ Bill ate all his dinner and gobbled up his dessert with a vengeance.

with a view to doing something and with an eye to doing something with the intention of doing something. ☐ I came to this school with a view to getting a degree. ☐ The mayor took office with an eye to improving the town.

with a will with determination and enthusiasm. ☐ The children worked with a will to finish the project on time. ☐ The workers set about manufacturing the new products with a will.

with advance notice and on advance notice with some kind of notification or indication that something is going to happen or is expected before it actually happens. ☐ We are happy to provide special meals for anyone with advance notice.

with all one's heart (and soul) Cliché very sincerely. ☐ Oh, Bill, I love you with all my heart and soul, and I always will! ☐ She thanked us with all her heart and soul for the gift.

with all the fixin'(s) Rur. with all the condiments or other dishes that accompany a certain kind of food. ☐ For $12.99 you get a turkey dinner with all the fixings. ☐ Max likes his hamburgers with all the fixin's.

with all the trimmings with all the extra things, especially with food. ☐ We had a lovely Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. ☐ I look forward to roast turkey with all the trimmings.

with an eye to doing something Go to with a view to doing something.

with bated breath Cliché while holding one's breath. ☐ We stood there with bated breath while the man hung on the side of the bridge. ☐ They listened with bated breath for the announcement about the winner.

with bells on (one's toes) Fig. eager, willingly, and on time. ☐ Oh, yes! I'll meet you at the restaurant. I'll be there with bells on. ☐ All the smiling children were there waiting for me with bells on their toes.

with both hands tied behind one's back Go to with one hand tied behind one's back.

*with child Euph. pregnant. (Biblical. *Typically: be ~; get a woman ~.) ☐ The first thing he did after he got married was to get his wife with child. ☐ She deliberately set out to get herself with child, as they say.

with each passing day as days pass, one by one; day by day. ☐ Things grow more expensive with each passing day. ☐ We are all growing older with each passing day.

with ease without effort. ☐ The smart student passed the test with ease. ☐ The gymnast did a back flip with ease.

with every (other) breath Fig. [saying something] repeatedly or continually. ☐ Bob was out in the yard, raking leaves and cursing with every other breath. ☐ The child was so grateful that she was thanking me with every breath.

with everything (on it) [of a sandwich] ordered with everything available on it, such as ketchup, mustard, onions, cheese, peppers, chili, lettuce, tomato, etc., as appropriate. ☐ Do you want it with everything? ☐ Give me a cheeseburger with everything on it.

with fits and starts Go to fits and starts.

with flying colors Cliché easily and excellently. ☐ John passed his geometry test with flying colors. ☐ Sally qualified for the race with flying colors.

(with) hat in hand Fig. with humility. (Fig. on the image of someone standing, respectfully, in front of a powerful person, asking for a favor.) ☐ She stormed off but came back with hat in hand when she ran out of money. ☐ We had to go hat in hand to the committee to get a grant for our proposal.

with impunity without risk of punishment; with immunity from the negative consequences of an act; while being exempt from punishment. ☐ The diplomat parked in illegal parking spaces with impunity. ☐ Bob used his brother's property with impunity.

with it 1. Inf. alert and knowledgeable. ☐ Jane isn't making any sense. She's not really with it tonight. ☐ Jean's mother is not really with it anymore. She's going senile. ☐ Peter's not with it yet. He's only just come round from the anesthetic. 2. Inf. up-to-date. ☐ My parents are so old-fashioned. I'm sure they were never with it. ☐ Why do you wear those baggy old clothes? Why aren't you with it?

with my blessing a phrase expressing consent or agreement; yes. ☐ Sue: With my blessing.

with no strings attached and without any strings attached Fig. unconditionally; with no obligations or conditions attached. ☐ My parents gave me use of their car without any strings attached. ☐ I will accept this job only if there are no strings attached.

with one hand tied behind one's back and with both hands tied behind one's back Fig. even if under a handicap; easily. ☐ I could put an end to this argument with one hand tied behind my back. ☐ John could do this job with both hands tied behind his back.

with (one's) eyes (wide) open Fig. totally aware of what is going on. ☐ I went into this with my eyes open. ☐ We all started with eyes open but didn't realize what could happen to us.

with one's tail between one's legs Fig. appearing frightened or cowardly. (Fig. on the image of a frightened or defeated dog going off threatened or humiliated.) ☐ John seems to lack courage. When people criticize him unjustly, he just goes away with his tail between his legs and doesn't
tell them that they're wrong. □ The frightened dog ran away
with its tail between its legs when the bigger dog growled.

With or without? Do you wish your tea or coffee to be
with or without sugar or with or without milk? □ How
do you like your tea? With or without? □ Do you drink your
coffee with or without?

With pleasure. a phrase indicating eager consent to do
something. □ Fred: Would you please take this note over to
the woman in the red dress? Waiter: With pleasure, sir. □
Sue: Would you kindly bring in the champagne now? Jane:
With pleasure.

with reference to someone or something Go to in refer-
tence to someone or something.

with regard to someone or something and in regard to
someone or something concerning someone or something.
□ What shall we do in regard to planning dinner? □ With
regard to Bill, I think he is working too hard.

with relish with pleasure or enjoyment. □ John put on this
new coat with great relish. □ We accepted the offer to use
their beach house with relish.

with respect to someone or something of or about some-
one or something. □ With respect to radiation, this power
plant is very safe. □ This article examines experiments with
respect to ethical issues.

with someone or something for some time employed by or
associated with someone or something for a period of
time. □ I’ve been with the company for nearly ten years. □
Lily has been with Max for years.

with something to spare Go to and something to spare.

with the best will in the world however much one
wishes to do something or however hard one tries to do
something. □ With the best will in the world, Jack won’t be
able to help Mary get the job. □ With the best will in the
world, they won’t finish the job in time.

with the naked eye with eyes that are not aided by tele-
scopes, microscopes, or binoculars. □ The moon is quite
visible with the naked eye. □ Bacteria are too small to be
seen with the naked eye.

With whom do you wish to speak? a polite phrase
used by people who answer the telephone to find out
whom the caller wants to speak to. (Compare this with
Who do you want to talk to?) □ John answered the tele-
phone and then said, “With whom do you wish to speak?”
□ Tom (answering the phone): Good morning, Acme Air
Products. With whom do you wish to speak? Sue: Sorry, I
have the wrong number. Tom: That’s perfectly all right. Have
a nice day.

With you in a minute. and Someone will be with you
in a minute. Please be patient, someone will attend to
you very soon. (The someone can be any person’s name or
a pronoun, typically I. If there is no one mentioned, I is
implied. The minute can be replaced by moment or sec-
ond.) □ Sue: Oh, Miss? Clerk: Someone will be with you
in a minute. □ Bill: Please wait here. I’ll be with you in
a minute. Bob: Please hurry.

withdraw from something 1. to depart from something
physically. □ I withdrew from the smoky room and ran to
the open window to get some air. □ I withdrew from the
unpleasant-looking cafe and looked for something more to
my liking. 2. to end one’s association with someone or
something. □ I decided to withdraw from all my profes-
sional organizations. □ I had to withdraw from the associ-
ation because the dues had become too high.

withdraw into oneself to become introverted; to concern
oneself with one’s inner thoughts. □ After a few years of
being ignored, she withdrew into herself. □ I have to strug-
gle to keep from withdrawing into myself.

withdraw into something to pull back into something. □
The turtle withdrew into its shell. □ The mouse withdrew
into its hole.

withdraw someone from something 1. to pull someone out
of something physically. □ She withdrew the child from
the water just in time. □ I had to withdraw my child from
the kindergarten room. He was having such a good time, he
wouldn’t leave on his own. 2. to remove someone from an
organization or a nomination. □ The committee withdrew
John from nomination and put up someone else. □ I with-
drew my son from kindergarten.

withdraw something from someone or something to pull
something out of someone or something. □ She withdrew
the book from the stack. □ I withdrew the splinter from Dave
carefully.

withdraw something into something to pull something
back into something. □ The turtle withdrew its head into
its shell. □ It then withdrew its feet into the shell also.

wither away to shrivel up; to shrink up. □ Soon, the wart
withered away. □ Many of our roses withered away in the
hot sun.

wither on the vine and die on the vine 1. Lit. [for
fruit] to shrivel on the vine or stem, unharvested. □ If we
don’t get out there into the field, the grapes will wither
on the vine. □ The apples will die on the vine if not picked
soon. 2. Fig. [for someone or something] to be ignored or
neglected and thereby be wasted. □ I hope I get a part in
the play. I don’t want to just die on the vine. □ Fred thinks
he is withering on the vine because no one has chosen him.

wither up to shrivel up. □ It was so hot that the leaves of
the trees withered up.

withhold something from someone or an animal to hold
something back or in reserve from someone or an animal.
□ We withheld some of the food from the guests. □ I had
to withhold some food from the dog so there would be
enough for tomorrow.

within a hair’s breadth of something Go to within
an ace of (doing) something.

within a stone’s throw (of something) and (just) a
stone’s throw away (from something); (just) a
stone’s throw (from something) Fig. very close to (to
something). (Possibly as close as the distance one could
throw a stone. It usually refers to a distance much greater
than one could throw a stone.) □ The police department
was located within a stone’s throw of our house. □ We live
in Carbondale, and that’s just a stone’s throw away from
the Mississippi River. □ Come visit. We live just a stone’s throw
away.

within an ace of (doing) something and within a hair’s
breadth of something very close to doing something. □
I came within an ace of getting into an accident. □ We were
within an ace of beating the all-time record. □ We were within a hair’s breadth of beating the all-time record.

within an inch of one’s life Fig. very close to losing one's life; almost to death. □ The accident frightened me within an inch of my life. □ When Mary was seriously ill in the hospital, she came within an inch of her life.

within bounds Go to within limits.

within calling distance Go to within hailing distance.

*within earshot (of something) close enough to something to hear it. (*Typically: be ~; come ~; get ~; move ~.) □ As soon as I got within earshot of the music, I decided that I really didn’t belong there.

within hailing distance and within calling distance; within shouting distance close enough to hear someone call out. □ When the boat came within hailing distance, I asked if I could borrow some gasoline. □ We weren’t within shouting distance, so I couldn’t hear what you said to me.

within limits and within bounds up to a certain point; with certain restrictions. □ You’re free to do what you want—within limits, of course. □ You must try to keep behavior at the party within bounds.

*within one’s grasp 1. Lit. where one can grasp something with one’s hand. (*Typically: be ~; get ~; get something ~.) □ The rope was within his grasp, but he was too weak to reach for it. 2. Fig. [for something] to be obtainable; [for a goal] to be almost won. (Does not involve grabbing or grasping. *Typically: be ~; get ~; get something ~.) □ Victory is within our grasp, so we must keep playing the game to win. □ Her goal is within her grasp at last.

*within one’s rights acting legally in one’s own interest. (*Typically: be ~; act ~.) □ I know I am within my rights when I make this request. □ You are not within your rights.

*within range (of something) inside an area that can be covered by something, such as a gun, camera lens, measuring device, etc. (*Typically: be ~; come ~; get ~; move ~.) □ The sick elephant was within range, so we shot it with tranquilizer darts so we could treat it. □ When the ducks were within range of my gun, I sneezed and frightened them away. □ You won’t be able to hear what they are saying until you get within range of the P.A. system.

within reason reasonable; reasonably. □ You can do anything you want within reason. □ I’ll pay any sum you ask—within reason.

within shouting distance Go to within hailing distance.

within someone’s grasp Go to next.

within someone’s reach and within someone’s grasp 1. Lit. close enough to be grasped. □ The ball was almost within his reach! 2. Fig. almost in the possession of someone. □ My goals are almost within my reach, so I know I’ll succeed. □ We almost had the contract within our grasp, but the deal fell through at the last minute.

within walking distance close enough to walk to. □ Is the train station within walking distance? □ My office is within walking distance from here.

without a doubt a phrase expressing certainty or agreement; yes. □ John: This cheese is as hard as a rock. It must have been in the fridge for weeks. Fred: Without a doubt. □ Mary: Taxes will surely go up before I retire. Jane: Without a doubt!

without a hitch Fig. with no problem(s). □ Everything went off without a hitch. □ We hoped the job would go off without a hitch.

without a moment to spare Go to not a moment to spare.

without a shadow of a doubt and beyond the shadow of a doubt without the smallest amount of doubt. □ I am certain that I am right, without a shadow of a doubt. □ I felt the man was guilty beyond the shadow of a doubt.

without any strings attached Go to with no strings attached.

without batting an eye Lit. Fig. without showing alarm or response; without blinking an eye. □ I knew I had insulted her, and she turned to me and asked me to leave without batting an eye. □ Right in the middle of the speech—without batting an eye—the speaker walked off the stage.

without fail for certain; absolutely. □ I’ll be there at noon without fail. □ The plane leaves on time every day without fail.

without further ado Cliché without further talk. (An overworked phrase usually heard in public announcements.) □ And without further ado, I would like to introduce Mr. Bill Franklin! □ The time has come to leave, so without further ado, good evening and good-bye.

without half trying Rue. effortlessly. □ He was so strong, he could bend an iron bar without half trying. □ I wish I had his ability to cook. He makes the most delicious dishes without half trying.

without missing a beat Lit. Fig. without pausing for any potential interruption. □ He kept right on giving his speech without missing a beat, despite the interruptions. □ She went right on drumming without missing a beat.

without question absolutely; certainly. □ She agreed to help without question. □ She said, “I stand ready to support you without question.”

without rhyme or reason Cliché without purpose, order, or reason. (See variations in the examples. Fixed order.) □ The teacher said my report was disorganized. My paragraphs seemed to be without rhyme or reason. □ Everything you do seems to be without rhyme or reason.

without (so much as) a (for or by) your leave without (the least hint of) asking for permission. □ Without so much as a for or by your leave, they just walked into our house. □ He left, without a by your leave.

without so much as doing something without even doing something, such as a simple courtesy. □ Jane borrowed Bob’s car without so much as asking his permission. □ Mary’s husband walked out without so much as saying goodbye.

wit-ness for someone or something to serve as a witness for some person or some deed. □ They could find no one to
witness for the accused person. □ The police found someone to witness for the hour of the crime.

witness to something to serve as a witness to some act or deed. □ I was witness to the beating. □ We were not witness to any of the activities you have described.

wobble about and wobble around to rock, quiver, or flounder around. □ The little baby wobbled about and finally fell. □ The vase wobbled around a little and fell over.

Woe is me! I am unfortunate; I am unhappy. (Usually humorous.) □ Woe is me! I have to work when the rest of the office staff is off. □ Woe is me. I have the flu and my friends have gone to a party.

A wolf in sheep's clothing Fig. A dangerous person pretending to be harmless. □ Carla thought the handsome stranger was gentle and kind, but Susan suspected he was a wolf in sheep's clothing. □ Mimi: Why shouldn't I go out with David? He's the nicest man I've ever met. Alan: He's a wolf in sheep's clothing. Mimi: Can't you tell?

down

wolf something down! Fig. to eat something very rapidly and in very large pieces. (As a wolf might eat.) □ Don't wolf your food down! □ Liz would never wolf down her food.

woman of ill repute Euph. a prostitute. □ His favorite companion was a woman of ill repute. □ If you can't be faithful to your husband, you're no better than a woman of ill repute.

A woman's place is in the home. Prov. Women should remain in the home, doing housework and raising children. (This notion is generally regarded as old-fashioned.) □ As soon as our child is old enough to go to school, I'm going to go back to my job at the newspaper. And don't give me any of that nonsense about a woman's place being in the home.

A woman's work is never done. Prov. Housework and raising children are jobs that have no end. (Typically said by a woman to indicate how busy she is.) □ “As soon as I finish washing the breakfast dishes, it's time to start fixing lunch,” Elizabeth observed. “A woman's work is never done.”
□ After a difficult day at the office, Greta came home and began cooking dinner. “A woman's work is never done,” she sighed.

woman to woman Go to man to man.

wonder about someone or something to be curious or in doubt about someone or something. □ I wonder about Carl and what he is up to. □ Sometimes I wonder about life on other planets. □ Jenny's performance record made me wonder about her chances for success.

wonder at someone or something to be amazed at or in awe of someone or something. (Stilted.) □ We all wondered at Lee and the way he kept his spirits up. □ The people wondered at the bright light that lit up the sky.

Wonders never cease! and Will wonders never cease! Prov. What an amazing thing has happened! (Said when something very surprising happens. Somewhat ironic; can imply that the surprising thing should have happened before, but did not.) □ Fred: Hi, honey. I cleaned the kitchen for you. Ellen: Wonders never cease! □ Bill: Did you hear? The company is allowing us to take a holiday tomorrow. Jane: Wonders never cease! □ Not only was my plane on time, the airline also delivered my luggage safely. Will wonders never cease?

won't hold water to be inadequate, insubstantial, or ill-conceived. □ Sorry, your ideas won't hold water. Nice try, though. □ The prosecution's case wouldn't hold water, so the defendant was released.

Won't you come in? the standard phrase used to invite someone into one's home or office. □ Bill: Won't you come in? Mary: I hope I'm not early. □ Tom stood in the doorway of Mr. Franklin's office for a moment. “Won’t you come in?” said Mr. Franklin without looking up.

woo someone away (from someone or something) to lure someone away from someone or something; to seduce someone away from someone or something. □ The manager of the new bank wooed all the tellers away from the old bank. □ They wooed away all the experienced people.

the woods are full of someone or something Fig. there are lots and lots of people or things. □ The woods are full of cheap, compatible computer clones. □ The woods are full of nice-looking guys who'll scam you if you aren't careful.

word by word one word at a time. □ We examined the contract word by word to make sure everything was the way we wanted. □ We compared the stories word by word to see what made them different.

word for word in the exact words; verbatim. □ I memorized the speech, word for word. □ I can't recall word for word what she told us.

*word (from someone or something) messages or communication from someone or something. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; hear ~; receive ~.) □ We have just received word from Perry that the contract has been signed.

A word (once) spoken is past recalling. Prov. Once you have said something, you cannot undo the result of having said it. □ Hilary apologized for having called Mark's suit cheap, but Mark was still offended. A word once spoken is past recalling.

a word to the wise a good piece of advice; a word of wisdom. (See also A word to the wise (is enough).) □ If I can give you a word to the wise, I would suggest going to the courthouse about an hour before your trial. □ Here is a word to the wise. Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut.

A word to the wise (is enough). and A word to the wise is sufficient. Prov. You only have to hint something to wise people in order to get them to understand it; Wise people do not need long explanations. (Often used to signal that you are hinting something.) □ John's a pleasant man, but I wouldn't trust him with money. A word to the wise, eh? □ Donna hinted about Lisa's drinking problem to Lisa's fiancé, hoping that a word to the wise would be enough.

* a word with someone (about something) a chance to talk to someone about something, usually briefly. (*Typically: get ~; get in ~; have ~.) □ Can I have a word with you about your report?

words to live by and thoughts to live by useful philosophical or spiritual expressions. □ Thank you for your expression of gratitude. You gave us words to live by.

work against someone or something 1. [for someone] to struggle against someone or something. □ She worked hard against the passage of the law. □ Dave worked against
Betty. 2. [for something] to mitigate against someone or something. □ This sort of works against your plan, does it not? □ Everything you said works against your client.

work among someone or something to do one’s work among some people or things. □ I wanted to work among the Indians, but I set up my medical practice in the inner city. □ I want to get a job in forestry and work among the trees.

work around someone or something to manage to do one’s work while avoiding someone or something. □ He is being a problem, but he will have to leave pretty soon. You’ll just have to work around him for now. □ You have to work around the piano. It is too heavy to move.

work around to someone or something to get around to dealing with someone or something. □ You’re not next in line. We will have to work around to you. □ I can’t take care of it now. I’ll have to work around to it.

work as something to work in the capacity of something. □ I worked as a waiter for a year when I was in college. □ I will work as a stockbroker for a while, and then move on to something else.

work at something 1. to work in a particular trade or craft. □ He works at carpentry when he has the time. □ Julie works at editing for a living. □ He works at carpentry when he has the time. □ Julie works at editing for a living.

work away (at) something to get deeply involved in something gradually. □ He works away (at) the piano. It is too heavy to move.

work away (at) something to continue to work industriously at something. □ All the weavers were working away at their looms. □ They just kept working away.

work down (the line) (to someone or something) to progress through a series until someone or something is reached. □ I will work down the papers on the desk gradually. You can’t hurry this kind of work. □ We will work down the line to Katie. □ We have to work down to the last one. □ They are working down the line as fast as they can, but everyone has to be taken in order.

work for someone 1. to be employed by someone. □ She works for Scott Wallace. □ Who do you work for? 2. to work as a substitute for someone. □ I will work for you while you are having your baby. □ Right now, I am working for Julie, who is out sick.

work for something 1. to work for a group, company, etc. □ Everyone at the picnic works for the same employer. □ We work for the telephone company. 2. to work for a certain amount of money. □ She says she works for a very good wage. □ I won’t work for that kind of pay. 3. to work for an intangible benefit, such as satisfaction, glory, honor, etc. □ The pay isn’t very good. I just work for the fun of it. □ Sam says he works for the joy of working.

work in an ivory tower Go to in an ivory tower.

work itself out [for a problem] to solve itself. □ Eventually, all the problems worked themselves out without any help from us. □ This will work itself out. Don’t worry.

work like a beaver and work like a mule; work like a horse; work like a slave Fig. to work very hard. □ She has an important deadline coming up, so she’s been working like a beaver. □ You need a vacation. You work like a slave in that kitchen. □ I’m too old to work like a horse. I’d prefer to relax more.

work of art 1. Lit. a piece of art. □ She purchased a lovely work of art for her living room. 2. Fig. a good result of one’s efforts. □ Your report was a real work of art. Very well done.

work on someone 1. Lit. [for a physician] to treat someone; [for a surgeon] to operate on someone. □ The doctor is still working on your uncle. There is no news yet. □ They are still working on the accident victims. 2. Fig. [for someone] to try to convince someone of something. □ I’ll work on her, and I am sure she will agree. □ They worked on Max for quite a while, but he still didn’t agree to testify. 3. Fig. [for something, such as medication] to have the desired effect on someone. □ This medicine just doesn’t work on me. □ Your good advice doesn’t seem to work on Sam.

work on something to repair, build, or adjust something. □ The carpenter worked on his car engine.

work one’s ass off and work one’s buns off and work one’s butt off Go to work one’s tail off.

work one’s fingers to the bone Cliché to work very hard. □ I worked my fingers to the bone so you children could have everything you needed. Now look at the way you treat me! □ I spent the day working my fingers to the bone, and now I want to relax.

work one’s tail off and work one’s buns off; work one’s ass off; work one’s butt off Inf. Fig. to work very hard. (Use caution with butt.) □ I worked my tail off to get done on time. □ You spend half your life working your butt off—and for what?

work one’s way along something to move or labor along side something or a route. □ She worked her way along the ledge and finally came to a wide space where she could relax. □ They worked themselves along the jungle path, chopping and cutting as they went.

work (one’s) way into something 1. to get into something tight or small gradually and with effort. □ He worked himself into the dark corner and hid there for a while. □ The mouse worked into the crack and got stuck. 2. to get more deeply involved in something gradually. □ I don’t quite understand my job. I’ll work my way into it gradually. □ Fred worked into the daily routine gradually.

work (one’s) way through something 1. Lit. to work to earn money to pay the bills while one is in college, medical school, law school, etc. □ I worked my way through college as a waiter. 2. Fig. to progress through something complicated. □ I spent hours working my way through the tax forms. □ I worked through the forms very slowly. 3. Fig. to struggle through an emotional trauma. □ When she had finally worked through her grief, she was able to function normally again. □ Larry worked through the pain.

work (one’s) way up (to something) Go to work oneself up (to something).

work oneself up to allow oneself to become emotionally upset. □ Todd worked himself up, and I thought he would scream. □ Don’t work yourself up over Sally. She’s not worth it.

work oneself (up) into a lather and work oneself (up) into a sweat 1. and work up a sweat Lit. to work very hard and sweat very much. (In the way that a horse works up a lather.) □ Don’t work yourself up into a lather.
work oneself up into something 1. Lit. to struggle to raise oneself upward into something or some place.  2. Fig. to bring oneself up into a state of hysteria.  Don't work yourself up into hysteria.

work oneself up to something 1. to progress in one's work to a particular rank or status.  I worked myself up to sergeant in no time at all.  Claude worked his way up to master sergeant.

work out 1. for something] to turn out all right in the end.  [See also work out (all right).  Don't worry. Everything will work out.  This will work out. Don't worry.  [for someone] to perform satisfactorily doing something in particular.  I hope I work out at my new job.  I'm sure you'll work out.  [for someone] to do a program of exercise.  I work out at least twice a week.  I need to work out more often.

work out (all right) Go to turn out (all right).

work out (as something) to perform satisfactorily in a particular role.  We all hope she works out as a security monitor.  I'm sure she will work out.

work out (at something) 1. [for someone] to perform satisfactorily working in a particular location.  I hope I work out at the factory. I really need that job.  Things will work out at home in time.

work out for the best [for a bad situation] to turn out all right in the end.  Don't worry. Everything will work out for the best.  I think that nothing ever works out for the best.

work out (somehow) to result in a good conclusion; to finish positively.  Don't worry. I am sure that everything will work out all right.  Things always work out all right.

work some fat off† and work some weight off† to get rid of body fat by doing strenuous work.  I was able to work a lot of weight off by jogging.  I need to work off some fat.

work some weight off† Go to previous.

work someone or something into something and work someone or something in† 1. to manage to fit someone or something into something physically.  The magician worked the lady into the tiny cabinet from which she was to disappear.  The magician opened the little box and worked in the lady and two small dogs. 2. to fit someone or something into a sequence or series.  I don't have an appointment open this afternoon, but I'll see if I can work you into the sequence.  I can't work in all of you.

work someone or something over† to give someone or something a thorough examination or treatment.  The doctor really worked me over but couldn't find anything wrong.  They worked over the patient but found nothing.

work someone or something to someone or something to to manipulate someone or something to someone or something.  The quarterback worked the ball to the fullback so that the opposition didn't know what was going on.  The rescuers worked the trapped child to the top of the tunnel.

work someone over† 1. to threaten, intimidate, or beat someone.  Walt threatened to work Sam over.  Max had worked over Sam, and Sam knew that this was no idle threat.  2. to give someone's body a thorough examination or treatment.  The doctors worked her over to the tune of $1,500, but couldn't find anything wrong with her.  The dermatologist worked over her entire body looking for moles.

work someone up† to get someone ready for something, especially medical treatment.  (See also work oneself up.)  The staff worked up three patients for surgery that morning.  The doctor told the nurse to work Mr. Franklin up for surgery.

work something down† to lower or reduce something, especially an amount of money.  Over a few months, they worked the price down, and the house soon was sold.  They worked down the price so much that the house was a steal.

work something down (into something) to manipulate something downward into something.  The crane operator worked the load down into the ship's hold.  The operator worked it down carefully.

work something down (over something) to manipulate something downward over something.  Now, you work this part down over this little tube, and then it won't leak.  Liz worked the lid down and tightened it on.

work something into something and work something in† to press, mix, or force a substance into something.  You should work the butter into the dough carefully.  Work in the butter carefully.

work something off† 1. Lit. to get rid of anger, anxiety, or energy by doing physical activity.  I was so mad! I went out and played basketball to work my anger off.  He works off nervousness by knitting.  2. Fig. to pay off a debt through work rather than by money.  I had no money so I had to work the bill off by washing dishes.  I have to work off my debt.

work something out of something and work something out† to manipulate something to get it out of something.  You have to work the bubbles out of the paint before you use it.  You have to stir the batter to work out the lumps.

work something out† (with someone) to come to an agreement with someone; to figure out with someone a way to do something.  I think we can work this out with you so that all of us are satisfied.  I will work out something with Karen.  I'm sure we can work it out.

work something over† to rework something.  He saved the play by working the second act over.  Would you work over this report and see if you can improve it?

work something through (something) 1. to guide or push something through a physical barrier.  I could hardly work the needle through the tightly woven cloth.  I worked the needle through.  2. to guide or maneuver a law, proposal, motion, through a governing body.  The lobbyist
work (one's way) out (of something) 1. Fig. to wiggle out of something or some place. (Fig. on the image of a worm working its way out of a very small space.) *Fig. The little cat wormed her way into the box and got stuck. *Fig. The cat wormed into the opening. 2. Fig. to manipulate one's way into participation in something. *Fig. She tried to worm her way into the play, but the director refused. *Fig. You can't have a part, so don't try to worm in.

worm (one's way) in(to something) 1. Fig. to wiggle into something or some place. (Fig. on the image of a worm working its way into a very small space.) *Fig. The little cat wormed her way into the box and got stuck. *Fig. The cat wormed into the opening. 2. Fig. to manipulate one's way into participation in something. *Fig. She tried to worm her way into the play, but the director refused. *Fig. You can't have a part, so don't try to worm in.
self out of this affair. It is your fault! □ You can’t worm out of this.

**worm something out of someone** to draw or manipulate information out of someone. □ I managed to worm the name of the doctor out of her before she ran off. □ You can’t worm the names out of me!

**worried sick (about someone or something)** very worried or anxious about someone or something. □ Oh, thank heavens you are all right. We were worried sick about you!

**worry about someone or something** to fret or be anxious about the welfare of someone or something. □ Please don’t worry about me. I’ll be all right. □ Don’t worry about the bill. I’ll pay it.

**worry an animal out of something** to pester an animal until it leaves something or some place. □ The cat finally worried the mouse out of its hole and caught it. □ We worried the squirrel out of the attic by making lots of noise.

**worry oneself about someone or something** to allow oneself to fret or become anxious about someone or something. □ Please don’t worry yourself about me. I’ll be all right. □ There is no need for Karen to worry herself about this.

**worry over someone or something** to fret or be anxious about someone or something. □ She worried over dinner, but it came out all right. □ Jerry is worried over his daughter, Alice.

**worry something out of someone** to annoy someone or something. □ They finally worried the correct number out of me. □ You can’t worry the information out of her. It will require force.

**worry through something** to think and fret through a problem. □ I can’t talk to you now. I have to worry through this tax problem. □ We worried through the financial problem over a three-day period.

**worrywart** someone who worries all the time. □ Don’t be such a worrywart. □ I’m sorry I’m such a worrywart.

**the worse for wear 1.** Euph. intoxicated. □ You were the worse for wear last night. □ The three came stumbling in, the worse for wear again. 2. damaged or worn through use. □ Eventually, every machine becomes worse for wear, you know. □ The truth is it’s the worse for wear; you will just have to get a new one. 3. injured. □ Tom fell into the street and he’s much the worse for wear. □ Fred had a little accident with his bike and he’s the worse for wear.

**worship someone as something** to revere or honor one as if one were something divine or special. □ He worships her as a goddess. □ She worships her father as a god.

**worship the ground** someone walks on Fig. to honor someone to a great extent. □ She always admired the professor. In fact, she worshiped the ground he walked on.

*the worst of something* the poorest share of something; the worst part of something. (“Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ I knew I would get the worst of the deal because I was absent when the goods were divided up. □ I’m sorry that you got the worst of it.

**the worst-case scenario** Cliché the worse possible future outcome. □ Now, let’s look at the worst-case scenario. □ In the worst-case scenario, we’re all dead.

**worth its weight in gold** Fig. very valuable. □ This book is worth its weight in gold. □ Oh, Bill. You’re wonderful. You’re worth your weight in gold.

The **worth of a thing is what it will bring.** Prov. A thing is worth whatever someone will pay for it. □ Ellen: I’m thinking about selling my grandmother’s silver tea set. What do you suppose it’s worth? Fred: The worth of a thing is what it will bring.

**worth one’s salt** Fig. (in productivity) what it costs to keep or support one. □ We decided that you are worth your salt, and you can stay on as office clerk. □ You’re not worth your salt. Pack up!

**worth someone’s while** worth one’s time and trouble. □ The job pays so badly it’s not worth your while even going for an interview. □ It’s not worth Mary’s while going all that way just for a one-hour meeting.

**worthy of the name** deserving to be so called; good enough to enjoy a specific designation. □ There was not an actor worthy of the name in that play. □ Any art critic worthy of the name would know that painting to be a fake.

**would as soon do something as look at you** Rue. would be eager to do something harmful as simply look at you. □ He was a mean so-and-so who would as soon shoot you as look at you. □ He’d as soon pick a fight as look at you.

**would (just) as soon do something** Go to had (just) as soon do something.

**would like (to have) someone or something** to want someone or something; to prefer someone or something. □ I would like to have three cookies. □ I would like a piece of cake.

**would not be caught dead (doing something)** Go to next.

**would not be seen dead (doing something) and would not be caught dead (doing something)** would not do something under any circumstances. □ I wouldn’t be seen dead going out with Bruno! □ Martha would not be caught dead going into a place like that.

**would rather** would more willingly; would more readily.

□ I would rather have an apple than a pear. I don’t like pears. □ I’d rather live in the north than the south, because I like snow.

**Would you believe!** Inf. Isn’t that unbelievable?; How shocking! □ Tom: Jane has run off and married Fred! Sally: Would you believe! □ Jane: Then the manager came out and asked us to leave. Would you believe? Mary: It sounds just awful. I’d send them a letter of complaint.

(Would you) **care for another (one)?** Do you want another drink or serving? □ Tom stood there with an almost empty glass. Bill said, “Would you care for another one?” □ Waiter: Care for another one, madam? Sue: No, thank you.

(Would you) **care to...?** a polite phrase introducing an inquiry as to whether someone wishes to do something.

□ John: Would you care to step out for some air? Jane: Oh, I’d love it. □ Sue: Care to go for a swim? Mary: Not now, thanks.

(Would you) **care to dance?** Do you want to dance with me?; Would you please dance with me? □ John:
Would you care to dance? Mary: I don’t dance, but thank you for asking. No “Care to dance?” asked Bill, politely.

(Would you) care to join us? Do you want to join us?

Tom and Mary saw Fred and Sally sitting at another table in the restaurant. Tom went over to them and said, “Would you care to join us?” Mary: Isn’t that Bill and Sue over there? John: Yes, it is. Shall I ask them to join us? Mary: Why not? John (after reaching the other table): Hi, you guys! Care to join us? Bill: Love to, but Sue’s mom is going to be along any minute. Thanks anyway.

Would you excuse me? 1. a polite question that essentially announces one’s departure. (Compare this with Could I be excused?; Excuse me.)

Jane: Would you excuse me? I have to get home now. Andy: Oh, sure. I’ll see you at the door. Rising to leave, Jane said, “Would you excuse me?” and left by the rear door. 2. a polite way to request passage through or by a group of people; a way to request space to exit an elevator.

Would you please? a polite phrase that agrees what was offered to be done should be done. Tom: Do you want me to take this over to the bank? Mary: Would you please? Tom: Can I take your coat? Sally: Would you please?

wouldn’t want to be in someone’s shoes Fig. would not trade places with someone who is in a bad situation.

Now Jim has to explain to his wife how he wrecked their car. I wouldn’t want to be in her shoes. Everyone in her family hates her.

wreck and ruin Cliché complete destruction or ruin.

They went back after the fire and saw the wreck and ruin that used to be their house. Drinking brought him nothing but wreck and ruin.

wrangle (with someone) (about something) to bicker or argue with someone about something. Stop wrangling with everyone about Tom. He can take care of himself and does not need any special treatment.

Stop wrangling with everyone you meet.

wrangle (with someone) (over something) to bicker or argue with someone over who will end up with something or something. I don’t want to wrangle with Kelly over the contract. I see no need to wrangle over Dolly.

wrap around someone or something to enclose or fold about someone or something.

The snake wrapped around the helpless man and it was soon all over.

The flames wrapped around the barn and swallowed it up.

wrap one’s car around something to drive one’s car into something at fairly high speed.

She wrapped her car around a light pole. If he hadn’t wrapped his car around a tree, he’d be here with us tonight.

wrap someone or something around something to bend or coil someone or something around something.

I’ll wrap you around that lamppost unless you cooperate! Don wrapped the rope around the tree and tied it tight.

wrap someone or something (up†) (in something) to enclose or enfold someone or something inside of something.

I will have to wrap the baby up in a heavy blanket if we are going out in this cold. We wrapped up the children in their warmest clothing.

Please wrap the package up in pretty paper. Would you wrap this in yellow paper?

wrap someone or something (up†) (with something) to enclose or enfold someone or something, using something. Try to wrap the baby up with something warmer.

We will have to wrap up the baby with extra blankets tonight.

wrap something around someone to fold or drape something onto someone.

He wrapped a towel around himself and went to answer the telephone. She wrapped a blanket around her little boy to keep him warm.

wrap something up† to complete work on something; to bring something to an end.

I will wrap the job up this morning. I’ll call you when I finish. I can wrap up this little project in a week.

wrapped up Go to sewed up.

wrapped up (in something or someone) concerned or obsessed with someone or something.

Sally is pretty wrapped up in herself. I’m too wrapped up in my charity work to get a job.

*wrapped up (with someone or something) involved with someone or something. "Typically: be ~; get ~.

She is all wrapped up with her husband and his problems. She is just too wrapped up.

wreak havoc (with something) to cause a lot of trouble with something; to ruin or damage something.

Your bad attitude will wreak havoc with my project. The rainy weather wreaked havoc with our picnic plans.

wreak something (upon) someone or something to cause damage, havoc, or destruction to someone or something. (Upon is formal and less commonly used than on.)

The storm wreaked destruction upon the little village. It wreaked much havoc on us.

wreak vengeance (upon) someone or something Cliché to seek and get revenge on someone by harming someone or something.

The gangster wreaked his vengeance by destroying his rival’s house. The general wanted to wreak vengeance on the opposing army for their recent successful attack.

wreath (itself) around someone or something (for something) to form itself into a wreath or circle around someone or something.

The smoke wreathed around the smokers’ heads, almost obliterating sight of them. The smoke wreathed around the green tree near the fire.
wreath

wreath

wrench

wrench

wrest

wrest

wrestle

wrestle

wrestle

wrestle

wrestle

wriggle in

wriggle out

write

write

write

write

write

wriggle

wriggle

wring

wring

wring

wring

wring

wring

wring

wring

wring

wring

wring
write (up)on someone or something

write something down
write something down⁴ to make a note of something; to record something in writing.  □ Please write this down. □ Please write down what I tell you.

write something in
write something in⁴ to write something into something.

write something in plain English
write something in plain English to go in plain English.

write something into
write something into⁴ something and write something into⁴ something to write information into something. □ I wrote her telephone number into my notebook. □ I wrote in her number. □ I took out my notebook and wrote it in. 2. to include a specific statement or provision in a document, such as a contract or agreement. □ I want you to write a stronger security clause into my contract. □ I will write in a stronger clause.

write someone down as
write someone down as⁴ to list someone's name, noting something. □ Can I write you down as a charter member?

write someone for
write someone for⁴ to send a written request to someone for something. □ Henry wrote Harry for a firm quote, but Harry never responded. □ Did you write me for permission?

write someone in⁴ on something to write the name of someone in a special place on a ballot, indicating a vote for the person. (Done when the person's name is not already printed on the ballot.) □ Please write my name in on the ballot. □ I wrote in your name on the ballot.

write something about
write something about⁴ something to send an inquiry or statement to someone in writing about someone or something. □ I will write her about what you just told me. □ Sarah wrote the company about the faulty merchandise.

write someone or something off
write someone or something off⁴ to drop someone or something from consideration. □ The manager wrote Tom off for a promotion. □ I wrote off that piece of swampy land as worthless. It can't be used for anything.

write someone or something off⁴ as something to write someone or something in a special place on a ballot, indicating a vote for the person. (Done when the person's name is not already printed on the ballot.) □ Please write my name in on the ballot. □ I wrote in your name on the ballot.

write someone or something about
write someone or something about⁴ something to send an inquiry or statement to someone in writing about someone or something. □ I will write her about what you just told me. □ Sarah wrote the company about the faulty merchandise.

write something off
write something off⁴ to absorb a debt or a loss in accounting. □ The bill couldn't be collected, so we had to write it off. □ The bill was too large, and we couldn't write off the amount. We decided to sue.

write something off⁴ on one's taxes to deduct something from one's income taxes. □ Can I write this off on my income taxes? □ I'll write off this trip on my taxes. □ Oh, yes! Write it off!

write something out⁴ 1. to spell or write a number or an abbreviation. □ Don't just write “7,” write it out. □ Please write out all abbreviations, such as Doctor for Dr. 2. to put thoughts into writing, rather than keeping them in memory. □ Let me write it out. Then I won't forget it. □ Karen wrote out her objections.

write something to someone
write something to someone⁴ to send specific information to someone in writing. □ I wrote the facts to John, and he thanked me for the information. □ They wrote all the details to me, and I filed them. 2. to compose a letter or e-mail and send it to someone. □ Sam wrote a letter to his father. □ Did you write that memo to Mark yet?

write something to something
to write something to something that is supplementary to something else. □ Molly wrote an epilogue to her story covering the time up till now. □ I will write the introduction to the book this afternoon.

write something up⁴ to prepare a bill, order, or statement. □ Please write the order up and send me a copy. □ As soon as I finish writing up your check, I'll bring you some more coffee.

write to someone
to write to someone to compose a letter or e-mail and send it to someone. □ I will write to her again, but I don't expect to hear anything. □ Please write to me as soon as you can.

write (up)on someone or something
write (up)on someone or something 1. to write about someone or something. (Upon is very formal here and much less commonly used than on.) □ Don't write on my uncle. □ What are you going to write upon? 2. to write on someone's skin or some thing. (Upon is formal and much less commonly used than on.) □ Don't write on Billy. After all, he's your brother. □ Who wrote on this page of the book? 3. to use someone [such as someone's back] or something as a flat base to support something that is being written upon. □ I have to sign this check. Here, let me write on you. □ Do you mind if I write on your desk? I just need to sign this.

write someone or something else
write someone or something else⁴ to write someone or something different. □ I wrote another application for that job.

write something else
write something else⁴ to write something else or to write something other than what you had in mind. □ I had planned to write an essay. I decided to write a poem instead.

write something else to someone
write something else to someone⁴ to write something else to someone else. □ I wrote a letter to my mother, telling her about my new job.

write to
write to⁴ to write to someone or something. □ I wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper. □ I wrote to my friends about our trip to Europe.

write upon
write upon⁴ to write upon someone or some thing. □ I wrote a letter to her and asked her to write me back. □ I wrote a letter to the president asking for a reply.
**writer’s block** the temporary inability for a writer to think of what to write. □ I have writer’s block at the moment and can’t seem to get a sensible sentence on paper.

**writhe in** something Go to **writhe with** something.

**writhe under** something 1. Lit. to squirm with pain from being beaten with something. □ The sailor writhed under the sting of the lash. □ The child writhed under the pain of his spanking. 2. Fig. to suffer under a mental burden. □ I writhed under her constant verbal assault and finally left the room. □ Why do I have to writhe under her insults?

**writhe with** something 1. and **writhe in** something [for someone or an animal] to squirm because of something, such as pain. □ Carl writhed with pain and began to cry. □ He was writhing in pain when the paramedics arrived. 2. [for something] to support or contain something that is writhing. □ The pit was writhing with snakes and other horrid things. □ The floor of the basement was writhing in spiders and crawly things.

**written in stone** Go to carved in stone.

*the wrong number 1. Lit. an incorrect telephone number. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; dial ~; give someone ~.) □ He got the wrong number and hung up. □ When a young child answered, I knew I had the wrong number. 2. Fig. [a state of being] incorrect, late, inaccurate, etc. (*Typically: get ~; have ~; give someone ~.) □ Boy, do you have the wrong number! Get with it! □ You have missed the boat again. You have the wrong number!  

the wrong side of the tracks Go to the other side of the tracks.

**wrote the book on** something Fig. to be very authoritative about something; to know enough about something to write the definitive book on it. (Always in past tense.) □ Ted wrote the book on unemployment. He’s been looking for work in three states for two years. □ Do I know about misery? I wrote the book on misery!

*wrought up* disturbed or excited. (Wrought is an old past tense and past participle meaning “worker.” *Typically: be ~; get ~.) □ She is so wrought up, she can’t think. □ I am sorry you are so wrought up.
X marks the spot. This is the exact spot. (Sometimes the speaker will draw an X in the spot while saying this.) □ This is where the rock struck my car—X marks the spot. □ Now, please move that table over here. Yes, right here—X marks the spot.

X someone or something out† to mark out something printed or in writing, with Xs. □ Sally X’d the incorrect information out. □ Sally X’d out the incorrect information. □ You should X Tom out. He’s not coming. □ Please X out this line of print.

X’d out 1. eliminated; crossed-out. □ But the Babbits are X’d out. □ Put the X’d out Babbits back where they were.

2. Sl. killed. (Underworld.) □ Mr. Big wanted Wilbur X’d out. □ He wanted Sam to see that all these punks were X’d out.
yank someone or something off (of) something and yank someone or something off† to jerk someone or something off something. (Of) is usually retained before pronouns.
   □ She yanked the coffeepot off the counter and ran upstairs.
   □ She yanked off the box lid.

yank someone or something out of something and yank someone or something out† to pull or jerk someone or something out of something.
   □ Sam yanked the turnips out of the ground one by one.
   □ He yanked out the best of the young carrots from the rich soil.

yank someone's chain Sl. to harass someone; to give someone a hard time. (As if one were a dog wearing a choker collar, on a leash.) □ Stop yanking my chain!
   □ Do you really think you can just yank my chain whenever you want?

yank something off† to pull or jerk off something, such as a piece of clothing.
   □ She yanked her jacket off.
   □ She yanked off her jacket and threw it on the chair.

yank something up† to pull or jerk something up.
   □ He yanked his pants up.
   □ He yanked up his pants and threw on his shirt.

yap about someone or something to talk casually about someone or something; to gossip or complain about someone or something.
   □ Stop yapping about Molly.
   □ Claire is always yapping about her salary.

ye gods (and little fishes)! Inf. What a surprising thing!
   □ Ye gods and little fishes! Someone covered my car with broken eggs!
   □ Ye gods! What a rainstorm!

year after year for many years, one after another.
   □ We go to the same place for our vacation year after year.
   □ I seem to earn the same salary year after year.

year in, year out year after year; for years.
   □ I seem to have hay fever year in, year out. I never get over it.
   □ You can get people to attend.

yeard for someone or something to long for someone or something; to desire someone or something strongly.
   □ Mary yearned for a big bowl of high-butterfat ice cream.

years running Go to days running.

eyell at someone or something to shout at someone or something, usually in anger.
   □ Please don't yell at me.
   □ There is no point in yelling at a cat.

yeard bloody murder Go to scream bloody murder.

yeard one's guts out Go to next.

yeard one's head off and yell one's guts out† Fig. to yell loud and long.
   □ I was yelling my head off at the football game.
   □ Stop yelling your guts out and listen to me.

yank someone or something off (of) something and yank someone or something off† to jerk something or someone off something. (Of) is usually retained before pronouns.
   □ He yanked her hand away from the fire.
   □ Please yank away that rug from the fire before it gets burned.

yank someone or something away† (from someone or something) to jerk someone or something away from someone or something.
   □ He yanked apart the fighting boys.

yank someone or something around to pull or jerk someone or something around.
   □ Don't yank Billy around so.
   □ You'll hurt him!
   □ Please don't yank the chairs around.
   □ Move them carefully.

yank someone or something into something and yank someone or something into something† to jerk or pull someone or something into something.
   □ Mary yanked Sally into the car and sped off.
   □ She yanked in the anchor rope and we rowed away.
yell something at someone or something to shout something at someone or something, usually in anger. □ Please don’t yell those things at me. □ He stood on the porch, yelling curses at a dog on his lawn.

yell something out! (at someone or something) to shout something loudly at someone or something. □ The dictator yelled curses out at the troops. □ The director yelled out his disgust at the cast of the play.

a yellow streak (down someone’s back) a tendency toward cowardice. □ Tim’s got a yellow streak down his back a mile wide. □ Get rid of that yellow streak. Show some courage.

yen for someone or something to long for someone or something. □ I yen for a great big bowl of highly fattening ice cream. □ Frank yenned for Sally.

Yes indeed(y do))! Inf. Definitely yes! □ Tom: Will you marry me? Jane: Yes indeedy do, I will! □ Charlie: Did your horse win the race? Bill: Yes indeedy!

Yes siree(, Bob)! Inf. Absolutely!; Without a doubt! (Not necessarily said to a male and not necessarily to Bob.) □ Mary: Do you want some more cake? Tom: Yes siree, Bob! □ “That was a fine turkey dinner. Yes siree!” said Uncle Henry.

Yesterday wouldn’t be too soon. Immediately; Right away. (An answer to the question “When do you want this?”) □ Mary: Mr. Franklin, when do you want this? Fred: Well, yesterday wouldn’t be too soon. □ Alice: When am I supposed to have this finished? Sue: Yesterday wouldn’t be too soon.

yield someone or something (over) (to someone or something) to give up someone or something to someone or something. (The over is typically used where the phrase is synonymous with hand over.) □ You must yield Tom over to his mother. □ Will you yield the right-of-way to the other driver, or not? □ Please yield the right-of-way to me.

yield someone or something up! (to someone) to give someone or something up to someone. □ He had to yield his daughter up to Claire. □ The judge required that Tom yield up his daughter to his ex-wife. □ Finally, he yielded up the money.

yield something to someone 1. to give the right-of-way to someone. □ You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. □ You failed to yield the right-of-way to the oncoming car. 2. to give up something to someone. □ The army yielded the territory to the invading army. □ We yielded the territory to the government.

yield to someone 1. to let someone go ahead; to give someone the right-of-way. □ Please yield to the next speaker. □ She yielded to the next speaker. 2. to give in to someone. □ She found it hard to yield to her husband in an argument. □ I will yield to no one.

a yoke around someone’s neck Fig. something that oppresses people; a burden. □ John’s greedy children are a yoke around his neck. □ The Smiths have a huge mortgage that has become a yoke around their necks.

yoke people or things together to connect two people together with a yoke; to connect two animals together with a yoke. □ Todd yoked the oxen together for the parade. □ Sam yoked Fred and Tom together so they could pull the load.

You ain’t just whistlin’ Dixie. Rur. You are right. □ Tom: Sure is hot today. Bill: Yeah, you ain’t just whistlin’ Dixie. It’s a scorcher. □ Charlie: That was a good movie. Jane: You ain’t just whistlin’ Dixie. It was the best I’ve ever seen.

You ain’t seen nothing yet! Rur. The best, most exciting, or cleverest part is yet to come! (The use of ain’t is a fixed part of this idiomatic expression.) □ Alice: Well, the first act was simply divine. Sue: Stick around. You ain’t seen nothing yet! □ Mary: This part of the city is really beautiful. Bill: You ain’t seen nothing yet!

You (always) give up too easily. You don’t stand up for your rights.; You give up without a fight. □ Bill: Well, I guess she was right. Bob: No, she was wrong. You always give up too easily. □ Bob: I asked her to go out with me Friday, but she said she thought she was busy. Tom: Ask her again. You give up too easy.

You and what army? Go to next.

You and who else? and You and what army? Inf. a phrase that responds to a threat by implying that the threat is a weak one. □ Bill: I’m going to punch you in the nose! Bob: Yeah? You and who else? □ Tom: Our team is going to slaughter your team. Bill: You and what army? □ Bill: If you don’t stop doing that, I’m going to hit you. Tom: You and who else?

[you are] See the entries beginning with you’re.

You are more than welcome. 1. You are very welcome to be here. □ Please make yourself at home. You are more than welcome. 2. Your thanks are very gratefully accepted.
□ A: Thank you so much. B: You are more than welcome.

You are never too old to learn. Go to It is never too late to learn.

You are something else (again)! Inf. You are amazing or entertaining! □ After Sally finished telling her joke, everyone laughed and someone said, “Oh, Sally, you are something else!” □ “You are something else again,” said Fred, admiring Sue’s presentation.

You are welcome. and You’re welcome. a polite response to Thank you. □ “Thank you for helping me.” “You’re welcome.” □ “Thank you very much!” “You are welcome!”

You asked for it! 1. You are getting what you requested. □ The waiter set a huge bowl of ice cream, strawberries, and whipped cream in front of Mary, saying apologetically, “You asked for it!” □ Bill: Gee, this escargot stuff is gross! Mary: You asked for it! 2. You are getting the punishment you deserve! □ Bill: The tax people just ordered me to pay a big fine. Bob: The careless way you do your tax forms caused it. You asked for it! □ Mother: I’m sorry to have to punish you in this fashion, but you asked for it! Bill: I did not!

You been keeping busy? Go to (Have you) been keeping busy?

You been keeping cool? Go to (Have you) been keeping cool?

You been keeping out of trouble? Go to (Have you) been keeping out of trouble?

You been okay? Go to (Have you) been okay?

You bet! 1. Inf. □ Tom: Are you coming to the party? Jane: You bet! □ Charlie: May I borrow your hammer?
You bet your boots!

You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. Prov. It is easier to get what you want by flattering people and being polite to them than by making demands. □ Jill: This meal is terrible. Let’s get the restaurant manager over here and make a scene unless he gives us our money back. Jane: We might have more luck if we ask politely. You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

You cannot get a quart into a pint pot. Prov. You cannot get help from an uncharitable person or money from someone who has none. □ Jerry and James spent two hours trying to convince the old miser to contribute to the children’s hospital; finally, James turned to Jerry and said in disgust, “This is hopeless. We can’t get blood from a stone.” □ The government can’t increase taxes any further—nobody has the money! You can’t get blood from a turnip.

You cannot make bricks without straw. Prov. In order to get something good or useful, you must give up something else. □ Jill: Why do they have to tear down that beautiful old building to build an office park? Jane: You can’t make an omelet without breaking eggs. □ Fred: I want to lose weight, but I’m not willing to change the way I eat. Alan: You can’t have your cake and eat it.

You cannot serve God and mammon. Prov. You cannot both be a good person and dedicate yourself to making money. (Biblical. Mammon means riches.) □ The minister warned the businessman that he could not serve God and mammon, and encouraged him to donate some of his wealth to charity.

You cannot teach an old dog new tricks. Prov. Someone who is used to doing things a certain way cannot change. (Usually not polite to say about the person you are talking to; you can say it about yourself or about


You bet your boots! Go to next.

You bet your (sweet) life! and You bet your boots! You bet your life! You bet your (sweet) bippy. Inf. Fig. You can be absolutely certain of something! □ Mary: Will I need a coat today? Bill: You bet your sweet life! It’s colder than an iceberg out there. □ Bill: Will you be at the game Saturday? Tom: You bet your boots!

You betcha! □ Inf. Yes! You can be sure of it! (Literally, You bet, you.) □ Will I be there? You betcha. □ Can I? You betcha!

You called? 1. a phrase used when returning a telephone call, meaning “What did you want to talk about when you called before?” □ Bill (answering the phone): Hello? Bob: This is Bob. You called? □ Tom: You called? It’s Tom. Mary: Hi, Tom. Yes, I wanted to ask you about these estimates. 2. a phrase said by someone who has been summoned into a person’s presence. (Often used in jest, in the way a servant might answer an employer.) □ Mary: Oh, Tom. Come over here a minute. Tom (coming to where Mary is standing): You called? □ Tom: Bill! Bill! Over here, Bill, across the street. Bill (panting from running and with mock deference): You called?

You can bet the farm (on someone or something). Rur. You can be certain of someone or something. □ This is a good investment. You can bet the farm on it. □ You can bet the farm that Joe is gonna get that job.

You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. Prov. It is easier to get what you want by flattering people and being polite to them than by making demands. □ Jill: This meal is terrible. Let’s get the restaurant manager over here and make a scene unless he gives us our money back. Jane: We might have more luck if we ask politely. You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink. Prov. You can present someone with an opportunity, but you cannot force him or her to take advantage of it. □ Jill: I told Katy about all the jobs that are available at our company, but she hasn’t applied for any of them. Jane: You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.

You can say that again! and You said it! □ Inf. That is true.; You are correct. (The word that is emphasized.) □ Mary: It sure is hot today. Jane: You can say that again! □ Bill: This cake is yummy! Bob: You said it!

You cannot get a quart into a pint pot. Prov. You cannot get help from an uncharitable person or money from someone who has none. □ Jerry and James spent two hours trying to convince the old miser to contribute to the children’s hospital; finally, James turned to Jerry and said in disgust, “This is hopeless. We can’t get blood from a stone.” □ The government can’t increase taxes any further—nobody has the money! You can’t get blood from a turnip.

You cannot get blood from a turnip. Go to previous.

You cannot have your cake and eat it (too). Prov. You cannot enjoy two desirable things at the same time. □ Jill: There’s an apartment across the street from me, much bigger and prettier than mine, and it even costs less. I’d really like to rent it—but I don’t want to go to the trouble of moving. Jane: You can’t have your cake and eat it too. □ Fred: I want to lose weight, but I’m not willing to change the way I eat. Alan: You can’t have your cake and eat it.

You cannot lose what you never had. Prov. You should have not lost something if you only wished that you had it to begin with. □ Bill: I’ve lost Mary. She’s gotten engaged to Tom. Fred: But, Bill, Mary was never your girlfriend. You can’t lose what you never had.

You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear. Prov. You cannot make someone more refined than he or she is by nature. □ I’ve given up trying to get my cousin to appreciate classical music. You can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear.

You cannot make bricks without straw. Prov. You have to have all the necessary materials in order to make something. □ Ellen: I really wanted to give Fred a birthday party, but none of the people I invited were able to come. Jane: Don’t blame yourself. You can’t make bricks without straw.

You cannot please everyone. Prov. Cliché No matter what you do, there will always be some people who do not like it. □ Nancy: My mother wants me to have a big wedding in the church, but my fiancé’s mother insists that we should have an informal ceremony. What am I going to do? Jane: Well, you can’t please everyone. Just do what you and your fiancé want to do.

You cannot put new wine in old bottles. Prov. You should not try to combine the new with the old. □ I think it is a mistake for the managers of that traditional art gallery to exhibit modern paintings. You can’t put new wine in old bottles. □ Doug’s attempt to teach ancient Chinese medicine to doctors trained in Western medicine was not a success. “I guess I can’t put new wine in old bottles,” Doug thought ruefully.
*(You)* can't beat that. and *(You)* can't top that. Inf.
No one can do better than that. *(This you represents both personal and impersonal antecedents. That is, it means second person singular or plural, and anyone.)* □ Mary: Wow! Look at the size of that lobster! It looks yummy! Bill: Yeah. You can't beat that. I wonder what it's going to cost.
□ "What a view! Nothing like it anywhere! You can't top this!" said Jeff, admiring his room's ocean view.

You can't expect me to believe that. and You don't expect me to believe that. That is so outrageous that no one could believe it. □ Bill: My father is running for president. Bob: You can't expect me to believe that. □ Jane: Everyone in our family has one extra toe. Mary: You don't expect me to believe that!

*(You)* can't fight city hall. Fig. There is no way to win in a battle against a bureaucracy. □ Bill: I guess I'll go ahead and pay the tax bill. Bob: Might as well. You can't fight city hall. □ Mary: How did things go at your meeting with the zoning board? Sally: I gave up. Can't fight city hall.

*(You)* can't get there from here. a catchphrase said jokingly when someone asks directions to get to a place that can be reached only by a circuitous route. □ Bill: How far is it to Adamsville? Tom: Adamsville? Oh, that's too bad. You can't get there from here. □ "Galesburg? Galesburg, you say?" said the farmer. "By golly, you can't get there from here!"

You can't mean that! Inf. Surely you do not mean what you said! □ Bill: I hate you! Mary: You can't mean that. □ Sally: The cake burned and there's no time to start another before the party. Mary: You can't mean that!

*(You)* can't take it with you. Prov. Cliche Since you cannot take your wealth with you when you die, you ought to enjoy it while you're alive. □ Go ahead, splurge a little while you've got it. You can't take it with you. □ Henry: Sure, I spent a fortune on this car. Can't take it with you, you know. Rachel: And this way, you can share it with your friends.

You can't tell a book by its cover. Go to Don't judge a book by its cover.

*(You)* can't top that. Go to *(You)* can't beat that.

*(You)* can't win them all. and *(You)* can't win 'em all. Inf. a catch phrase said when someone, including the speaker, has lost in a contest or failed at something. *(The you is impersonal, meaning one, anyone. The apostrophe on 'em is not always used.)* □ Mary: Gee, I came in last again! Jane: Oh, well. You can't win them all. □ "Can't win 'em all," muttered Alice as she left the boss's office with nothing accomplished.

You changed your mind? Go to *(Have you)* changed your mind?

*(You)* could have fooled me. Inf. I would have thought otherwise; I would have thought the opposite. □ Henry: Did you know that this land is among the most productive in the entire state? Jane: You could have fooled me. It looks quite barren. □ John: I really do like Mary. Andy: Could have fooled me. You treat her rather badly sometimes.

You could have knocked me over with a feather. Fig. I was extremely surprised.; I was so surprised that it was as if I was disoriented and could have been knocked over easily. □ When she told me she was going to get married, you could have knocked me over with a feather. □ John: Did you hear that they are going to tear down city hall and build a new one—price tag twelve million dollars? Sally: Yes, and when I heard that, you could have knocked me over with a feather.

You couldn't (do that)! and You wouldn't (do that)! an indication of disbelief that someone might do something. □ Bill: I'm going to run away from home! Jane: You couldn't! □ Bill: I get so mad at my brother, I could just strangle him. Tom: You couldn't do that!

You doing okay? Go to *(Are you)* doing okay?

You don't expect me to believe that. Go to You can't expect me to believe that.

You don't get something for nothing. Prov. Everything costs something, and anything that appears to be free must be deceptive. □ Jill: This newspaper ad says we can get a trip to Hawaii for free. Jane: There must be a catch to it somewhere. You don't get something for nothing.

You don't know the half of it. Inf. You really don't know how bad it is.; You might think that what you have heard is bad, but you do not know the whole story. □ Mary: They say you've been having a bad time at home. Sally: You don't know the half of it. □ Sally: The company has no cash, they are losing orders right and left, and the comptroller is cooking the books. Mary: Sounds bad. Sally: You don't know the half of it.

You don't know where it's been. Do not touch something or put it in your mouth, because you do not know where it has been and what kind of dirt it has picked up. *(Most often said to children.)* □ Mother: Don't put that money in your mouth. You don't know where it's been. Bill: Okay. □ Take that stick out of your mouth. You don't know where it's been.

You don't say. 1. Inf. a general response to something that someone has said. *(Expresses a little polite surprise or interest, but not disbelief.)* □ Bill: I'm starting work on a new job next Monday. Bob: You don't say. □ Sally: The Jones boys are keeping a pet snake. Alice: You don't say. 2. Inf. You have just said something that everybody already knows. □ Bill: I think I'm beginning to put on a little weight. Jane: You don't say. □ John: My goodness, prices are getting high. Sue: You don't say.

You first. an invitation for someone to precede the speaker. *(See the examples.)* □ Bill: Let's try some of this goose liver stuff. Alice: You first. □ Bill: The water sure looks cold. Let's jump in. Bob: You first.

You get what you pay for. Prov. Cliche If you do not pay much money for something, it is probably of poor quality.; If you pay well for something, it is more likely to be of good quality. □ Alan: I was so pleased to find shoes for such a low price, but look, they're falling apart already. Jane: You get what you pay for. □ This brand of soup is more expensive, but remember, you get what you pay for.
You make a better door than you do a window.

You are right! That's exactly right! You're making a better door than you do a window. You're leaving so soon?

You know what I mean? You just don't get it! Inf. You really don't see what people are trying to tell you! Also with subjects other than second person.) You just don't get it! People avoid you because you offend them.

You (really) said a mouthful. You (just) watch! Andy: You heard the man. Bill: What makes her think she can tell me what to do? Bob: She's the boss. Do it! You heard her!

You (just) wait (and see)! Inf. Wait and see what will happen.; If you wait, you will see what I predict will be true. John: You'll get what you deserve! Just you wait! Jane: Mind your own business. Bob: Things will get better. You just wait and see! Sue: Sure, but when?

You (just) watch! Inf. Just pay attention to what I do, and you will see what I said is true! Rachel: I'll get her to change! You just watch! Andy: Good luck! Andy: You watch! You'll see I'm right. Sally: Sure, you are. Bob: Watch! This is the way it's done. Bill: You don't know what you're doing. Bob: Just watch!

You (just) wait! Inf. Just pay attention to what I do, and you will see what I said is true! Rachel: I'll get her to change! You just watch! Andy: Good luck! Andy: You watch! You'll see I'm right. Sally: Sure, you are. Bob: Watch! This is the way it's done. Bill: You don't know what you're doing. Bob: Just watch!

You know an expression placed on the end of a statement for pause or emphasis. (This expression is often overused, in which case it is totally meaningless and irritating.) Tom: Sure, I spent a fortune on this car. Can't take it with you, you know. Rachel: But there are better things to do with it here and now. Bill: Do you always lock your door? Tom: Usually. There's a lot of theft around here, you know.

You know what I mean? Go to (Do you) know what I'm saying?

You leaving so soon? Go to (Are you) leaving so soon?

You make a better door than you do a window. Joe was just standing in front of the TV. "Hey," I said, "You make a better door than you do a window." Charlie: Isn't this a great view? Jane: You make a better door than you do a window. Let me see.

You make me laugh! Inf. Fig. What you said is totally ridiculous.; You are totally ridiculous. (Compare this with Don't make me laugh!) Bill: I have this plan to make electricity from garbage. Sally: What a dumb idea! You make me laugh! Bill: I'm really sorry. Give me another chance. I'll never do it again! Jane: You make me laugh!

You must lose a fly to catch a trout. Prov. You have to sacrifice something in order to get what you want. (Implies that what you sacrifice is minor compared to what you will get.) Amy was willing to live cheaply for several years in order to save enough money to buy her own house. She knew that you must lose a fly to catch a trout.

You never know (what you can do) till you try. Prov. Even if you think you are not able to do something, you should try to do it. Jill: Want to go rock-climbing with me this weekend? Jane: Oh, I can't rock-climb. Jill: How do you know? Have you ever tried it? Jane: No, not really. Jill: You don't know what you can do till you try. Alan: I'll never be able to learn to dance. Jane: You don't know till you try.

You never miss the water till the well runs dry. Prov. People are not grateful for what they have until they lose it. Jill: I never realized what a good friend Jeannie was until she moved away. Jane: You never miss the water till the well runs dry.

You pays your money and you takes your chance(s). Prov. You must resign yourself to taking risks.; Everything costs something, but paying for something does not guarantee that you will get it. (The grammatical errors are intentional.) Customer: Can you guarantee that this washing machine won't break? Salesman: No guarantees. You pays your money and you takes your chances.

You (really) said a mouthful. Inf. Fig. You said exactly what needed to be said.; What you said was very meaningful and had great impact. Bill: Did you hear what I said to her? Jane: Yes. You said a mouthful. Was she mad? Bill: This is the worst food I have ever eaten. It is either stale, wilted, dry, or soggy! Tom: You said a mouthful!

You said it! Go to You can say that again!

You scared the crap out of me. Go to You scared the hell out of me.

You scared the devil out of me. Go to next.

You scared the hell out of me. And You scared the crap out of me.; You scared the dickens out of me.; You scared the devil out of me.; You scared me out of my wits.; You scared the pants off (of) me. You frightened me very badly. (Also with subjects other than second person. Of is usually retained before pronouns.) He scared the hell out of all of us. She really scared the pants off of me.

You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. Fig. You do a favor for me and I'll do a favor for you.; If you do something for me that I cannot do for myself, I will do something for you that you cannot do for yourself. I'll grab the box on the top shelf if you will creep under the table.
and pick up my pen. You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours.

You think you're so smart! Inf. You act as if you know far more than you do. (Also with subjects other than second person.) □ You think you're so smart! You don't know anything! □ Boy! He thinks he's so smart!

(You) took the words right out of my mouth. Inf. Fig. You said exactly what I meant to say before I had a chance to say it, and, therefore, I agree with you very much. □ Bill: I think she's old enough to know better. Tom: You took the words right out of my mouth. □ Mary: This movie is going to put me to sleep. Jane (yawning): You took the words right out of my mouth.

(You) want a piece of me? Sl. Do you want to fight with me? □ Come on, Wussy. You want a piece of me?

(You want to) know something? Go to (Do you) want to know something?

You want to make something of it? Go to (Do you) want to make something of it?

[you will] See the entries beginning with you'll.

You win some, you lose some. and You win a few, you lose a few. Prov. Cliché You cannot always succeed. (Can say this when you have not succeeded, to show that you are not discouraged.) □ Jill: I was sorry to hear that you didn't win your court case. Jane: Well, you win some, you lose some. □ Bill: I thought it was terrible that you didn't get a prize in the art contest. Bob: You win a few, you lose a few.

[you would] See the entries beginning with you'd.

You wouldn't dare (to do something)! an exclamation that shows disbelief about something that the speaker has stated an intention of doing. □ Bill: I'm going to leave school. Tom: You wouldn't dare leave! □ Bill: Be quiet or I'll slap you. Jane: You wouldn't dare to slap me!

You wouldn't (do that)! Go to You couldn't (do that)!

You('d) better believe it! Inf. a way of emphasizing a previous statement. □ Bill: Man, you're the best goalie this team has ever had! Tom: You better believe it! □ Bill: This food is so bad. It will probably stunt my growth. Tom: You'd better believe it!


You'll be sorry you asked. Inf. The answer to the question you just asked is so bad that you will be sorry you asked it. (Compare this with (Are you) sorry you asked?) □ Father: What are your grades going to be like this semester? Sally: You'll be sorry you asked. □ Mary: How much did you pay for that lamp? Jane: You'll be sorry you asked.

You'll get onto it. and You'll get into it. Inf. Don't worry. You will become more comfortable with this situation soon; you will catch the spirit of the situation soon. □ Bill: I just can't seem to do this right. Bob: You'll get into it. □ Mary: How long does it take to learn to work this computer? Jane: Don't fret. You'll get onto it.

You'll get the hang of it. Don't worry. You will learn soon how it is done. □ Mary: It's harder than I thought to glue these things together. Tom: You'll get the hang of it. □ Bill: I can't seem to swing this club the way you showed me. Sally: You'll get the hang of it. Don't worry. Golf is easy.

You'll never get away with it. You will never succeed with that illegal or outrageous plan. □ Bill: I have a plan to cheat on the exam. Mary: You'll never get away with it. □ Jane: I think I can fool the IRS and save a lot on my taxes. Mary: You'll never get away with it.

*young at heart* having a youthful spirit no matter what one's age. (*Typically: act ~; be ~; keep someone ~; stay ~.*) □ I am over 70 but I still feel young at heart.

Young men may die, but old men must die. Prov. Young people may be killed by accidents or disease, but old people cannot avoid dying for very long, simply because they are old. □ When Grandfather was so sick, he told us, "Don't feel too bad if I pass on; it's my time. Young men may die, old men must die." □ I'm afraid old Mr. Ferris won't live much longer. Young men may die, but old men must die.

Your guess is as good as mine. Inf. I do not know. □ Jane: Are there any good movies playing tonight? Alan: Your guess is as good as mine. □ Jill: How long should we bake this pie? Jane: Your guess is as good as mine.

Your place or mine? Inf. an expression asking someone about whose dwelling should be the site of a rendezvous. (Often associated with a sudden or spontaneous sexual encounter.) □ Bill: So, do you want to go somewhere? Mary: Your place or mine? □ Bill: I was thinking of watching a movie at home. You're place or mine? Mary: Okay, I'll rent the movie and we'll watch it at your place.

Your secret is safe with me. I will not tell your secret to anyone. □ Don't worry. I won't tell. Your secret's safe with me. □ Your secret is safe with me. I will carry it to my grave.

You're der'nootin'! Rur. You are absolutely right! (Never the full form tootin'.) □ Tom: Are you really going to take up boxing? Bob: You're der'nootin'? □ Father: Do you really want to buy that droopy-looking puppy? Bill: You're der'nootin'!

You're excited. 1. You may leave the room, the table, etc. (Said in response to May I be excited?) □ Mother: Are you finished, Tom? Tom: Yes, ma'am. Mother: You're excited. □ Bill (raising his hand): Can I leave the room? I have to get my books off my bike. Teacher: You're excited. Bill: Thanks. 2. You must leave the room or the premises. (Typically said at the end of a scolding.) □ Father: I've heard quite enough of this nonsense. Tom, You're excited. Tom: Sorry. □ Andy: That is the end of this conversation. You're excited. Bob: But, there's more. 3. You are forgiven for belching or for some other breach of strict etiquette. (Said in response to Excuse me.) □ Tom (after belching): Excuse me. Father: You're excused. □ Sally: Excuse me for being so noisy. Mother: You're excused.

You're (just) wasting my time. Inf. What you have to say is of no interest to me. □ Rachel: I've heard enough. You're just wasting my time. Good-bye. Mary: If that's the way you feel about it, good-bye. □ Bill: Come on, Bill. I'll show you what I mean. Bill: No, you're wasting my time.

You're out of your mind! and You've got to be out of your mind! Inf. You must be crazy for saying or doing that! (Said to someone who has said or done something
silly or stupid.) □ Andy: Go to the Amazon? You're out of your mind! Jane: Maybe so, but doesn't it sound like fun? □ Mary: Come on, Jane. Let's go swimming in the river. Jane: Look at that filthy water. Swim in it? You've got to be out of your mind!

You're telling me! Inf. I know all too well the truth of what you are saying. □ Tom: Man, it's hot today! Bob: You're telling me! □ Jane: This food is really terrible. Sally: Wow! You're telling me!

You're the doctor. Inf. Fig. You are in a position to tell me what to do; I yield to you and your knowledge of this matter. (Usually jocular; the person being addressed is most likely not a physician.) □ Bill: Eat your dinner, then you'll feel more like playing ball. Get some energy! Tom: Okay, you're the doctor. □ Teacher: You'd better study the first two chapters more thoroughly. Bob: You're the doctor.


You're welcome. Go to You are welcome.

yours truly 1. a closing phrase at the end of a letter, just before the signature. □ Yours truly, Tom Jones. □ Best wishes from yours truly, Bill Smith. 2. oneself; I; me. □ There's nobody here right now but yours truly. □ Everyone else got up and left the table leaving yours truly to pay the bill.

Yourself? Go to And you?

Youth must be served. Prov. Young people should be allowed to have fun. □ Don't lecture the young folks because they were out dancing all night. Youth must be served. □ I don't know where my daughter gets the energy for school, sports, and a full social life. Youth must be served, I suppose.

You've got another think coming. You will have to rethink your position. (The second part of an expression something like, “If you think so-and-so, then you've got another think coming.” Also with thing rather than think.) □ Rachel: If you think I'm going to stand here and listen to your complaining all day, you've got another think coming! Bill: Frankly, I don't care what you do. □ Andy: If you think you can get away with it, you've got another think coming! Bob: Get away with what? I didn't do anything!

(You've) got me stumped. Inf. I can't possibly figure out the answer to your question. □ Bill: How long is the Amazon River? Jane: You've got me stumped. □ Sally: Do you know of a book that would interest a retired sea captain? Sally: You've got me stumped.

You've got to be kidding! Inf. This cannot be the truth. Surely you are kidding me! □ Bob: Sally is getting married. Did you hear? Mary: You've got to be kidding! □ Bill: I think I swallowed my gold tooth! Mother: You've got to be kidding!

You've got to be out of your mind! Go to You're out of your mind!
zeek out Sl. to lose control of oneself. □ I was in a pretty bad state. I almost zeeked out. □ Fred zeeked out and had to be calmed down.

zerked (out) Sl. heavily intoxicated on drugs. □ Gary looked really zerked out, and I thought he was really stoned. □ Wilbur gets zerked out every weekend.

zero in (on someone or something) to aim directly at someone or something. □ The television camera zeroed in on the little boy scratching his head. □ The commercial zeroed in on the glass of cola. □ Mary is very good about zeroing in on the most important and helpful ideas.

zero tolerance absolutely no toleration of even the smallest infraction of a rule. □ Because of the zero tolerance rule, the kindergartner was expelled from school because his mother accidentally left a table knife in his lunch box.

zigged when one should’ve zagged performed one deed when another deed would have been better; to do something inconsequentially different from another thing. □ I don’t know why she complained. I guess I zigged when I should have zagged.

zip past to move along very fast. □ The deer zipped past the hunter, who stood there, startled. □ The cars zipped past the intersection.

zip something on¹ to put on a piece of clothing and zip it up. □ She zipped her jumper on and headed toward the door. □ Zip on your jacket and let’s go.

zip something up¹ 1. to close a zipper. □ You should zip that zipper up. 2. to close a garment by zipping a zipper closed. □ You had better zip your jacket up. □ You had better zip up your jacket. 3. Sl. to close one’s mouth. (Fig. on ².) □ Zip your mouth up, Fred! □ Zip up your mouth, Fred.

Zip (up) your lip! and Zip it up! Inf. Be quiet!; Close your mouth and be quiet! □ “I’ve heard enough. Zip your lip!” hollered the coach. □ Andy: All right, you guys. Shut up! Zip it up! Bob: Sorry, Andy. That’s better.

zone something as something to create a particular legally defined area within a governmental or other local area. □ They zoned this area as a shopping district. □ The city council zoned the vacant lot as a park.

zone something for something to specify what can be built or what can be done within a particular legally defined area within a governmental area. □ Did the council zone this area for business? □ They zoned this area for residences.

zone something off¹ to create a special regulatory zone in an area. □ The council zoned part of the land off for a park. □ They zoned off land for a park.

zonk out Sl. to collapse from exhaustion; to go into a stupor from drugs or exhaustion. □ I’m gonna go home and zonk out. □ I went home after the trip and just zonked out.

zonk someone out¹ 1. Sl. to make someone tired or exhausted. □ All the work zonked him out. □ She zonked out the team with the long practice. 2. Sl. to cause someone to become intoxicated. □ The drug zonked Max out totally. □ It zonked out Max.

zonked (out) and zounced (out) 1. Sl. drug intoxicated. □ She’s too zonked to drive. □ Jed was almost zonked out to unconsciousness. 2. Sl. exhausted; asleep. □ She was totally zonked out by the time I got home. □ I feel zonked. Good night.

zoom across (something) to run or move across something very fast. □ The missile zoomed across the sky. □ We looked at the sky just as a comet zoomed across.

zoom along to move along very rapidly. □ The bus zoomed along rapidly all night long. □ Let’s zoom along while the road is clear.

zoom in (on someone or something) 1. and pan in (on someone or something) to move in to a close-up picture of someone or something, using a zoom lens or a similar lens. □ The camera zoomed in on the love scene. □ The camera operator panned in slowly. 2. to fly or move rapidly at someone or something. □ The hawk zoomed in on the sparrow. □ The angry bees zoomed in on Jane and stung her. □ When the door opened, the cat zoomed in. 3. to concentrate on a matter related to someone or a problem. □ Let’s zoom in on this matter of debt. □ She zoomed in and dealt quickly with the problem at hand.

zoom off to leave in a hurry. □ Sorry, I have to zoom off. □ We will zoom off soon.

zoom out 1. Sl. to lose control. □ I nearly zoomed out when I got the news. □ Fred zoomed out and started screaming at John. 2. Go to pan out.

zoom over someone or something to fly over someone or something at high speed. □ The plane zoomed over the treetops. □ A small bird zoomed over the hikers, shrieking wildly.

zoom past someone or something to run or move past someone or something very rapidly. □ The runners zoomed past the spectators. □ Our train zoomed past town after town.

zoom someone or something (over) to someone to send something to someone very fast. □ Please use my car to zoom Molly over to the bank. □ Would you zoom this package to the downtown office?

zoom through (something) 1. to pass through a town or some other location very fast. □ Don’t just zoom through
these little towns. Stop and explore one or two. □ We didn’t stop. We just zoomed through. 2. to work one’s way through something very rapidly. □ She zoomed through the reading assignment and went on to something else. □ Jeff can open a book and zoom through in record time.

**zoom up** to drive or pull up to a place. □ A car zoomed up, and seven kids got out. □ Let’s zoom up to the door and see if she’s home.

**zunked (out)** Go to zonked (out).
This is an index of the words found in the dictionary entries. It helps you find the entry you are seeking by showing you what to look up in the dictionary.

HINTS
1. The index deals only with word FORM and not with word MEANING. Each word on the left tells you what phrase to look up.
2. The word on the left can be found in the phrase on the right. That means you can locate a phrase even if you can only remember or identify a word or two.
3. Identical words on the left may not even share the same meaning. That is not a problem since they are only used for indexing purposes. Meaning is found in the dictionary entries.
4. The words on the left are usually the simplest and most basic form of the words you are looking up, that is, present tense verbs and singular nouns.
5. Look up a major word in the idiom, preferably a verb, and go to the dictionary entry head listed in the right-hand column. If that fails, try an adverb, preposition, or other word.

TO THE LEARNER
Use the index to figure out what the boundaries of the target phrase are and to find out how the phrase is listed in the dictionary section. The index allows you to extract the core of the idiomatic expression so you can look up the core of the phrase in the dictionary section.

For example, you hear the sentence “He's always throwing his weight around.” and don’t understand it. There is no easy way for you to tell how the problematic part of this sentence is listed in this or any other dictionary. Using this index, if you start by looking up the VERB in the sentence, you will find throw one's weight around, and this is how the form is listed in the dictionary. Simply look up throw one's weight around in the dictionary.

You can also find the same phrase by looking up the words weight or around since these words are part of the core of the expression. The expression will not be found under He or always since these two words are not part of the core. Note that you also can learn what the actual core of the idiom is, so you will be able to use it yourself at a later time.

As you try to find the dictionary entry by using the index, you should first look up the VERB, then an ADVERB or PREPOSITION, then a NOUN or PRONOUN. While there are many nouns and pronouns in the index, most of the nouns and pronouns contained in real-life idioms and phrasal verbs are variables. They belong to groups of potential nouns or pronouns that are represented by so (someone), sth (something), or so/sth (someone or something) in this dictionary.

If you are trying to understand “He frequently noises his problems about.”, you should first look up noise, and you would find noise sth about, which is the form of the idiom listed in this dictionary. The noun, problem, is the variable part of the idiom: noise sth about.

When you are writing, use the index to find out the correct form of phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs. The variables show where a noun, pronoun, or other form is required, but not exactly which word to use.

TO THE TEACHER
The index provides important lists of the prepositions and adverbs used in phrasal and prepositional verbs. These can be used in lesson preparation. It also provides the quickest way to locate the core form of the idiomatic expressions containing a specific word. The index can be used in making supplementary vocabulary lists that include the phrases that use the words on the lists. Students should be encouraged to consult the index to verify the correct form of phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs, and phrasal-prepositional verbs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aback taken back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abandon Abandon hope, all ye who enter here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abandon abandon oneself to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abandon abandon ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abandon abandon so/sth to so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abandon like rats abandoning a sinking ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abbreviate abbreviate sth to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABCs know one's ABCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abduct abduct so from so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abet abet so in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abet and abet so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abeyance hold sth in abeyance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abeyance in abeyance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abhor Nature abhors a vacuum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abide abide by sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abide abide with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ability to the best of one's ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able able to breathe (easily) again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able able to breathe (freely) again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to cut sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to do sth blindfolded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to do sth standing on one's head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to do so with one's eyes closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to fog a mirror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to make an event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to take a joke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to take just so much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to take only so much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able not able</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able ready, willing, and able</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aboard come aboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aboard get aboard sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aboard go aboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aboard take so/sth aboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aboard Welcome aboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abode take up one's abode some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abound abound in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abound abound with so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about about an exciting as watching (the) paint dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about about one's business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about about to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about advise so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about agree (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about (all) at sea (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about all tore up (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about (a)long about a certain time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about approach so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about ask about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about ask around (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bendy sth about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about beat the bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about befriend so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about Better keep still about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bicker (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bitch about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about boast about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bother about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bother one's (pretty little) head about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about brag about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about brief so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bring sth about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about brood about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bruit sth about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bungle about doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about bungle about some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about call around (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about call so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about care about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about care nothing about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about carp about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about carp at so (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about carry on (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about carry so/sth about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about catch hell (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about cause qualms (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about caution so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about chat about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about chatter about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about check with so (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about chortle about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about chuckle about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about come about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about come clean (with so) (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about come to terms (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about comment about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about complain about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about concern oneself about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about confer with so (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about commit so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about consult (with) so (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about converse with so (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about correspond with so (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about counsel so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about crazy about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about create a stink (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about crow about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about cut up (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about dart about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about dawdle about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about daydream about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about debate (with so) about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about deliberate about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about deliver (with so) about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about disagree (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about do an about-face (on so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about do sth about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about doesn't know beans (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about Don't even think about (doing) it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about Don't even think about it (happening).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about Don't worry (about a thing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about Don't worry your (pretty little) head about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about dream about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about drone on (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about drive a crook so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about enlighten so (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about excite so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about exercised about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about expostulate about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about fall out (with so) (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about feel guilty (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about feel somehow about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about feel so out (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about feeling about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about fight about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about fight (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about find out a thing or two (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about find (sth) out about so/sth (from so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about flit about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about flutter about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about follow so/sth about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about forewarn so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about Forget (about it)!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about forget about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about fret about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about front off (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about fume about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about fuss about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about generalize about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about get about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about get hell (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about get into an argument (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about get one's wits about one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about get on (to) so (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about go about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about go into a song and dance (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about go into the same old song and dance about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about go on (and on) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about go to so (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about gossip about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about gripe (to so/sth) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about groan about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about grope (about) (for so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about grout about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about grumble about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about grumble about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about hassle so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about have a clear conscience (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about have a clue (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about have a thing about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about have doubts about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about have feelings about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about have so/sth about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about hear so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about How about a lift?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about How about that!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about How about you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about How about them apples?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about hypothesize about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about I (have) nothing to complain about.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about idle about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about in a stew (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about in accord (with so/sth) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about in hot water (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about in the dark (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about inform so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about inquire about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about inquire so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about It's about time!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about I've heard so much about you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about jabber about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about jaw about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about joke (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keen about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep after so (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep at so (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep (going) on about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep on so (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep one's mouth shut (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep one's wits about one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep quiet (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep so in ignorance (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep so in the dark (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about keep your mouth shut (about so/sth).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
across pan across to so/sth
across push so/sth across (sth)
across put so across (in a good way)
across put sth across (to so)
across rap so across the knuckles
across run across so/sth
across run across sth
across scuttle across sth
across see so across sth
across send so/sth across (sth)
across skid across sth
across smuggle so/sth across sth
across steam across sth
across streak across sth
across stumble across so/sth
across take so/sth across (st)
across tear across sth
across throw sth across so/sth
across throw sth across sth
across thunder across sth
across tramp across sth
across travel across sth
across trek across sth
across troop across so/sth
across wade across sth
across walk across sth
across zoom across (sth)
act act as so
act act for so
act act full of oneself
act act high-and-mighty
act act in earnest
act act like a cold fish
act act like oneself again
act act of faith
act act of God
act act of war
act act out
act act sth out
act act tough on so
act act up
act act (up)on sth
act act within one's rights
act act after the heart
act Act your age!
act catch so in the act (of doing sth)
act caught in the act
act clean one's act up
act get in(to) the act
act get one's act together
act get into one's act
act hard act to follow
act in on the act
act in the act (of doing sth)
act It would take an act of Congress to do sth
act keep an act up
act keep one's act up
act keep up an act
act keep up one's act
act let so in on the act
act put on an act
act read so the riot act
act tough act to follow
action Actions speak louder than words.
action all talk (and no action)
action bit of the action
action bring so/sth into action
action chill so's action
action course of action
action galvanize so into action
action go into action
advantage out of action
advantage piece (of the action)
advantage slice of the action
advantage spring into action
advantage suit one's actions to one's words
action swing into action
advantage take action against so/sth
advantage take action on so/sth
advantage where the action is
action active on duty
activity hive of activity
activity hum with activity
actual grounded in (actual) fact
Adam not know so from Adam
adapt adapt so/sth to sth
adapt adapt sth for sth
adapt adapt sth from sth
adapt adapt sth to sth
adapt adjust to sth
add add fuel to the fire
add add fuel to the flame
add add insult to injury
add add sth into sth
add add (sth) (on) to sth
add add (sth) to sth
add add sth together
add add sth up
add add up to sth
add add up to the same thing
additional add sth to sth
add sth in addition (to sth)
address address (some) comments or remarks to so
address address oneself to so
address address oneself to sth
address address so as a specific title or
attribute address sth to so
adhere adhere to sth
adieu bid adieu to so/sth
adjourn adjourn for a time
adjourn adjourn to some place
adjust adjust (oneself) to so/sth
adjust adjust sth to sth
adjust readjust so/sth
administer administer sth to so or an animal
admirer admire so for sth
admirer admire sth to do sth
admit admit so (in) to some place
admit admit sth into sth
admit admit sth to so
admit admit sth to sth
admonish admonish so for sth
ado much ado about nothing
ado without further ado
adopt adopt so as sth
adopt adopt sth as sth
adore adore so for doing sth
adore adore so for having sth
adorn adorn so/sth with sth
adulterate adulterate sth with sth
advance advance sth to so/sth (against sth)
advance advance to (ward) so/sth
advance advance (up) so/sth
advance advance sth in years
advance in advance
advance make advances at so
advance make advances to so
advance on advance notice
advance pay in advance
advance with advance notice
advantage advantage of so
advantage culturally advantaged
adversity show sth to good advantage
advantage take advantage of so
advantage turn sth to one's advantage
advertise advertise for so/sth
advertise advertise sth for a price
advertise advertise sth for sth
advise Nothing is given so freely as advice.
advise sage advice
advise advise against sth
advise advise so about so/sth
advise advise so against doing sth
advise advise so of sth
advise advise so on so/sth
advise take sth under advisement
advisement take sth under advisement
advocate play (the) devil's advocate
aegis under the aegis of so
affair fine state of affairs
affair have an affair (with so)
affair pretty state of affairs
affair settle so's affairs
affair There is a tide in the affairs of men.
affiliate affiliate (so/sth) to so/sth
affiliate affiliate (so/sth) with so/sth
affinity affinity for so/sth
affirmative in the affirmative
affix affix one's signature to sth
affix affix sth to so/sth
afflict afflict so with so
afflict afflict so with sth
afoul fall (a)fool of so/sth
afoul run (a)fool of so/sth
afraid afraid of so/sth
afraid afraid of one's own shadow
afraid 'Fraid not.
afraid 'Fraid so.
afraid fraidy cat
afraid He who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount.
afraid I'm afraid not.
afraid I'm afraid so.
aft fore and aft
after after a fashion
after After a storm comes a calm.
after after all
after after hours
after after so/sth
after after the fact
after after the fashion of so/sth
after after the style of so/sth
after After while<>(crocodile). after After you.
after after ask so
after after chase after so/sth
after after chase around after so/sth
after after come after so/sth
after after day after day
after after devil looks after his own.
after after flock after so/sth
after after follow after the style of so/sth
after after follow on (after so/sth)
after after get after so
after after go after so
after after go after so/sth or an animal
after after go after so/sth
after after grab after so/sth
after after hang after so/sth
after after head out after so/sth or an animal
after after hunger after sth
after after hunt after so/sth
after after If you run after two hares, you will catch neither.
after inquire after so
after it is easy to be wise after the event.
after keep after so (about sth)
after linger on (after so/that)
after live happily ever after
after live on (after so)
after Lock the stable door after the horse is stolen.
after look after number one
after look after so/that
after just after so
after make (out) after so/that
after man after my own heart
after mop up (after so/that)
after morning after (the night before)
after much sought after
after name so after so else
after one thing or person after another
after pattern sth after sth
after pick up after so/that
after pine after so/that
after pine away (after so/that)
after race around (after so/that)
after reach out (after so/that)
after run after so
after run around after so/that
after search after so/that
after see after so/that
after seek after so/that
after send after so/that
after send so after so/that
after Shut the stable door after the horse has bolted.
after snap back (after sth)
after stay after so (about sth)
after stay after (so/that)
after stay on (after so/that)
after strain after sth
after strive after sth
after sweep up after so
after tag along (after so)
after tail after so
after take after so
after take after so
after take off (after so/that)
after take out (after so/that)
after throw good money after bad
after time after time
after trail (along) (after so/that)
after trot after so
after year after year
afternoon (Good) afternoon.
again able to breathe (easily) again
again able to breathe (freely) again
again act like oneself again
again again and again
again AGAIN (please).
again (all) over again
again at it again
again back at it (again)
again Call again.
again Can I see you again?
again Come again.
again Could I see you again?
again Do we have to go through all that again?
again Don’t make me say it again!
again Don’t make me tell you again!
again (every) now and again
again feel like oneself again
again Here we go again.
again How’s that again?
again (I) hope to see you again
(sometime).
again (If) at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.
again (It’s) good to see you (again).
again Let’s do this again (sometimes).
again Let’s not go through all that again.
again May I see you again?
again Not again!
again off again, on again
again on again, off again
again oneself again
again over and over (again)
again Run it by (me) again.
again run sth by (so) (again)
again Run that by (me) again.
again say sth over (and over again))
again seem like oneself again
again set one on one’s feet again
again something else (again)
again Till we meet again.
again time after time) again
again try so back (again)
again Until we meet again.
again use sth over (again)
again walk on stage and off again
again We must do this again
(sometime),
again We’ll try again some other time.
again What was the name again?
again Will I see you again?
again You are something else (again)!
again You can say that again!
again abut (up) against sth
again advance sth to so/that (against sth)
again advance against sth
again advise so against doing sth
again against all odds
again against so/that
again against so’s will
again against the clock
again against the grain
again agitate against so/that
again ally oneself (with so) (against so/that)
against appeal against sth
against argue against so/that
against arm (so against so/that) (with sth)
against balance sth against sth else
against band together (against so/that)
against bang against so/that
against bang one’s head against a brick wall
against bang sth against so/that
against bank sth up (against sth)
against bash sth against so/that
against battle against so/that
against bear a grudge (against so)
against bear up (against sth)
against beat against so/that
against beat one’s head against the wall
against bias so against so/that
against break against sth
against bring a charge against so/that
against brush (up) against so/that
against build a case (against so)
against bump (up) against so/that
against bundle (oneself) up (against sth)
against bundle (so) up (against sth)
against butt (up) against so/that
against campaign against so/that
against cards are stacked against one
against chalk sth up (against so)
against charge sth against sth
against claim against so/that
against clash against sth
against combine sth against so/that
against come out against so/that
against come up against so/that
against compete against so
against conspire with so (against so/that)
against contest against so/that
against counsel so against sth
against count against so
against count sth against so
against cover so/that against so
against crusade against so/that
against crush (up) against so/that
against cry out (against so/that)
against cut against the grain
against dash so/that against so/that
against dead set against so/that
against debit sth against so/that
against decide against so/that
against declare (oneself) against so/that
against declare war against so/that
against defend so/that against so/that
against demonstrate against so/that
against direct so/that against so/that
against discriminate against so/that
against divide so against so/that
against draw against an amount of money
against fight against so/that
against fight against time
against file charges (against so)
against file sth against so
against find against so/that
against fortify so or an animal (against so/that) (with sth)
against fulminate against so/that
against gather a case (against so)
against get up against so/that
against go against so/that
against go against the grain
against go to bat against so
against go up against so
against go up against so
against go up against so
against go to bat against so
against have a case (against so)
against have one’s heart (dead) set against sth
against have sth against so/that
against have the cards stacked against one
against have the cards stacked against one
against have the deck stacked against one
against have the deck stacked against one
against hedge against sth
against hedge sth against sth
against hit against so/that
against hold a grudge (against so)
against hold out (against so/that)
against hold sth against so
against hope against (all) hope
against house divided against itself cannot stand.
against immunize so against sth
against indemnify so/that against sth
against inoculate so against sth
against institute so against so/that
against insulate so/that against so/that
against insure against sth
against intrigue (with so) (against so)
against invite (against so)
against jar against so/th
against keep on (one's) guard (against so/th)
against knock against so/th
against knock one's head (up) against a brick wall
against knock sh against sh
against knock up against so/sh
against lap (up) against sh
against lash against sh
against launch sh against so/sh
against lay sh against so/sh
against lead so/th against so/th
against lean against so/sh
against lean back (against so/th)
against lean sh against so/th
against legislate against sh
against level a charge against so
against lift a hand (against so/th)
against line so/sh up against sh
against line up against so/sh
against lobby against sh
against lodge sh against so
against lobby sh against sh
against make sh against so/sh
against match against so/th against sh else
against measure so against so else or sh against sh else
against measure so up against so/th
against mental brake (against sh)
against misbehave against sh
against mount sh against so/th
against murmur against so/sh
against mutiny against so/th
against nestle (up) against so/sh
against nurse a grudge (against so)
against nurture sh against so/sh
against off end against so/sh
against on (one's) guard (against so/sh)
against one's heart is (dead) set against sh
against operate against so/sh
against pin so/sh against sh
against plot against so/sh
against place sh up against sh
against play against so/sh
against play both ends (against the middle)
against play so against so else
against play so off against so else
against plot against so/sh
against poison so against so/sh
against preach against so/sh
against prefer sh against so
against prejudice so/sh against so/th
against preserve so/sh against sh
against press against so/sh
against press charges (against so)
against press so/th against sh
against prevail against so/sh
against proceed against so/th
against prop so/sh up against so/th
against protect so against so/sh
against provide against sh
against push so up against the wall
against push so (up) against so/sh
against push (up) against so/sh
against push so up against so
against race against so/sh
against race against time
against rage against so/th
against rail against so/sh
against raise a hand (against so/th)
against raise one's voice against so/th
against rally against so/sh
against react against so/th
against reason against sh
against rebel against so/sh
against remain on (one's) guard (against so/th)
against rest against so/sh
against rest sh against sh
against retialate against so/sh
against revolt against so/sh
against rise (up) against so/sh
against rub sh against so/sh
against rub (up) against so/sh
against rule against so/th
against rush against so
against run against the grain
against run one's head against a brick wall
against run up against so/sh
against safeguard against so/sh
against safeguard so/sh against so/sh
against rail against sh
against raise sh against the grain
against say sh against so/sh
against schedule against so/sh
against score against so/sh
against score sh (up) against so/sh
against secure sh against so/sh or an animal
against security against so
against see sh against sh
against seek revenge (against so)
against set one's heart against sh
against set so/th up against so/th
against set sh against so/sh
against side against so
against side so against sh
against slant against sh
against slant sh against so/sh
against slap against so/sh
against slap sh against so/sh
against smear campaign (against so)
against snuggle (up) against so
against speak against so/sh
against speak out (against so/sh)
against speak up (against so/sh)
against squash against so/sh
against squeeze against so/sh
against stack sh against so/sh
against stack the cards (against so/sh)
against stand against so/sh
against stand against so/sh
against stand out against so/sh
against stand up against so/sh
against stay on (one's) guard (against so/sh)
against steel so against so/sh
against stick out against sh
against strive against sh
against struggle against so/sh
against stub one's toe against sh
against swear sh out against so
against swim against the current
against swim against the tide
against take a hand (against so/sh)
against take action against so/sh
against take revenge (against so)
against take sides against so/sh
against take up arms (against so/th)
against team up against so/th
against testify against so/th
against thrust so/sh against so/th
against thud against so/th
against transgress against so/th
against turn against so/sh
against two strikes against one
against unite against so/th
against unite so against so/th
against unleash so/sh against so/th
against up against so/sh
against up against sh
against up against the wall
against vaccinate so or an animal against sh
against vote against so/th
against wage sh against so/th
against war against so/th
against warn so or an animal
against weigh against so/sh
against weigh sh against sh
against weight sh against so/th
against work against so/sh
against write against so/th
against write sh against so/sh
against Act your age!
against Age before beauty.
against age of miracles is past.
against age out (of sh)
against age come of age
against age go on for an age
against age in a coor's age
against age in an age
against age in this day and age
against age live to the (ripe old) age of sh
against age of age
against age ripe old age
against age tender age of... age
against What's your age?
against agenda hidden agenda
against agitate agitate against so/sh
against agitate agitate for sh
against agog all agog
against agonize agonize (oneself) over so/sh
against agree to disagree
against agree to sh
against agree (with so/sh)
against agree with so
against agree (with so) (about so/sh)
against agree with sh
against agree (with sh) (in sh)
against Birds in their little nests agree.
against not agree with so
against agreement in agreement (with so/sh)
against agreement reach an agreement (with so)
against agreement sweetheart agreement
against ground run aground (on sh)
against al (Ah) shucks!
against ahead ahead of one's time
against ahead ahead of schedule
against ahead (of sh)
against ahead ahead of sh
against ahead ahead of the game
against ahead ahead of time
against ahead arrive ahead of time
against ahead cause lean times (ahead)
against ahead come out ahead
against ahead cut in (ahead of so/sh)
against ahead
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- ain’t like there ain’t no tomorrow
- ain’t That ain’t hay.
- ain’t That ain’t no lie.
- ain’t That ain’t the way I heard it.
- ain't There ain't no such thing as a free lunch.
- ain’t (There ain’t) nothin’ to it.
- ain’t You ain’t just whistlin’ Dixie.
- ain’t You ain’t seen nothing yet!
- aim air
- aim air one's belly
- aim air one's dirty linen in public
- aim air one's grievances
- aim air one's lungs
- aim air one's paunch
- aim air one's pores
- aim air out
- aim air out
- aim air breath of fresh air
- aim air build castles in the air
- aim air clear the air
- aim air come up for air
- aim air dance on air
- aim air float on air
- aim air free as (the) air
- aim air full of hot air
- aim air gasp for air
- aim air give oneself airs
- aim air gulp for air
- aim air have one's nose in the air
- aim air in midair
- aim air in the air
- aim air keep so/so hanging (in midair)
- aim air leave so/so hanging (in midair)
- aim air leave so up in the air
- aim air leave sh up in the air
- aim air light as air
- aim air little) nip in the air
- aim air off the air
- aim air on the air
- aim air one's nose is in the air
- aim air out of thin air
- aim air pant for air
- aim air pull sh out of thin air
- aim air put on airs
- aim air stick one's nose up in the air
- aim air up in the air (about so/so)
- aim air vanish into thin air
- aim air walk on air
- aim aisle leave them rolling in the aisles
- aim aisle rolling in the aisles
- aim alarm I don't want to alarm you, but
- aim alcohol have an alcohol problem
- aim alcohol under the influence (of alcohol)
- aim alert alert so to sh
- aim alert on the alert (for so/so)
- aim alienate alienate so from so/so
- aim allight allight from sh
- aim allight (up)on so/so
- aim align align oneself with so/so
- aim align align sh with sh
- aim alike alike as (two) peas in a pod
- aim alike Great minds think alike.
- aim alike look alike
- aim alike share and share alike
- aim alive alive and kicking
- aim alive alive and well
- aim alive alive with people or things
- aim alive Land(s) sakes (alive)!
- aim alive Look alive!
- aim alive more dead than alive
- aim alive Sakes alive!
- aim alive skin so alive
- aim all Abandon hope, all ye who enter here.
- aim all according to all accounts
- aim all after all
- aim all against all odds
- aim all all agog
- aim all all and sundry
- aim all all around Robin Hood's barn
- aim all all at once
- aim all all at sea (about sh)
- aim all all balanced up
- aim all all beer and skittles
- aim all all better (now)
- aim all all by one's lonesome
- aim all all cats are gray in the dark.
- aim all all day long
- aim all all dolly up
- aim all all dressed up
- aim all all drest up and nowhere to go
- aim all all ears
- aim all all eyes and ears
- aim all all for so/so
- aim all all for the best
- aim all all gone
- aim all All good things must (come to an) end.
- aim all all hell broke loose
- aim all all (all) hot up
- aim all all hours (of the day and night)
- aim all all in
- aim all all in one breath
- aim all all in the family
- aim all all joking aside
- aim all all kidding aside
- aim all all kinds of so/so
- aim all all manner of so/so
- aim all all my eye (and Betty Martin)
- aim all all night long
- aim all all oak and iron bound
- aim all all of a size
- aim all all of a sudden
- aim all all or nothing
- aim all all over (someplace)
- aim all all over again
- aim all all over hell and gone
- aim all all over hell and half of Georgia
- aim all all over the earth
- aim all all over the world
- aim all all over town
- aim all all right
- aim all All righty.
- aim all All right(y) already!
- aim all All roads lead to Rome.
- aim all All's fair in love and war.
- aim all All's well that ends well.
- aim all all (all) set (to do sh)
- aim all all shook up
- aim all all show and no go
- aim all all skin and bones
- aim all all spruced up
- aim all all sweetness and light
- aim all all systems (are) go.
- aim all all talk (and no action)
- aim all All that glitters is not gold.
- aim all All that glitters is not gold.
- aim all All the best to so.
- aim all all the livelong day
- aim all all the marbles
- aim all all the more reason for doing sh
- aim all all the rage
- aim all all the same
- aim all all the time

790
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>all get so (all) wrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Give it all you’ve got!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all give up (all) hope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all go all out (for so/sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all go all the way (with so)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all God’s in his heaven; all’s right with the world.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all good time was had by all.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all granddaddy of them all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all grow out of (all) proportion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Hang it all!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all have all one’s marbles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all have it (all) over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all have it all together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all hitting on all cylinders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all hold all the aces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all hold all the cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all hope against (all) hope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all (I) haven’t got all day.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all I hope all goes well.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all I was up all night with a sick friend.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Idleness is the root of all evil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all If that doesn’t beat all!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all I’m all ears.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all in (all) good conscience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all in all my born days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all in all probability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all in no time (at all)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all is all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all (it) doesn’t bother me at all.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all It is all over with so.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all It’s (all) Greek to me.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all It’s all but the shouting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all It’s all so needs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all (It’s) no trouble (at all).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all It’s written all one’s face.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all It takes all kinds (to make a world).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all (It) won’t bother me at all.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all It’ll all come out in the wash.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all jack of all trades</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all jack of all trades is a master of none.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all jump all so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all know all the angles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all know where all the bodies are buried</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all laugh all the way to the bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all least of all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all let it all hang out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Let’s not go through all that again.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Life isn’t all beer and skittles.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all (little) new to (all) this</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all lose (all) one’s marbles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all love of money is the root of all evil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all make an all-out effort</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Moderation in all things.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Money is the root of all evil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all most of all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all not all sth is cracked up to be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all not all there</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all not at all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Not bad (at all).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all not for the tea in China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all not have all one’s marbles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Of all things</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all on all fours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all once and for all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all out of (all) proportion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all play it for all it’s worth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all pour (all) over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all pull all the stops out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all put all one’s eggs in one basket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all ride off in all directions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all romp all over so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all run off in all directions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all run on all cylinders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all shame of it (all)!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all shoot so/sth (all) to hell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all slobber (all) over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all slosh so (all) over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all spread all over (some place)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all start an all-out effort</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all strew so (all) over sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all swarm (all) over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all tell all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all That (all) depends.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all that beats sth all to pieces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all That’s all for so.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all That’s all she wrote.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all That’s all so needs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all (the) be-all and (the) end-all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Things will work out (all right).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all till all hours (of the day and night)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all ’Tis better to burn loved and lost than never to have loved at all.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all track sth (all) over sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all turn out (all right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all until hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all walk all over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all warts and all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all when all is said and done</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Where have you been all my life?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all Will that be all?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all win all the marbles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all winner take all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all with all one’s heart (and soul)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all with all the fixings (so)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all with all the trimmings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all work out (all right)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all (You) can’t win them all.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alley go up a blind alley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alley right down so’s alley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alley right up so’s alley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alley up a blind alley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alligator Later, alligator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alligator See you later, alligator.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allocate sth to so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allot sth to so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allow allow for so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allow Allow me.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allow allow some elbow room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allow allow so/sth into a place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allow allow so up (from sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allow allow sth for sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allowance make allowance(s) (for so/sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alloy alloy sth with sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all allude allude to so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all ally ally oneself to so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all ally ally oneself (with so) (against so/sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all almighty almighty dollar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all almost (almost) jump out of one’s skin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all almost almost lost it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all aloft take sth aloft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alone go it alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alone He travels fastest who travels alone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alone Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alone Leave me alone!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alone leave so/sth alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alone leave so/sth or some creature alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all alone leave well enough alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
alone  let alone  so/so
alone  let so/so alone
alone  let so/so or some creature alone
alone  let well enough alone
alone  Man does not live by bread alone.
along  (a)long about a certain time
along  along in years
along  along similar lines
along  along these lines
along  along those lines
along  along with so/so
along  amble along (s)th
along  barrel along
along  bounce along
along  breeze along
along  bring so/so along (to s)th
along  bump along
along  buzz along
along  carry so/so along (with so)
along  carry so/so along (with s)th
along  carry s)th along (with so)
along  carry s)th along (with s)th
along  change along
along  coast along
along  come along (with s)th
along  crawl along s)th
along  creep along s)th
along  cut along s)th
along  dawdle along
along  dodder along
along  drift along
along  ease so/so along
along  flow along
along  get along
along  go along
along  help so/so along
along  How is so/so getting along?
along  hurry so/so along
along  (I) have to be moving along.
along  (I) have to move along.
along  (I) have to run along.
along  (I’m) (just) plugging along.
along  inch along (s)th
along  inch oneself along s)th
along  jog along
along  lope along
along  lumber along
along  make one’s way along s)th
along  move along
along  move ahead along
along  nurse so/so or an animal along
along  nurse s)th along
along  pass s)th along (to s)th
along  play along (with so/so)
along  plod along
along  poke along
along  pound along so/so
along  pound along s)th
along  pour along s)th
along  puff along
along  push along
along  push so/so along
along  put along
along  pull along
along  roll along
along  sail along (s)th
along  saunter along
along  scamper along
along  scrape along (on s)th
along  scurry along
along  send so/so along
along  sing along (with so/so)
along  slide along
along  slither along
along  snake along
along  string along (with so)
along  string so along
along  struggle along under so
along  struggle along (with so/so)
along  sweep along
along  tag along (after so)
along  take so/so along
along  tear along
along  toddle along
along  trail (along) (after so/so)
along  trip along
along  trot along
along  trudge along
along  tumble along
along  urge so/so along
along  walk along
along  work one’s way along s)th
along  zip along
along  zoom along
alongside  alongside alongside so/so
alongside  alongside alongside so/so
alongside  alongside lay alongside s)th
alongside  alongside sth alongside (of) s)th
alongside  alongside lie alongside (of) so or so an animal
alongside  line up alongside so/so
alongside  pull (up) alongside (of) so/so
aloof  aloof from so/so
aloof  keep aloof from so/so
aloof  remain aloof from so/so
aloof  stay aloof from so/so
alpha  alpha and omega
alphabet  soup
already  already(y) already(y)!
also  also-also  ran
also  They also serve who only stand and wait.
altar  bow to the porcelain altar
alter  Circumstances alter cases.
alternate  alternate between so/so and so/so
alternate  alternate with s)th
altogether  in the altogether
always  always chasing rainbows
always  bad penny always turns up.
always  bread always falls on the buttered side.
always  buddy always is a coward.
always  customer is always right.
always  first step is always the hardest.
always  grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence).
always  It’s always darkest just before the dawn.
always  Keep a thing seven years and you’ll always find a use for it.
always  latch string is always out.
always  Not always.
always  Once a priest, always a priest.
always  Once a whore, always a whore.
always  rich man’s joke is always funny.
always  unexpected always happens.
always  You (always) give up too easily.
amalgamate  amalgamate s)th with s)th
amalgamate  amalgamate with s)th
amble  amble along (s)th
ambulance  ambulance chaser
amend  make amends (to so) (for so/so)
American  American as apple pie
American  The American dream
amiss  take so/so amiss
amok  run amok
among  apportion s)th out (among some people)
among  browse among s)th
among  choose among so/so
among  circulate among so/so
among  count so/so among s)th
among  decide among so/so and so/so
among  distinguish oneself among so/so
among  distribute s)th among so/so
among  include so/so among s)th
among  interperse s)th among s)th
among  list so/so among s)th
among  live among so/so
among  number so/so among s)th
among  put so/so among so/so
among  rank among s)th
among  rank so among s)th
among  rate so/so among s)th
among  ration s)th out (among so/so)
among  reckon so/so with among s)th
among  There is honor among thieves.
among  work among so/so
amount  amount to much
amount  amount to s)th
amount  amount to the same thing
amount  amount (up) to s)th
amount  bring an amount of money in
amount  clock so speeds of some amount
amount  come out at an amount
amount  come out to an amount
amount  don’t amount to a bucket of spit
amount  down by some amount
amount  draw against an amount of money
amount  estimate the cost at some amount
amount  fall by some amount
amount  front so/so some amount of money
amount  get an amount of money for s)th
amount  get by (on a small amount of money)
amount  get s)th for an amount of money
amount  hit speeds of some amount
amount  live on an amount of money
amount  lose some amount of time
amount  make (an amount) of headway
amount  not amount to a hill of beans
amount  out an amount of money
amount  pull down (an amount of money)
amount  put an amount of time in on s)th
amount  put s)th at an amount
amount  reach speeds of some amount
amount  set so back (some amount of money)
amount  shell out (an amount of money)
amount  speeds of some amount
amount  start so/so out at an amount of money
amount  take an amount of money for s)th
amount  throw an amount of light on so/so
amount  to the tune of some amount of money
amuck  run amok
amusse  amuse so/so with s)th
analysis  in the final analysis
analysis  in the last analysis
anchor  lie at anchor
ancient  ancient history
and  all my eye (and Betty Martin)
and  all talk (and no action)
and  and all that jazz
and  and change
and  And how!
and  And so forth
and  and so forth
anger fire so with anger
anger flame with anger
anger flash with anger
angle angle for so
angle angle off (to/ward) so
angle know all the angles
angry angry enough to chew nails
angry wax angry
animal administer so to so or an animal
animal curl up with so or an animal
animal cut at so or an animal
animal do away with so or an animal
animal draw (so's) fire (away) from so or an animal
animal feed so to so or an animal
animal fix an animal
animal get at so or an animal
animal go after so or an animal
animal grouse at so or an animal
animal have a soft spot (in one's heart) for so or an animal
animal have pitty on so or an animal
animal head out after so or so or an animal
animal hide from so or an animal
animal lamb into so or an animal
animal lash into so or an animal
animal lay one's hands on so or so or an animal
animal leave sth for so or an animal
animal match for so or so or an animal
animal mate with an animal
animal murmur at so or so or an animal
animal part so or an animal from so or an animal
animal pin so or so or an animal beneath so or so or an animal
animal put one's hands on so or an animal
animal put sth on so or an animal
animal secure sth against so or so or an animal
animal set so or an animal on so or an animal
animal slip up on so or so or an animal
animal snarl at so or so or an animal
animal spring (on/up) on so or so or an animal
animal take it easy on so or so or an animal
animal terrify so or an animal out of sth
animal train sth on so or so or an animal
animal walk away with so or an animal
animal weep for so or an animal
animal whale into so or so or an animal
animal withhold sth from so or so or an animal
animal worry an animal out of sth
ankle by ankle express
ankle sprain one's ankle
annex annex sth to so
annex annex sth to sth
announce announce (one's support) for so or sth
announce announce sth to so
annoint anoint so with sth
anon ever and anon
another another country heard from another another nail in so's or sth's coffin
another another pair of eyes
another dance to another tune
another Don't give it another thought.
onother go at one another tooth and nail
another have another guess coming another have another think coming another He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day.
another horse of another color
another It's six of one, half a dozen of another
another keep sth for another occasion another leave sth for another occasion another not give it another thought another One good turn deserves another.
another one law for the rich and another for the poor
another One man's loss is another man's gain.
another One man's meat is another man's poison.
another One man's trash is another man's treasure.
another One thing leads to another.
another one thing or person after another another one way or another another put another way another sing another tune another Tell me another (one)!
another to put it another way another Tomorrow is another day.
another When one door shuts, another opens.
another (Would you) care for another (one)? another You've got another think coming.
answer answer back (to so)
another answer for so answer answer so back answer answer so's purpose answer answer the call answer answer the door answer answer to so answer answer to the description of so answer answer to the name (of) sth answer not take no for an answer answer pat answer
answer soft answer turneth away wrath.
ant ant in one's pants
ant raise the ante
ante up the ante
any any fool thing
any Any friend of so's (is a friend of mine).
any any number of so's
any any old thing
any any port in a storm
any any Tom, Dick, and Harry
any at any cost
any at any rate
any by any means
any by any stretch of the imagination
any cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose.
any Don't give me any of your lip!
another Don't let it go any further.
another Don't take any wooden nickels.
another Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves.
another go to any length
any golden key can open any door.
another in any case
any in any event
any in any way, shape, or form
any Is there any truth to sth?
another (It) doesn't bother me any.
another It's an ill wind that blows nobody (any) good.
another (It) won't bother me any.
apart take so apart
apart take sh/apart
apart tear a place apart
apart tear so apart
apart tear sh/apart
apart tell people or things apart
apart tell things apart
apart think worlds apart
apart use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart
apart worlds apart
apart yank so/sh apart
ape go ape (over so/sh)
apologize apologize (to so) (for so)
appeal intimate appeal
appeal appeal against sh
appeal appeal (to a court) (for sh)
appeal appeal to so
appeal appear as sh
appeal appear at some place
appeal appear at some time
appeal appear before so
appeal appear for so
appeal appear in court
appeal appear in sh
appeal appear out of nowhere
appeal appear to be rooted to the spot
appeal appear to so
appeal appear to so that...
appear appear under the name of some name
appear appear (up)on sh
appear *naked eye
appear Talk of the devil (and he is sure to appear)
appearance Appearances can be deceiving.
appearance by all appearances
appearance keep up appearances
appearance make an appearance
appearance put in an appearance (at sh)
append append sh (on)to sh
apportion apportion to sh
application make application (to so/sh) (for sh)
appraise appraise sh/apart
arch arch (oneself) over
arch arch over so/sh
arch sh/apart over so/sh
architect Every man is the architect of his own fortune.
arise arise from sh
arm arm in arm
arm arm (so against so/sh) (with sh)
arm arm (so against so/sh)
arms arm bane in arms
arms arm break one’s arm putting oneself on the back
army bus as a one-armed paperhanger
arm cost an arm and a leg
arm Forewarned is forearmed.
arm give one’s right arm (for so/sh)
arm go arm in arm
arm Governments have long arms.
arm have a good arm
arm keep at arm’s length from sh
arm keep so/sh at arm’s length
arm Kings have long arms.
arm lay down one’s arms
arm long arm of the law
arm pay an arm and a leg (for sh)
arm put the arm on so
arm receive so with open arms
arm shot in the arm
arm Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach.
arose by any other name would smell as sweet.
arch (for sh) (about so/sh)
advice argue against so/sh
argue argue back
argue argue for so/sh
argue argue for one’s way out of sh
argue argue so down
argue argue so into doing sh
argue argue sh down
argue argue sh out
argue argue with (so) (over so/sh)
argue argue with sh
argument argue for the sake of arguing
argument argue for the sake of argument
argument (I) can’t argue with that.
argument arguing for the sake of argument
argument argument get into an argument (with sh) (about so/sh)
argument argue have an argument (with so/sh)
argument have an argument (with so/sh)
argument have an argument (with so/sh)
arise arise from sh
arm arm in arm
arm arm (so against so/sh) (with sh)
arm arm (so against so/sh)
arms arm bane in arms
arm arm break one’s arm putting oneself on the back
arm arm busy as a one-armed paperhanger
arm arm cost an arm and a leg
arm arm Forewarned is forearmed.
arm arm give one’s right arm (for so/sh)
arm arm go arm in arm
arm arm Governments have long arms.
arm arm have a good arm
arm arm keep at arm’s length from sh
arm arm keep so/sh at arm’s length
arm arm Kings have long arms.
arm arm lay down one’s arms
arm arm long arm of the law
arm arm pay an arm and a leg (for sh)
arm arm put the arm on so
arm arm receive so with open arms
arm arm shot in the arm
arm arm Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>around walk around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wallow (around) in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around waltz around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wave sth around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around (We) don't see you much around here anymore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around weave around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around What's going on (around here)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around What(ever) goes around, comes around.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wheel around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wheel sth around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around whip around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around whip sth around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around whirl around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around whirl sth around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around whisk so around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around whisper sth around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wind around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wind so around one's little finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wind sth around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around work around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around work around to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wrap around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wrap sth around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wrap sth around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wreathe (itself) around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around wreathe sth around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around yank so around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around yank so/so around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around yoke around so's neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arouse arouse so from sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrange arrange for so to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrange arrange for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrange arrange some music for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrange arrange sth for some time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrange arrange sth for so/so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrange arrange sth with so/so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrangement make arrangements for so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrangement make arrangements to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrangement make arrangements (with so) (for sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrangement make the arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrangement the arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrears in arrears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrest put so under arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrest under arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive at a decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive back (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive in force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive in the (very) nick of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive on a wing and a prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive on the scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive (same place) at some time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive (some place) from some other place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive (same place) in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive some place in a body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive (somewhere) at the stroke of some time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive (someplace) (up) on the stroke of some time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive arrive (up) on the scene (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive have arrived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive *in a body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrow straight as an arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrow swift as an arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>art Art is long and life is short.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>art state of the art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>art work of art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>article genuine article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artist off artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artist (rip)-off artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artist take-off artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as about as exciting as watching (the) paint dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as accept so as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as accept sth as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as acknowledge so as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as acknowledge sth as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as act as one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as act as so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as address so as a specific title or attribute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as adopt so as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as adopt sth as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as alike as (two) peas in a pod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as American as apple pie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as appear as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a duck takes to water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a (general) rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a last resort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As As a man sows, so shall he reap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a matter of course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a matter of fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a result (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as a token of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as all get out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as an aside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as bad as all that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as far as anyone knows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as far as it goes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as far as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as far as is concerned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as far as is concerned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as far as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as for so/so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as good as one's word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As As I live and breathe!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as I see it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as I was saying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as it is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as it were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as long as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as luck would have it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as soon as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as such</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as usual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as we speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As As you make your bed, so you must lie (up) on it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As As you sow, so shall you reap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as awkward as a bull in a china shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as awkward as a cow on a crutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as awkward as a cow on roller skates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as balm as a baby's backside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as balm as aoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as baleful as death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as be so bold as to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as be that as it may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as big around as a molasses barrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as big as all outdoors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as big as life (and twice as ugly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as bigger than life (and twice as ugly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as black as a skilet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as black as one is painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as black as pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as black as the ace of spades</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
as Do as you would be done by.
as Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
as double as so/əl as
as double in brass (as sth)
as dress so up (as so/th)
as dress (up) as so/th
as drunk as a lord
as drunk as a skunk
as dry as a bone
as dry as dust
as dull as dishwater
as dull as ditchwater
as easy as A, B, C
as easy as (apple) pie
as easy as duck soup
as easy as falling off a log
as easy as rolling off a log
as easy as shooting fish in a barrel
as elect so (as) sth
as emerge (from sth) (as sth)
as employ so as sth
as end up (as) (stb)
as engage so as sth
as Enough is as good as a feast.
as envisage so/th as so/th
as envision so as so else
as establish so/th as so/th
as evaluate so as sth
as even as we speak
as exciting as watching (the) paint dry
as extol so/th as sth
as fancy so as so/th as
as fat as a pig
as feature so as sth
as figure so as sth
as finger so as so
as fit as a fiddle
as flat as a board
as flat as a pancake
as flop as sth
as free as a bird
as free as (the) air
as fresh as a daisy
as full as a tick
as funny as a barrel of monkeys
as funny as a crutch
as gaudy as a butterfly
as gentle as a lamb
as give as good as one gets
as go as so/th as
as go down (in history) (as so/th)
as go so far as to say sth
as good as done
as good as gold
as good as new
as graceful as a swan
as green as grass
as grooms so as sth
as gruff as a bear
as had (just) as soon do sth
as hail so as sth
as Handsome is as handsome does.
as happy as a clam (at high tide)
as happy as a clam (in butter sauce)
as happy as a lark
as happy as can be
as hard as a rock
as hard as nails
as hard as stone
as have a mind as sharp as a steel trap
as have pegged as sth
as high as a kite
as high as the sky
as hoarse as a crow
as hold so/th up as an example
as honor so as sth
as hot as fire
as hot as hell
as hungry as a bear
as hungry as a hunter
as (I) can't say (as) I do.
as (I) can't say (as) I have.
as I'd (just) as leave do sth
as I'd (just) as soon (as) do sth
as identify so as so
as idealize so/th as sth
as imagine so/th as so/th
as impress so as sth
as in the same boat (as so)
as inaugurate so as sth
as innocent as a lamb
as innocent as a newborn babe
as install so as sth
as intend sth as sth
as interpret sth as sth
as issue sth as sth
as (just) as I expected
as know as much about sth as a hog
as know so as so
as know so/th as sth
as label so/th as sth
as large as life
as light as a feather
as light as air
as likely as not
as list so as sth
as look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
as look on so as sth
as look (up) on so/th as sth
as mad as a hatter
as mad as a hornet
as mad as a March hare
as mad as a wet hen
as mad as hell
as make as if to do sth
as make good as sth
as make it to sth: make it as far as sth
as make so bold as to do sth
as mark sth as sth
as masquerade as so/th
as may as well
as mean sth as sth
as meek as a lamb
as merry as a cricket
as merry as the day is long
as might as well
as miss is as good as a mile.
as move as one
as Moving three times is as bad as a fire.
as naked as a jaybird
as name so as sth
as neat as a pin
as nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.
as nominate so as sth
as not as young as one used to be
as Nothing is given so freely as advice.
as nutty as a fruitcake
as obstinate as a mule
as offer sth to so (as sth)
as officiate (as sth) (at sth)
as old as Methuselah
ask one's for the asking
ask Shoot first, ask questions later.  
ask Sorry (that) I asked.  
ask You asked for it!  
ask You'll be sorry you asked.  
askance look askance at so/th
asleep asleep at the switch
asleep fall asleep
asleep sound asleep
aspersions cast aspersions on so
aspire aspire to so
ass bust ass out of some place
ass bust (one's) ass (to do so/th)
ass cold as a well-digger's ass (in January)
ass couldn't hit a bull in the ass with a bass fiddle
ass doesn't know his ass from a hole in the ground
ass doesn't know his ass from his elbow
ass flat on one's ass
ass get off one's ass
ass get one's ass in gear
ass Get your ass over here!
ass have a corn cob up one's ass
ass have one's ass in a sling
ass If a toady frog had wings, he wouldn't bump his ass.
ass In a pig's ass!
ass It will be your ass!
ass kick ass
ass kick in the ass
ass kick some ass (around)
ass kiss so's ass
ass pain in the ass
ass sit on one's ass
ass smart ass
ass tits and ass
ass work one's ass off
assail assail so with so
assail assault and battery
assault assault the ear
assent assent to so
assess assess so at so
assign assign so/th to so/th
assign assign so to so
assimilate assimilate so/th into so/th
assimilate assimilate with so/th
assist assist in so/th
assist assist (so) at so/th
assist assist so in so/th
assist assist so with so/th
assistance come to so's assistance
associate associate oneself with so/th
associate associate so/th with so/th
associate associate with so
assume assume a low profile
assume assume liability for so/th
assumption labor under an assumption
assure assure so of so
assure rest assured
astound astound so with so/th
astray best-laid plans of mice and men oft(en) go astray.
astray go astray
astray lead so astray
at act young at heart
at aim so/th at so/th
at all at once
at (all) at sea (about so/th)
at appear at some place
at appear at some time
at appraise so/th at so/th
at arrive at a decision
at arrive (some place) at some time
at arrive (somewhere) at the stroke of some time
at asleep at the switch
at assess so/th at so/th
at assist (so) at so/th
at at a dead end
at at a fast clip
at at a good clip
at at a loss (for words)
at at a moment's notice
at at a premium
at at a set time
at at a sitting
at at a snail's gallop
at at a snail's pace
at at a stretch
at at all
at at an early date
at at an end
at at any cost
at at any rate
at at bay
at at best
at at close range
at at cross-purposes
at at death's door
at at ease
at at every turn
at at face value
at at fault
at at first
at at full blast
at at full speed
at at full strength
at at full throttle
at at full tilt
at at great length
at at half-mast
at at half-staff
at at hand
at at hazard
at at home
at at it again
at at its best
at at large
at at last
at at least
at at leisure
at at length
at at liberty
at at loggerheads (with so)
at at (long) last
at at loose ends
at at most
at at night
at at odds (with so)
at at once
at at one fell swoop
at at one's best
at at one's leisure
at at one's wit's end
at at peace
at at play
at at present
at at random
at at regular intervals
at at rest
at at risk
at at sea
at at sixes and sevens
at at some length
at at some time sharp
at at so
at at so’s beck and call
at at so’s doorstep
at at so’s earliest convenience
at at so’s mercy
at at so’s request
at at so’s service
at at stake
at at that rate
at at the appointed time
at at the bottom of the hour
at at the bottom of the ladder
at at the break of dawn
at at the crack of dawn
at at the drop of a hat
at at the eleventh hour
at at the end of nowhere
at at the end of one’s rope
at at the end of one’s tether
at at the end of the day
at at the expense of so/sth
at at the forefront (of sth)
at at the height of sth
at at the helm (of sth)
at at the last gasp
at at the last minute
at at the latest
at at the mercy of so
at at (the) most
at at the outset
at at the point of doing sth
at at the present time
at at the rear of sth
at at the same time
at at the top of one’s game
at at the top of one’s lungs
at at the top of one’s voice
at at the top of the hour
at at the (very) outside
at at the wheel
at at (the) worst
at at the zenith of sth
at at this juncture
at at this point (in time)
at at this rate
at at this stage (of the game)
 at times
at at will
at at work
at average out (at sth)
 at back at it (again)
 at back (at so)
 at bark at sth
 at bang (away) at sth
 at bark at so
 at bark sth out at so
 at bay at sth
 at beat at sth
 at bite back (at so/sth)
 at blanch at sth
 at blaze away (at so/sth)
 at blink at sth
 at blunt sth out (at so)
 at boggle at sth
 at bridle at so/sth
 at bristle at sth
 at burn so at the stake
 at burn the candle at both ends
 at burst at the seams
 at busy as a cranberry merchant (at Thanksgiving)
 at buy sth at sth
 at call at some place
 at carp at so (about so/sth)
 at carp at so/sth
 at cat can look at a king.
 at catch so at a bad time
 at catch so at sth
 at cavil at so
 at chafe at sth
 at champ at the bit
 at charge at so/sth
 at Charity begins at home.
 at chatter (away) (at so/sth)
 at cheat at sth
 at check in (at sth)
 at chew (away) at sth
 at chip (away) at sth
 at chomp at the bit
 at clock so/sth at sth
 at close at hand
 at clutch at so/sth
 at clutch at straws
 at cock a snook at so
 at come apart at the seams
 at come at so/sth
 at Come in and make yourself at home.
 at come out at an amount
 at come out at so/sth
 at compute sth at sth
 at concentrate at some place
 at concentrate so/sth at sth
 at connive at sth (with so)
 at crack so
 at crack at sth
 at curse at so/sth
 at cut at so or an animal
 at cut at sth
 at cut one’s eyes at so/sth
 at cut so off at the pass
 at dab at sth
 at dabble at sth
 at dance at so’s wedding
 at dart a glance at so/sth
 at dart out (of sth) (at so/sth)
 at demur at sth
 at difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer.
 at dig at so/sth
 at dine at some place
 at direct sth at so/sth
 at disappointed at so/sth
 at disparaged at so/sth
 at disgusted at so/sth
 at dock (sth) at some place
 at down-at-the-heels
 at draw the line (at sth)
 at drive at sth
 at drowning man will clutch at a straw.
 at eat (away) at so
 at eat (away) at sth
 at end up at sth
 at estimate the cost at some amount
 at excel at sth
 at explain at great length
 at exult at sth
 at fall apart (at the seams)
 at fall asleep at the switch
 at fall (down) at sth
 at feel at home
 at fetch up at some place
 at fight back (at so/sth)
 at fire away (at so)
 at fire (so) at so/sth
 at fire (so) back (at so/sth)
 at first crack at sth
 at flash a smile (at so)
 at flash sth at so/sth
 at fling oneself at so
 at fling sth at so/sth
 at fling at so/sth
 at foam at the mouth
 at freak out (at so/sth)
 at frown at so/sth
 at fume at so
 at fuss at so/sth
 at gape at so/sth
 at gasp at so/sth
 at gawk at so/sth
 at gaze around (at so/sth)
 at gaze at so/sth
 at get at so
 at get at sth
 at get mad (at sth)
 at giggle at so/sth
 at give so a crack at sth
 at give so a whack at sth
 at glance at so/sth
 at glance back (at so)
 at glance down (at sth)
 at glare at so/sth
 at glower at so/sth
 at gnaw (away) at so
 at gnaw (away) at so/sth
 at go at a fast clip
 at go at a good clip
 at go at it hammer and tongs
 at go at it tooth and nail
 at go at one another tooth and nail
 at go so
 at go at so/sth
 at go at sth
 at go at sth like a boy killing snakes
 at go on (at so)
 at go off at sth
 at grab at so/sth
 at grasp at so/sth
 at grasping at straws
 at grin at so/sth
 at grind away (at so)
 at grind away (at sth)
 at grind away (at so/sth)
 at grip at so
 at grope at so/sth
 at grouse at so or an animal
 at grow disgusted at so/sth
 at growl at so/sth
 at grumble at so
 at guess at sth
 at guile at so/sth
 at hack (away) at so/sth
 at hammer (away) at so
 at hammer (away) at sth
 at happy as a clam (at high tide)
 at hard at sth
 at have a go at sth
 at have a whack at sth
 at Have at it.
 at have at so
 at have at sth
 at have at so/sth
 at have so’s best interest(s) at heart
 at have sth at one’s fingertips
 at He puts his pants on one leg at a time.
 at He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom.
at head so off at the pass
at head so/th at so/th
at heave sth at so/th
at Here's looking at you.
at hint sth
at hiss at so/th
at hit at so/th
at hit back (at so/th) (in sth)
at hold so/th at bay
at hold so/th at sth
at hold the line (at so/th)
at honk at so/th
at hoot at so/th
at hopeless at doing sth
at howl at so/th
at hurl insults (at so)
at hurl so/th at so/th
at If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
at ill at ease
at I'm awful at names.
at I'm terrible at names.
at in (at) one ear and out (of) the other
at in at the kill
at in no time (at all)
at in the right place at the right time
at in the wrong place at the wrong time
at (it) doesn't bother me at all.
at (it's) no trouble (at all).
at jab at so/th
at jab sth at so/th
at jaw at so
at jeer at so/th
at jest at so/th
at joined at the hip
at jump at so/th
at jump at sth
at jump at the opportunity (to do sth)
at keep at arm's length from so/th
at Keep at it
at keep at so (about sth)
at keep at sth
at keep (going) on at so/th
at keep so at sth
at keep so/th at a distance
at keep so/th at arm's length
at keep so/th at bay
at keep so young at heart
at kick at so/th
at kick back (at so/th)
at kick out (at so/th)
at knock at sth
at knock away (at sth)
at know at a glance that...
at know where it's at
at know where sth is at
at labor at sth
at land at some place
at land sth at some place
at lash at so/th
at lash back (at so/th)
at lash out (at so/th)
at laugh at so/th
at laugh away at so/th
at lay sth at so's door
at lay sth at so's feet
at leap at so/th
at leap at the chance (to do sth)
at leap at the opportunity (to do sth)
at leave it at that
at leave so at loose ends
at leave so/th (at) some place
at lecture at so (about sth)
at leer at so
at let so/th at so/th
at level sth at so/th
at lick at sth
at lie at anchor
at lie at death's door
at Life begins at forty.
at lob sth at so/th
at look around (at sth)
at look askance at so/th
at look at so cross-eyed
at look at so/th
at look at the crux of the matter
at look at the heart of the matter
at Look (at) what the cat dragged in!
at look back (at so/th)
at look daggers at so
at look down (at so/th)
at look up at so/th
at lose at sth
at lose one's temper (at so/th)
at lose sth at sth
at love at first sight
at Lucky at cards, unlucky in love.
at lunge at so/th
at lurch at so/th
at mad (at so/th)
at maintain sth at sth
at make a face (at so)
at make a grab at so/th
at make a pass at so
at make a pass at sth
at make advances at so
at make eyes at so
at make faces (at so)
at make good (at sth)
at make oneself at home
at make so mad (at so/th)
at make so sick at heart
at make sth at so
at Make yourself at home.
at Marry in haste, (and) repent at leisure.
at marvel at so/th
at more so/th than one can shake a stick at
at move at a fast clip
at move at a good clip
at murmur at so or an animal
at nag at so (about so/th)
at near at hand
at nibble at sth
at nibble away at sth
at nip at so/th
at nod at so
at not at all
at Not bad (at all).
at nothing to be sneezed at
at nothing to sneeze at
at officiate (as sth) (at sth)
at ogle (at) so/th
at old hand at doing sth
at One cannot be in two places at once.
at out at some place
at pale at sth
at panic at sth
at past master at sth
at peck at sth
at peek at so/th
at peek out of sth (at so/th)
at peep at so/th
at peep out of (of sth) (at so/th)
at peer at so/th
at peer out at so/th
at peg away (at sth)
at persevere at sth
at pitch sth at so/th
at place so/th at sth
at place sth at a premium
at play at full blast
at play at sth
at play sth at full blast
at plod away at sth
at pluck at so/th
at plug away (at sth)
at point at so/th
at point sth at so/th
at point the finger at so
at poke at so/th
at poke fun at so/th
at poke sth at so/th
at pound away (at so/th)
at preach at so
at present so (to so) (at sth)
at preside at sth
at prod at so/th
at puff (away) at sth
at pull at so
at push at so/th
at put in a hard day at work
at put in an appearance (at sth)
at put one at (one's) ease
at put so/th at loose ends
at put so/th at so's disposal
at put sth at a premium
at put sth at an amount
at put sth at so's door
at quail at so/th
at question so at great length
at rage at so/th
at rail at so (about sth)
at rant (at so) about so/th
at rant at so/th
at rap at sth
at rate sth at sth
at rebel at so/th
at recline at the sight (of so/th)
at recall at the thought (of so/th)
at rejoice at sth
at remain at bay
at remain at some place
at retain at sth
at revolted at so/th
at roar at so/th
at rub (away) at sth
at run at a fast clip
at run at a good clip
at run at full blast
at run at so/th
at run off at the mouth
at run out at so/th
at run sth at full blast
at rush at so/th
at scoff at so/th
at scowl at so/th
at scratch at sth
at scream at so/th
at scribble away (at sth)
at see the light (at the end of the tunnel)
at sell at sth
at sell sth at sth
at set so's mind at ease (about so's sth)
at set sth at sth
at shot at so
at sick at heart
at sit at sth
at sit at the feet of so
at slash (out) at so
at slave away (at sth)
at slang sth at so/sth
at smart at sth
at smile at so
at smirk at so/sth
at snap at so
at snap at sth
at snap back (at so)
at snarl at so/sth or an animal
at snatch at so/sth
at sneer at so/sth
at sneeze at so
at sneeze at sth
at sniff at so/sth
at snipe at so/sth
at snort at so/sth
at sore (at so)
at speak at great length
at spell so (at sth)
at spit at so/sth
at spring at so/sth
at spring out at so
at squint at so/sth
at squint sth at so/sth
at stab at so
at stab at sth
at stab sth at so/sth
at stab sth at so/sth
at stand at sth
at stare at so/sth
at stare out at so/sth
at start so out at an amount of money
at station so at sth
at stay at same place
at stay at sth
at stay young at heart
at steal a glance at so/sth
at stick at sth
at stop at sth
at storm at so/sth
at strain at gnats and swallow camels
at strain at the leach
at strain away (at sth)
at strike at so/sth
at strike back (at so/sth)
at strike out (at so/sth)
at succeed at sth
at succeed at so
at swear at so/sth
at swing at so/sth
at take a crack at sth
at take a crack at so
at take a dig at so
at take a gander (at so/sth)
at take a go at so
at take a go at sth
at take a jab at so
at take a jab at sth
at take a look at so/sth
at take a poke at so
at take a pop at so
at take a potshot at so/sth
at take a punch at so
at take a shot at so/sth
at take a stab at so
at take a stab at sth
at take a swing at so
at take a swipe at so/sth
at take a try at so
at take a try at sth
at take a whack at sth
at take aim at so/sth
at take aim (at so/sth or an animal)
at take digs at sth
at take first crack at sth
at take offense (at so/sth)
at take one at one's word
at take so/sth at face value
at take a crack at so
at take turns (at) doing sth
at take umbrage at sth
at talk at so
at tap at sth
at tear at so/sth
at The wolf is at the door.
at thing you don't want is at dear any price.
at thrill at so/sth
at throw a glance at so/sth
at throw insults (at so)
at throw money at sth
at throw oneself at so
at throw oneself at so's feet
at throw oneself at the mercy of some authority
at throw sth at so/sth
at throw sth back at so
at throw the book at so/sth
at thrust sth at so/sth
at thumb one's nose at so/sth
at tilt at windmills
at tip the scale at sth
at 'Tis better to have loved and lost
than never to have loved at all.
at toss sth at so/sth
at touch at some place
at trade at some place
at travel at a fast clip
at travel at a good clip
at tremble at sth
at try at so
at try at sth
at try one's hand (at sth)
at try one's luck (at sth)
at tug at so/sth
at tug away (at sth)
at turn one's nose up at so/sth
at Two can play (at) this game (as well as one)
at up and at 'em
at value sth at sth
at wait at sth (for so/sth)
at want first crack at sth
at wave at so
at wave back (at so)
at wear away at so/sth
at weigh in (at sth)
at whack at sth
at What are you driving at?
at When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.
at When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.
at where it's at
at where so is at
at where so's head is at
at whistle at so/sth
at whistle at sth
at will stop at nothing
at win at sth
at win sth at sth
at wince at sth
at wink at so
at wink at sth
at wonder at so/sth
at work at sth
at work away (at sth)
at work out (at sth)
at would as soon do sth as look at you
at yank at so/sth
at yap at so
at yell at so/sth
at yell sth at so/sth
at yell sth out (at so/sth)
at young at heart
at young at heart
at young at heart
ate dog ate my homework.
atone atone for sth
attach attach oneself to so
attach attach oneself to sth
attach attach to so
attach attach to sth
attach attached to so/sth
attach with no strings attached
attack attack in force
attack attack (of an illness)
attack produce an attack (of an illness)
attack suffer an attack (of an illness)
attend attend to so
attendance take attendance
attention bring so/sth to so's attention
attention bring sth to so's attention
attention call attention to so/sth
attention call so's attention to sth
attention call so's attention to sth
attention call so's attention to sth
attention call so's attention to sth
attention call so's attention to sth
attention call so's attention to sth
attention draw so's attention to so/sth
attention draw so's attention to so/sth
attention get so's attention
attention get so's attention
attention grab so's attention
attention grip so's attention
attention hold so's attention
attention pay attention to so/sth
attention rivet so's attention
attention snap to (attention)
attention spring to attention
attesr attest to sth
attire attire so in sth
attitude cop an attitude
attitude devil-may-care attitude
attitude have a bad attitude
attitude wait-and-see attitude
attract attract so/sth too so/sth else
attribute address so as a specific title or attribute
attribute attribute sth to so/sth
attune attune so/sth to so/sth else
auction auction sth off
auction come up for auction
auction Dutch auction
auction go up for auction
auction put sth up for auction
auction put sth up for auction
auction put sth up for auction
auction up for auction
audition audition for sth
audition audition so for sth
augur augur well so/sth
auspices under the auspices of so
authority: throw oneself at the mercy of
 some authority

authority: throw oneself on the mercy of
 some authority

avail: avail oneself of

avail: of no avail

avail: to no avail

available: make so/th thing available to

average: average oneself (on so/th) (for

avenue: avenue of escape

average: above average

average: average out (at so)

average: average sth up

average: below average

average: cut above average

average: on average

average: on the average

avert: (away) from

away: cower (away) from

away: come away empty-handed

away: come away (from so/th)

away: from

away: from it all

away: go away empty-handed

away: to some place

away: to so or an animal

away: to some place

away: to some place

away: to some place

away: to some place

away: to some place

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at

away: at
away remain away (from so/sth)
away ride away
away right away
away rip sth away (from so)
away rip sth away (from sth)
away soar away
away roll away
away roll sth away
away rot away
away rub (away) at sth
away rub sth away
away run away (from so/sth)
away run away with so
away run away with sth
away rust away
away sag away (from sth)
away salt sth away
away scamper away
away scare so/sth away (from so/sth)
away scrape sth away (from sth)
away scratch sth away
away scribble away (at sth)
away scorn sth away
away scuttle away
away seep away
away send away (for sth)
away send so away
away send so/sth away
away shy away (from so/sth)
away scribe away (from so/sth)
away sign sth away
away slave away (at sth)
away sleep sth away
away slink away
away slip away
away slither away
away slope away (from sth)
away smooth sth away
away snatch so/sth away from so/sth
away sneak away (from some place)
away sock sth away
away soft answer turneth away wrath.
away speed away (from so/sth)
away spirit so/sth away (somewhere)
away sponge sth away
away squander sth away
away square so away
away squashed away
away squirrel sth away
away stash sth away
away stay away (so/sth) away
away steal away (from so/sth)
away steer away from so/sth
away step away from one’s desk
away stone’s throw away
away store sth away
away stow away
away stow sth away
away strain away (at sth)
away stray (away) (from sth)
away stretch away (from sth)
away stretch away to some place
away strip sth away (from so/sth)
away sweep so/sth away
away swerve (away) (from so/sth)
away take away from so/sth
away Take it away!
away steal battle-axe
away take so/sth away (from so/sth)
away take so/ sth breath away
away take sth away (from so/sth)
away tear away (from so/sth)
away tear (oneself) away (from so/sth)
away tear sth away (from so/sth)
away throw sth away
away thrust so/sth away from so/sth
away tick away
away toddle away
away toss so/sth away
away tow so/sth away
away trail away
away trickle away
away trifle sth away (on so/sth)
away trim sth away (from sth)
away tuck sth away
away tug away (at sth)
away turn (away) (from so/sth)
away turn so or an animal (away) (from sth)
away up and away
away vanish away
away veer (away) (from so/sth)
away walk away from so/sth
away walk away with so or an animal
away walk away with sth
away wander away (from so/sth)
away warn so or an animal
away wash sth away
away wash so/sth away
away wash sth away
away waste away
away waste sth away
away wave so/sth away (from so/sth)
away wear so (away) from sth
away wear away at so/sth
away wear sth away
away wheedle sth away from so
away wheel so/sth away
away When the cat’s away, the mice will play.
away while a period of time away (doing sth)
away whip sth away (from so)
away whisk so/sth away
away whistle sth away
away Wild horses couldn’t drag so away (from sth).
away will sth away
away win so away (from so/sth)
away write sth away
away wipe sth away
away wish so/sth away
away wither away
away woo so away (from so/sth)
away work away (at sth)
away wrest so/sth away (from so/sth)
away write away
away yammer (away) about so/sth
away yank so/sth away (from so/sth)
away You’ll never get away with it.
away in awe (of so/sth)
away stand in awe (of so/sth)
awkward awkward as a bull in a china shop
awkward awkward as a cow on a crutch
awkward awkward as a cow on roller skates
awkward by main strength and awkwardness
awkward main strength and awkwardness
awkward place so in an awkward position
awkward put so in an awkward position
awkwardness by main strength and awkwardness
awkwardness main strength and awkwardness
awol go AWOL
axe axe
axe get axed
axe have an ax(e) to grind
axe old battle-axe
babe in arms
babe in the woods
babe innocent as a newborn babe
babe Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).
baby babe in arms
baby babes in the woods
baby bald as a baby’s backside
baby Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater.
baby innocent as a newborn babe
baby like taking candy from a baby
baby Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).
baby soft as a baby’s backside
baby soft as a baby’s bottom
baby throw the baby out with the bathwater.
baby weak as a baby
babs/sit babysit for so
bachelor son of a bachelor
back answer back (to so)
back answer so back
back argue back
back arrive back (some place)
back ask so back
back back and fill
back back and forth
back back at it (again)
back back (at so)
back back away (from so/sth)
back back down (from so/sth)
back back down on sth
back back down (st)
back back East
back back in(to) (the) harness
back back in(to) circulation
back back into so/sth
back back of the beyond
back back off (from so/sth)
back back on one’s feet
back back on track
back back oneself into a corner
back back onto so/sth
back back out (of st)
back back over so/sth
back back (some place)
back back so for sth
back back so/sth into so/sth
back back so/sth off (from stl)
back back so/sth onto so/sth
back back so/sth out (from st)
back back so/sth out of sth
back back so/sth up to so/sth
back back so up
back back sth up
back back the wrong horse
back back to basics
back back to square one
back back to the drawing board
back back to the salt mines
back back up
back back-order sth
back back-to-back
back beat so's back
back behind so's back
back bend back
back bend so's back
back bite back (at so's)
back blink one's tears back
back bounce back (from sth)
back bounce sth back and forth
back boys in the back room
back break one's arm pitting oneself on the back
back break one's back (to do sth)
back break the back of sth
back bring so back out
back bring so back to reality
back bring so or an animal back to life
back bring so/th back
back bring sth back
back buy sth back from way back
back call back
back call so back
back call so's/th back
back call sth (back) in
back carry so back (to some time)
back carry sth back
back cast sth back (some place)
back change back (from sth)
back change back (in to so's/th back)
back change sth back
back check back (on so/sth)
back check back (with so)
back choke sth back
back chop sth back
back come back
back crawl back to so
back crick in one's back
back cut back
back cut sth back
back date back (to so or some time)
back die back
back double back (on so's/th)
back drift back (to so)
back drift back (to so's/th)
back drop back
back ease back (on sth)
back echo back to sth
back fade back (into sth)
back fall back
back feed sth back into sth
back feed sth back to so
back fight back (at so's/th)
back fight one's way back (to so)
back fire sth back (at so's/th)
back fire sth back (to so's/th)
back flash back (on so's/th)
back flash back (to so's/th)
back (flat) on one's back
back fling one's head back
back fling so's/th back
back fold back
back fold sth back
back from way back
back get back (to so) (on sth)
back get back to sth
back Get off my back!
back Get off so's back!
back get one's ears pinned back
back get so's back
back get so's back up
Phrase-Finder Index

back switch sth back (to sth)
back take one back (to some time)
back take sth back
back talk back (to so)
back think back (on so/so)
back throw sth back
back throw sth back at sth
back thrust sth back
back tie sth back
back tilt sth back
back toss sth back
back toss sth back and forth
back trace sth (back) (to so/so)
back try sth back (again)
back turn back (from some place)
back turn back the clock
back turn one's back (on so/so)
back turn so/so back
back turn the clock back
back walk back ((to) sth)
back want sth/so back
back wave back (at so)
back wave so back (from sth)
back welcome so/so back
back whip back (on so)
back win so/so back (from so/so)
back wind back
back wire sth/so back to so
back with both hands tied behind one's back
back with one hand tied behind one's back
back write back to so
back write sth back to so
back yell lower sth back (down so/so's back)
back You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
backfire backfire on so
backhanded backhanded compliment
backhanded pay so to a backhanded compliment
backroom backroom boys
backseat backseat driver
backseat take a backseat (to so/so/so)
backs ide bald as a baby's backside
backs ide soft as a baby's backside
backs ides bend over backwards (to do sth)
backs ides fall over backwards (to do sth)
backs ides know sth backwards and forwards
backs ides know sth forwards and backwards
backs ides lean over backwards (to do sth)
backs yard in one's (own) backyard
bacon bring home the bacon
bacon language that would fry bacon
bacon save one's bacon
bacon What's shakin' (bacon)?
bad as bad as all that
bad ask for sth bad or dre
bad bad blood (between people)
bad bad egg
bad bad excuse is better than none.
bad bad hair day
bad Bad money drives out good.
bad Bad news travels fast.
bad bad penny
bad bad time
bad bad times
bad bad-mouth so/so
bad catch so at a bad time
bad come out badly
bad come to a bad end
bad Fire is a good servant but a bad master.
bad go bad
bad go badly with so/so
bad go from bad to worse
bad good riddance (to bad rubbish)
bad have a bad attitude
bad have a bad case of the simples
bad have a bad effect (on so/so)
bad have to do sth so bad one can taste it
bad Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper.
bad in a bad mood
bad in a bad way
bad in bad faith
bad in bad shape
bad in bad sorts
bad in bad taste
bad in bad (with so)
bad (It's) not half bad.
bad leave a bad taste in so/so's mouth
bad make the best of a bad job
bad Moving three times is as bad as a fire.
bad need so bad one can taste it
bad Not bad (at all).
bad Nothing so bad but (it) might have been worse.
bad off to a bad start
bad put so in a bad mood
bad so bad one can taste it
bad strong sth of bad luck
bad string of bad luck
bad (That's) too bad.
bad throw good money after bad
bad want so bad one can taste it
badger badger so into sth
badger badger so/so sth to death
badly come out badly
badly go badly with so/so
bag bag and baggage
bag Bag it!
bag bag of bones
bag bag of tricks
bag bag on so
bag bag some rays
bag Bag that!
bag Bag your face!
bag cat is out of the bag
bag check so's bags through (to some place)
bag doggy bag
bag half in the bag
bag in the bag
bag leave so holding the bag
bag let the cat out of the bag
bag mixed bag
bag put the feed bag on
bag put the nose-bag on
bag tie on the nose-bag
bag whole bag of tricks
baggage bag and baggage
ball bail out (of sth)
bail bail so/so out
bail bail so out of jail
bail bail sth out
bail jump bail
bail out on bail
bail skip bail
bait bait and switch
bait crow bait
bait fish or cut bait.
bait rise to the bait
bake bake sth from scratch
bake *from scratch
baker baker's dozen
balance balance balance of power
balance balance out
balance balance sth against so/sth else
balance balance sth with so/sth else
balance balance the accounts
balance catch so off balance
balance hang in the balance
balance in the balance
balance strike a balance (between two things)
balance throw so off balance
balances balances checks and balances
bald bald as a baby's backside
bald bald as a coot
baleful baleful as death
balk balk at sth
ball ball and chain
ball ball is in so/so's court
ball ball of fire
ball ball so/so up
ball ball sth up
ball balls of one's feet
ball behind the eight ball
ball break one's balls to do sth
ball break (so's) balls
ball bust (so's) balls
ball carry the ball
ball connect (with the ball)
ball drop the ball
ball end of the ball game
ball get the ball rolling
ball go under the wrecking ball
ball Great balls of fire!
ball have a ball
ball have so behind the eight ball
ball have sth on the ball
ball have the ball in one's court
ball keep one's eye on the ball
ball keep the ball rolling
ball on the ball
ball pitch so a curve (ball)
ball play ball with so
ball play hardball (with so)
ball political football
ball put balls on sth
ball put so behind the eight ball
ball set the ball rolling
ball start the ball rolling
ball That's the way the ball bounces.
ball whole ball of wax
ball (whole) new ball game
balled (all) balled up
ballistic go ballistic
balloon go over like a lead balloon
balloon send up a trial balloon
balloon trial balloon
ballotstuff stuff the ballet box
ballpark ballpark figure
ballpark in the ballpark
ballpark out of the ballpark
bam wham bam thank you ma'am
ban ban so from sth
bananas go bananas
band band together (against so/so)
band strike up the band
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be *back on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Careful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be for doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be for so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be given precedence over so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Happy to (do sth).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be in aid of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be just before you’re generous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be My guest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be one’s brother’s keeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be one’s own man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be one’s own master</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be quiet!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be so bold as to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be that as it may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be the last person (to do sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be there or be square.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be too</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *becoming on so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *before so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *Reggers can’t be choosers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *behind schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *behind the eight ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *best of both worlds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Better be an old man’s darling than a young man’s slave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Better (be) safe than sorry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *big picture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *big send-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *black mark beside one’s name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *bolged down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Boys will be boys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *bright idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *bull in a china shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *bum steer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *by the seat of one’s pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Caesar’s wife must be above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *can of worms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *carte blanche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *case of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *cheesed off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *Children should be seen and not heard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *chilled to the bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *clear of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *clear sailing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *close to so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be come out to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Could I be excused?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be couldn’t be happier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be cracked up to be sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *crux of the matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be cut out to be sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be deem it (to be) necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Do as you would be done by.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Don’t be gone (too) long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Don’t be too sure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be door must be either shut or open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *down to the last bit of money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *down to the wire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *down with a disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *down (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *drawn and quartered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *earful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *elegant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *end in itself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *even (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Everything’s going to be all right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Everything will be all right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Everything will be great.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Everything will be just fine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Everything will be okay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Evil be to him who evil thinks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be far be it from me to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *fire under so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be fit to be tied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *for the better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be force to be reckoned with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *fresh start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *fresh (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *Glory be!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *hand in hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be happy as can be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *hepped (up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *home free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *household name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I) could be better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I) couldn’t be worse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I) couldn’t be better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I) have to be moving along.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be I must be off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be I wasn’t brought up in the woods to be scared by owls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’d) be happy to (do sth).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’d) better be going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be If ifs and ands were pots and pans (there’d be no work for tinkers’ hands).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be If you can’t be good, be careful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be If you would be well served, serve yourself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be If you’re born to be hanged, then you’ll never be drowned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be I’ll be a monkey’s uncle!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’ll) be right there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’ll) be right with you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’ll) be seeing you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’m) in a bad mood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a bind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a fix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a huff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a lather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a (pretty) pickle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a rut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in (a) single file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in (a) (tight) spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a tizzy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a vicious circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in a world of one’s own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in an ivory tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in apple-pie order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in bad (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in Dutch (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in earnest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in (good) (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in harm’s way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in on the act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in on the ground floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in plain language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in so/sth's face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in so/sth's good graces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in so/sth's hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in so/sth's possession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in step (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the back of so/sth's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the best of health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the fast lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the groove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the gutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the (home)stretch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the mainstream (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in the public eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in touch (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in tune with the times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *infested with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *intimate with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *involved (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *involved with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It) can’t be helped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It) couldn’t be better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It) couldn’t be helped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It is easier to be born lucky than rich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It is easy to be wise after the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It’s) good to be here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It’s) nice to be here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It’s time we should be going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It will be your ass!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It’ll be a cold day in hell when sth happens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It’ll be a long day in January when sth happens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’ve) got to be showing off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Judge not, lest ye be judged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Judge not, that ye be not judged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *keyed up (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *king’s ransom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *knee-deep in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *knee-high by the 4th of July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *law unto oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be leave a lot to be desired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be leave so/sth be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Let bygones be bygones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Let it be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be let so/sth or some creature be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like a ton of bricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like death warmed over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like stink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like the devil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like the dickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like the wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *load off one’s feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *load off one’s mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *long shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *look to be a million miles away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *long shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in so/sth's face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in so/sth's good graces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in so/sth's hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in so/sth's possession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in step (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the back of so/sth's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the best of health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the fast lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the groove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the gutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the (home)stretch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the mainstream (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in the public eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in tune with the times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *made in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *infested with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *involved with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *involved with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It) can’t be helped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It) couldn’t be better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It) couldn’t be helped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It is easier to be wise after the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It’s) good to be here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(It’s) nice to be here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It’s time we should be going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It will be your ass!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It’ll be a cold day in hell when sth happens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be It’ll be a long day in January when sth happens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *(I’ve) got to be showing off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Judge not, lest ye be judged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Judge not, that ye be not judged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *keyed up (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *king’s ransom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *knee-deep in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *knee-high by the 4th of July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *law unto oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be leave a lot to be desired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be leave so/sth be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Let bygones be bygones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be Let it be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be let so/sth or some creature be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like a ton of bricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like death warmed over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like stink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like the devil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like the dickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *like the wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *load off one’s feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *load off one’s mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *long shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *look to be a million miles away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *losing streak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *lot of nerve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *lot of promise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *low profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *lucky streak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *make sth out to be sth else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be May I be excused?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be meant to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *meant in one’s madness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be might as well be hung for a sheep as (for) a lamb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be *million miles away</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

808
be *out of debt
be *out of control
be *out of (all) proportion
be *out in the cold
be *out of favor (with so)

be *out of harm's way
be *out of nowhere
be *out of one's depth
be *out of one's mind
be *out of one's skull
be *out of patience
be *out of place
be *out of practice
be *out of sight
be *out of so's hands
be *out (of sh)
be *out of sync
be *out of the closet
be *out of the frying pan (and) into the fire
be *out of the goodness of one's heart
be *out of the way
be *out of the woodwork
be *out on a limb
be *out-of-bounds
be *over a barrel
be *over (and done) with
be *over so's head
be *over the hill
be *over the wall
be *over (with)
be *paper trail
be *past master at shh
be *physical (with so)
be *poles apart
be *possessed by shh
be *possessed of shh
be powers that be
be Promises are like piecrust, made to be broken.
be prove to be shh
be *putty in so's hands
be *raw deal
be *ready (to do shh)
be *rolling in the aisles
be *root of the problem
be *rooted to so
be *rooted to the spot
be *rough idea (about shh)
be *run for one's money
be *second nature to so
be *set to do shh
be *sewed up
be *shadow of oneself
be *shock of one's life
be *short end of the stick
be *short with so
be *sick at heart
be *sinking feeling
be *slated for shh
be *slave to shh
be *so bad one can taste it
be So be it
be *soft on so
be So will be with you in a minute.
be *shh to shout about
be *sore (at so)
be *speeds of some amount
be *spit and image of so
be stand up and be counted
be *start
be *stir-crazy
be *strapped for shh
be *stricken with shh
be *taste of one's own medicine
be That'll I'll be shh
be (the) be-all and (the) end-all

be *tongue-lashing
be *too funny for words
be too good to be true
be *too much
be *tough on so
be turn out to be so/shh
be *turning point
be *two strikes against one
be *under a spell
be *under arrest
be *under (close) scrutiny
be *under control
be *under fire
be *under one's belt
be *under pressure
be *under so's thumb
be *under so's wing(s)
be *under way
be *under wraps
be *up a blind alley
be *up against shh
be *up against the wall
be *(up and) about
be *up before so
be *up for auction
be *up for reckoning
be *up for sale
be *up for shh
be *up in arms
be *up to here (with so)
be *up to one's knees
be *up to one's neck (in shh)
be *up to speed
be *up to the minute
be *up with so
be *(up)on so
be *upside-down
be *up-to-date
be *(Well,) I'll be!
be *well into shh
be What can't be cured must be endured.
be What must be, must be.
be What's done cannot be undone.
be what so/shh is cracked up to be
be What will be, will be.
be Whatever will be, will be.
be What'll it be?
be Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.
be *wide of the mark
be will be the death of so/shh (yet)
be Will, that be all?
be (Will there be) anything else?
be *with child
be *within earshot (of shh)
be *within one's grasp
be *within range
be *worked up (over shh)
be *worst of the shh
be would be the death of
be would not be caught dead (doing shh)
beat

beating

beatin

beatin' (uncontracted)

beating

beat into (doing sth)

beat back

beat off

beat out

beat so out

beat so brains out

beat so to

beat so to the punch

beat sth down

beat sth into

beat sth into so

beat sth into sth

beat sth up

beat the clock

beat the drum for so/sth

beat the gun

beat the hell out of so

beat the (natural) stuff out of so

beat the pants off (of) so

beat the rap

beat the shit out of so

beat the socks off (of) so

beat the stuffing out of so

beat the tar out of so

beat up on so

beat browbeat so into sth

beat Don't that (just) beat all!

beat heartbreak away from being sth

beat (It) can't beat that.

beat If that don't beat a pig a-pecking!

beat If that don't beat all!

beat If you can't beat them, join them.

beat in a heartbeat

beat (It) beats me.

beat (It's) got me beat.

beat me through to (the beat of) a different drummer

beat off the beaten path

beat off the beaten track

beat one's heart misses a beat

beat one's heart skips a beat

beat pound a beat

beat to a heartbeat

That beats everything!

beat that beats sth all to pieces

beat to beat the band

beat travel off the beaten path

beat without missing a beat

beat (You) can't beat that.

beat You can't beat me.

beauties bevy of beauties

beauty Age before beauty.

beauty Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

beauty Beauty is only skin-deep.

beauty bevy of beauties

beauty (I've) got to go home and get my beauty sleep.

beauty not going to win any beauty contests

beauty thing of beauty is a joy forever.

beaver busy as a beaver (building a new dam)

beaver eager beaver

beaver work like a beaver

beck at so's beck and call

beckon beckon to so

become become so/sth

become becoming on so

become *end in itself

become *friends with so

become *household name

become *law unto oneself

become look becoming on so

become *one's own worst enemy

become *oneself again

become *past master at sth

become *putty in so's hands

become *rooted to sth

become *rooted to the spot

become *second nature to so

become *shadow of oneself

become *slave to sth

become *stricken with sth

becoming look becoming on so

bed As you make your bed, so you must lie (up) on it.

bed bed down (for sth)

bed bed down some place

bed bed of roses

bed bed (so/sth) down (some place)

bed bed-and-breakfast

bed Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

bed fall out of bed

bed get into bed with so

bed get up on the wrong side of bed

bed go to bed

bed hotbed of sth

bed make one's (own) bed

bed make so's bed (up)

bed make the bed (up)

bed on one's deathbed

bed put so to bed

bed put sth to bed

bed put to bed with a shovel

bed send so to bed

bed should have stood in bed

bed sick in bed

bed take to one's bed

bed tumble into bed

beddeck bedeck so/sth with sth

bedfellows Politics makes strange bedfellows.

bedpost between you (and) me and the bedpost

bedsheets know no more about sth than a frog knows about bedsheets

bee bee in one's bonnet

bee bees and the bees

bee put a bee in so's bonnet (about so/sth)

beef beef about so/sth

beef beef sh up

beef Where's the beef?

beeline make a beeline for so/sth

been been around

been been had

been have been around

been have been to hell and back

been (Have you) been keeping busy?

been (Have you) been keeping cool?

been (Have you) been keeping out of trouble?

been (Have you) been okay?

been How (have) you been?

been How's the world (been) treating you?

been (It) hasn't been easy.

been It's been.

been It's been a slice!

been (It's been) good talking to you.

been (I've) been getting by.

been (I've) been keeping cool.
been (I've) been keeping myself busy.
been (I've) been keeping out of
trouble.
been (I've) been okay.
been (I've) been there (done that).
been (I've) been under the weather.
been (I've) never been better.
been Life's been good to me.
been moment everyone has been
waiting for
been Nothing so bad but (it) might
have been worse.
been Things haven't been easy.
been What have you been up to?
been Where have you been all my life?
been Where (have) you been hiding
(yourself)?
been Where (have) you been keeping
yourself?
been You been keeping busy?
been You been keeping cool?
been You been keeping out of trouble?
been You been okay?
been You don't know where it's been.
been (all) beer and skittles.
been beer up
been beer cry in one's beer
been I've seen better heads on nickel
beers.
been life isn't all beer and skittles.
beeswax Mind your own beeswax.
beeswax none of so's beeswax
before Age before beauty.
before appear before so
before appear before sth
before Be just before you're generous.
before be before long
before before so
before before so's time
before before you can say Jack
Robinson
before before you know it
before bend before sth
before behind bow before so/th
before bring so before so/th
before bring sth before so/th
before Business before pleasure.
before calm before the storm
before cast (one's) pearls before swine
before come before so/sth
before coming events cast their
shadows before.
before count (one's) chickens before they
hatch
before Cowards die many times before
their death(s).
before cringe before so/sth
before cross a bridge before one comes
to it
before cry before one is hurt
before dangle sth before so
before darkest hour is just before the
dawn.
before Don't count your chickens
before they are hatched.
before Don't cry before you are hurt.
before Don't put the cart before the
horse.
before Fingers were made before
forks.
before go before so
before go on before so
before grovel before so/th
before happen before so's time
before haul so (up) before so/th
before Haven't I seen you somewhere
before?
before It's always darkest just before
the dawn.
before kneel down (before so/th)
before lay sth before so
before lie before so/th
before Look before you leap.
before lull before the storm
before morning after (the night
before)
before Never ask pardon before you
are accused.
before occur before so's time
before place so/th before so/th
before Pride goes before a fall.
before prostrate oneself before so/th
before put so/sth before so/th
before put the cart before the horse
before quail before so/th
before before the wind the lives on,
while mighty oaks do fall.
before send so before so/th
before set sth before so/th or some creature
before Sing before breakfast, you'll cry
before night.
before stand up before so
before sumptuously before so/th
before swim before so's eyes
before take so/th before so/th
before think before so's doing sth
before think twice before (doing sth)
before up before so
before use sth before sth
before We must learn to walk before
we can run.
before You have to eat a peck of dirt
before you die.
before beg beg for so/th
before beg of so
before beg off (on sth)
before beg from so/th
before beg sth of so
before beg sth off
before beg the question
before beg to differ (with so)
before go begging
before (I) beg your pardon, but...
before I'll have to beg off.
before beget Love begets love.
before beggar (all) description
before beggar Beggar can't be choosers.
before beggar If wishes were horses, then
beggars would ride.
before beggar Set a beggar on horseback, and
he'll ride to the devil.
before begin begin an all-out effort
before begin by doing sth
before begin to see daylight
before begin to see the light
before begin with so/sth
beginning of the end
before Charity begins at home.
before He that would the daughter win,
must with the mother first begin.
before He who begins many things,
finishes but few.
before He who would climb the ladder
must begin at the bottom.
before Life begins at forty.
beginner beginner's luck
beginning beginning of the end
beguile beguile so into sth
beguile beguile so out of sth
beguile beguile so with sth
begun Well begun is half done.
behalf in behalf of so
behave in so's behalf
behavior on one's best behavior
behavior time off for good behavior
behind behind bars
behind behind closed doors
behind behind schedule
behind behind so's back
behind behind the eight ball
behind behind the scenes
behind behind the times
behind Behind you!
behind burn one's bridges (behind one)
behind close ranks (behind so/th)
behind come from behind
behind come from behind
behind die behind the wheel
behind dodge behind sth
behind drag behind
behind drag sth behind one
behind driving force (behind so/th)
behind drag behind (behind sth)
behind drop behind (behind sth)
behind fall behind (in sth)
behind fall behind schedule
behind fall behind (so/th)
behind fall behind schedule
behind fall behind schedule
behind fall behind (so/th)
behind fall behind schedule
behind go behind so's back
behind hang behind (so/th)
behind hardy dry behind the ears
behind have so behind the eight ball
behind hide behind so/th
behind hide so/th behind sth
behind If two ride on a horse, one
must ride behind.
behind lag behind in sth
behind lag behind sth
behind leave so/sth behind
behind lie behind so/th
behind line so/sth up behind so/sth
behind line so up behind so/sth
behind line up behind so/th
behind march behind so/th
behind not dry behind the ears
behind peak out (from behind so/th)
behind place so/th behind so/th
behind power behind the throne
behind put so behind bars
behind put so behind the eight ball
behind put sth behind one
behind put sth so behind so/th
behind remain behind
behind run behind
behind serve as the driving force
(behind so/th)
behind sit behind so/th
behind slow behind sth
behind stand behind so/th
behind stay behind
behind stop behind so/th
behind trail behind (so/th)
behind wet behind the ears
behind with both hands tied behind
behind with one hand tied behind one's
back
better (I'd) better hit the road.
better (I'd) better get on my horse.
better (I'd) better hit the road.
better (I could) better.
better it is to be born lucky than rich.
better it is to be given to receive.
better It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.
better It is better to wear out than to rust out.
better (it's) better than nothing.
better (I've) got better things to do.
better (I've) never been better.
better (I've) seen better.
better I've seen better heads on nickel beers.
better know better (than to do sth).
better less said (about sth), the better.
better not better than (so/sth).
better one's better half.
better Prevention is better than cure.
better so much the better.
better So had better keep still about it.
better Something is better than nothing.
better sooner the better.
better take a turn for the better.
better (Things) could be better.
better (Things) couldn't be better.
better (Things) might be better.
better think better of so/sth.
better think better of sth.
better 'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.
better Two heads are better than one.
better You make a better door than you do a window.
better You're (You'd) better believe it!
better (You'd) better get moving.
better Betty all my eye (and Betty Martin)
between alternate between so and so else.
between arbitrate between so and so else.
between bad blood (between people).
between between a rock and a hard place.
between between jobs.
between between life and death.
between between projects.
between between so and so else.
between between sth and sth else.
between between the devil and the deep blue sea.
between between you (and) me and the bedpost.
between between you and me and these four walls.
between between betwixt and between.
between between choose between two people or things.
between between come between so and so else.
between between commute between places.
between between decide between so and so else.
between between differentiate between so/sth and so/sth else.
between between discern between so/sth and so/sth else.
between between discriminate between so and so else or sth and sth else.
between between distinguish between so/sth and so/sth else.
between between distribute sth between so.
between between divide sth between people or things.
between divide sth (up) (between so/sth).
between divided between sth.
between divided between sth.
between divvy sth up (between so).
between draw a line between sth and sth else.
between draw the line between sth and sth else.
between drive a wedge between so and so else.
between drive between sth and sth else.
between drive between sth and sth else.
between draw between sth and sth else.
between pull between sth and sth else.
between drive between two stools.
between few and far between.
between fluctuate between so and so else.
between fluctuate between sth and sth else.
between get between so/sth and so/sth else.
between go between so/sth and so/sth else.
between hedge between keeps.
between hit so (right) between the eyes.
between hover between sth and sth else.
between in between.
between in the interim (between things).
between insert sth between sth and sth else.
between interpolate so/sth between people or things.
between intersperse so/sth between sth else.
between intervene between so and so else.
between judge between so/sth and so/sth else.
between mediate between so and so else.
between migrate between some place and some place else.
between oscillate between so/sth and so/sth else.
between ply between sth and sth else.
between put some distance between so and oneself or sth.
between read between the lines.
between between run between sth and sth else.
between sandwich so/sth between people or things.
between slip between the cracks.
between split sth between (so and so else).
between stand between so/sth and so/sth else.
between step between so/sth and so/sth else.
between strike a balance (between two things).
between between take the bit between the teeth.
between between tell the difference between so and so else or sth and sth else.
between between There is a fine line between sth and sth else.
between between There is no love lost (between so and so else).
between between torn between so and so else.
between between vacillate between so and so else or sth and sth else.
between between vary between so and so else.
between between vary between sth and sth else.

betwixt and between.
best one's best shot.
best put one's best foot forward.
best Revenge is a dish best served cold.
best so's level best.
best Sunday best.
best (The) best of luck (to so).
best to the best of one's ability.
best to the best of one's knowledge.
best with the best will in the world.
best work out for the best.
bet bestow sth on so.
bet bet on so/sth.
bet bet one's bottom dollar.
bet bet one's life.
bet bet so dollars to doughnuts.
bet bet sth on so/sth.
bet bet the farm.
bet bet with so.
bet good bet.
bet hedge one's bets.
bet (I) wouldn't bet on it.
bet I'd bet money (on it).
bet I'll bet.
bet sure bet.
bet You bet!
bet You bet your boots!
bet You bet your (sweet) life!
bet You betcha!
bet You can bet the farm (on so/sth).
betcha You betcha!
betroth betroth so to so.
betsy crazy as a betsy bug.
betsy Heavens to Betsy!
better all better (now).
better bad excuse is better than none.
better Better be an old man's darling than a young man's slave.
better Better (be) safe than sorry.
better Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.
better Better keep still about it.
better Better late than never.
better Better left unsaid.
better Better Luck next time.
better better off (doing sth).
better better off (somewhere).
better Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know.
better Better build a better mousetrap.
better (damn) sight better.
better deserve better from so/sth.
better Discretion is the better part of valor.
better do so one better.
better Example is better than precept.
better for better or for worse.
better for the better.
better get better.
better go on to a better land.
better go (so) one better.
better Half a loaf is better than none.
better have seen better days.
better (I) could be better.
better (I) couldn't be better.
better (I'd) better be going.
better (I'd) better get moving.
better (I'd) better get on my horse.
better (I'd) better hit the road.
better (I) couldn't be better.
better it is better to be born lucky than rich.

813
between waver between so and so else
to between waver between sith and sith else
to between wedge so/soth (in) between people or things
between with one's tail between one's legs
betwixt betwixt and between
betwixt There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.
bevy bevy of beauties
beware Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.
beware beware of so/soth
beware Let the buyer beware.
beyond above and beyond (sith)
beyond back of the beyond
beyond beyond a reasonable doubt
beyond beyond help
beyond beyond me
beyond beyond measure
beyond beyond one's depth
beyond beyond one's ken
beyond beyond one's means
beyond beyond repair
beyond beyond some emotional response
beyond beyond so/soth
beyond beyond the pale
beyond beyond the shadow of a doubt
beyond beyond words
beyond one can't see beyond the end of one's nose
beyond go beyond and beyond one's duty
beyond go above and beyond (sith)
beyond go above and beyond the call of duty
beyond go beyond so/soth
beyond go beyond sith
beyond great sith
beyond lie beyond so/soth
beyond live beyond one's means
beyond look beyond so/soth
beyond move beyond so/soth
beyond see beyond sith
bias bias so against so/soth
bias on the bias
bib one's best bib and tucker
Bibles swear on a stack of Bibles
bicker bicker (with so) (about so/soth)
bid bid adieu to so/soth
bid bid adieu so/soth
bid bid adieu to sith
bid bid sith
bid bid so/soth for sith
bid bid sith on sith
bid bid sith up
bid do so's bidding
bidding do so's bidding
bide bide one's time
big Big and bold
Big Big Apple
big big around as a molasses barrel
big big as all outdoors
big big as life (and twice as ugly)
big big break
big big bucks
big big drink of water
big big eye
big big frog in a small pond
big big hand for sith
big (big) head
big big man on campus
big big moment
big big of so
big big picture
big big send-off
Big Big with so
big bigger than life (and twice as ugly)
big bigger they are, the harder they fall.
big biggest frog in the puddle
big biggest toad in the puddle
big bite the big one
big buy the big one
big cut a big swath
big go over big (with so)
big have a big mouth
big have a bigger fish to fry
big in a big way
big know the big picture
big Like it's such a big deal!
big Little pitchers have big ears.
big make a big deal about sith
big make a (big) stink (about so/soth)
big make it big
big no big deal
big no biggie
big one's eyes are bigger than one's stomach
big play a big part (in sith)
big play in the big leagues
big raise a (big) stink (about so/soth)
big see the big picture
big show so the big picture
big talk big
big too big for one's britches
big What's the (big) idea?
biggier bigger than life (and twice as ugly)
biggier bigger they are, the harder they fall.
bigger have bigger fish to fry
bigger one's eyes are bigger than one's stomach
biggest biggest frog in the puddle
biggest biggest toad in the puddle
biggie no biggie
bike On your bike!
bilk bilk so out of sith
bill bill bill for sith
bill clean bill of health
bill Could I have the bill?
bill fill the bill
bill fit the bill
bill foot the bill (for sith)
bill pad the bill
bill phosphor as a three-dollar bill
bill queer as a three-dollar bill
bill sell so a bill of goods
billow billow out
bind bind so/soth down
bind bind so/soth together
bind bind so/soth up (in sith)
bind bind so/soth up (with sith)
bind bind so/soth over (to so/soth)
bind find oneself in a bind
bind in a bind
bingle bingle and purge
bingle go on a bingle
bird bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
bird bird's-eye view
bird birds and the bees
bird Birds in their little nests agree.
bird Birds of a feather flock together.
bird early bird
bird early bird catches the worm.
bird eat like a bird
bird Fine feathers make fine birds.
black black as a skillet
black black as one is painted
black black as pitch
black black as the ace of spades
black black eye
black black mark beside one's name
black black out
black black sheep of the family
black black sith out
black black-and-blue
black devil is not so black as he is painted.
black get sth down (in black and white)
black in black and white
black in the black
black pitch black
black pot is calling the kettle black.
black put sth down in black and white
black set sth down in black and white
black That's the pot calling the kettle black.
blackmail blackmail so into doing sth
blame accept the blame for sth
blame bear the blame for sth
blame blame for sth
blame blame so for sth
blame blame sth on so
blame lay the blame (for sth) on so
blame lay the blame on so/so
blame place the blame on so/so (for sth)
blame put the blame on so/so
blame shoulder the blame for sth
blame take the blame (for doing sth)
blank blank at sth
blank blank with sth
blanche blank with
cartes blanches
cartes blank
blank blank out
blank draw a blank
blank Fill in the blanks.
blank give so a blank check
blank give so a blank look
blank give so a blank stare
blank go blank
blanket blanket so/so with sth
blanket born on the wrong side of the blanket
blanket eyes like two burnt holes in a blanket
blend blend in (with so/so)
blend blend in(to sth)
blend blend sth into sth else
blend blend sth together (with sth)
bleed Bless one's lucky star.
bleed Bless one's stars.
bleed bless so/so with sth
bleed bless event
bleed Blesses is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.
bleed blessing in disguise
bleed It is more blessed to give than to receive.
bleed thankful for small blessings
bleed with my blessing
bleedings blessing in disguise
bleeding with my blessing
bleedings thankful for small blessings
bleed out
bleed on the land
blight blight on the land
blimp blimp out
blimp Have a blimp!
blind blind as a bat
blind blind leading the blind
blind blind luck
blind blind so to sth
blind case of the blind leading the blind
blind go up a blind alley
blind In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.
blind like a blind dog in a meat market
blind like stealing acorns from a blind pig
blind Love is blind.
blind Men are blind in their own cause.
blind nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.
blind rob so blind
blind There's none so blind as those who will not see.
blind turn a blind eye (to so/so)
blind up a blind alley
blindfolded able to do so/so blindfolded
blind blink at sth
blink blink one's tears back
blink on the blink
bliss bliss out
bliss bliss so out
bliss ignite bliss
bliss Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly
blitz blitz so out
blitz blitzed out
block block so/so in some place
block block so up
block block new kid on the block
block block sth out
block block sth up
block chip off the old block
block go on the block
block knock so's block off
block mental block (against sth)
block New kid on the block
block on the block
block put one's head on the block (for so/so)
block stumbling block
block writer's block
blood bad blood (between people)
blood blood and guts
blood Blood is thicker than water.
blood blood, sweat, and tears
blood Blood will have blood.
blood Blood will tell
blood bloody but unbowed
blood blue blood
blood cry bloody murder
blood curdle so's blood
blood draw blood
blood flesh and blood
blood fresh blood
blood get so's blood up
blood have so's blood on one's hands
blood Hell's bells (and buckets of blood!)
blood in cold blood
blood in one's blood
blood in the blood
blood make so's blood boil
blood make so's blood run cold
blood out for blood
blood own flesh and blood
blood red as blood
blood scream bloody murder
blood smell blood
blood (some) new blood
blood sweat blood
blood take so's blood pressure
blood taste blood
blood too rich for so's blood
blood yell bloody murder
blood You cannot get blood from a stone.
blood You Cannot get blood from a turnip.
bloody bloody but unbowed
bloody cry bloody murder
bloody cry bloody murder
bloody scream bloody murder
bloody yell bloody murder
bloom come into bloom
bloom come out in bloom
bloom in bloom
bloom late bloomer
bloom out in bloom
blossom blossom
blossom blossom out
blossom blossom out (out in blossom)
blossom blossom into sth
blossom blossom out
blossom bring sth into blossom
blossom come into blossom
blossom come out in bloom
blossom in blossom
blossom in blossom
blossom out (in blossom)
blot blot on the landscape
blot blot so/so out
blot blot so out
blot blot sth out
blow blow a bundle (on so)
blow blow a fuse
blow blow away
blow blow hot and cold
blow blow in
blow blow in(to some place) (from some place)
blow blow into sth
blow Blow it out your ear!
blow blow itself out
blow blow off
blow Blow on it!
blow blow on sth
blow blow one's cookies
blow blow one's cool
blow blow one's cork
blow blow one's fuse
blow blow one's groceries
blow blow one's lid
blow blow one's lines
blow blow (one's) lunch
blow blow one's nose
blow blow one's own horn
blow blow one's stack
blow blow one's top
blow blow over
blow blow so a kiss
blow blow so away
blow blow so off
blow blow so/th away
blow blow so/th down
blow blow so/th off
blow blow so/th out of the water
blow blow so/th over
blow blow so/th to bits
blow blow so/th to kingdom come
blow blow so/th to pieces
blow blow so/th to smithereens
blow blow so up
blow blow so out
blow blow so over
blow blow so's brains out
blow blow so's cover
blow blow so's doors off
blow blow so's mind
blow blow so to sth
blow blow so's
blow blow so's out
blow blow so's out of
blow blow so's to
blow blow so's to smithereens
blow blow so's up
blow blow so wide open
blow blow the joint
blow blow the lid off (sth)
blow blow the whistle (on so)
blow blow up
blow blow-by-blow account
blow blow-by-blow description
blow blown (up)
blow come to blows (over so/sth)
blow have a blowout
blow It blows my mind!
blow It's an ill wind that blows nobody (any) good.
blow land a blow
blow *out of (all) proportion
blow see which way the wind is blowing
blown blown (up)
blow out have a blowout
blue between the devil and the deep blue sea
blue black-and-blue
blue blue around the gills
blue blue blood
blue blue collar
blue blues
blue bolt from the blue
blue burn with a low blue flame
blue come out of a clear blue sky
blue come out of the blue
blue cuss a blue streak
blue Damn it to blue blazing!
blue feel blue
blue in a (blue) funk
blue like a bolt from the blue
blue like a bolt out of the blue
blue once in a blue moon
blue screwed, blue'd, and tattooed
blue talk a blue streak
blue talk until one is blue in the face
blue blues
bluff bluff one's way out (of sth)
bluff bluff so into sth
bluff bluff so out (of sth)
bluff call so's bluff
blurt blurt sth out (at so)
blush at first blush
blush blush with sth
boar crazy as a peach-orchard boar
board aboveboard
board across the board
board back to the drawing board
board board so or an animal out
board board sth up
board board with so
board flat as a board
board go back to the drawing board
board go by the board
board on board
board room and board
boast boast about so/sth
boast nothing to boast about
boat in the same boat (as)
boat just off the boat
boat miss the boat
boat rock the boat
bob No siree(, Bob!)
boke Yes siree,( Bob!)
boode bode somehow for so/sth
bodily bodily functions
body arrive someplace in a body
body bodily functions
body body politic
body enough to keep body and soul together
body go in a body
body in a body
body keep body and soul together
body know where all the bodies are buried
body leave in a body
body Over my dead body!
body put weight on some part of the body
body reach someplace in a body
body travel in a body
body warm body
boig bogy down
boig booged down
boggle boggle at sth
boggle boggle so's mind
boil boil down to sth
boil boil over
boil boil sth away
boil boil sth down
boil boil sth out
boil boil sth up
boil boil with sth
boil bring so to a boil
boil bring sth to a boil
boil come to a boil
boil have a low boiling point
boil make so's blood boil
boil watched pot never boils.
bold be so bold as to do sth
bold big and bold
bold bold as brass
bold Fortune favors the bold.  
bold make so bold as to do sth
bollix bollix sth up
bolster bolster so up
bolster bolster sth up
bolt bolt from the blue
bolt bolt out (of some place)
bolt bolt sth down
bolt get down to the nuts and bolts
bolt like a bolt from the blue
bolt like a bolt out of the blue
bolt make a bolt for so/sth
bolt nuts and bolts
bolt Shut the stable door after the horse has bolted.
bolt sit bolt upright
bomb bomb out (of sth)
bomb bomb so out
bomb bomb sth out
bomb drop a bomb(shell)
bomb bombshell drop a bomb(shell)
bombshell explode a bombshell
bond one's word is one's bond
bone (all) skin and bones
bone bag of bones
bone bare-bones
bone bone of contention
bone bone up (on sth)
bone chilled to the bone
bone crazy bone
bone cut so to the bone
bone cut sth to the bone
bone dry as a bone
bone feel sth in one's bones
bone funny bone
bone Hard words break no bones.
bone have a bone to pick (with so)
bone know sth in one's bones
bone Make no bones about it.
bone nothing but skin and bones
bone pull a bone
bone Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.
bone work one's fingers to the bone
boner pull a boner
bonkers drive so bonkers
bonnet bee in one's bonnet
bonnet put a bee in so's bonnet (about so/sth)
boo boo so off the stage
boo can't say boo to a goose
booby booby prize
boogie boogie down (to somewhere)
book bell, book, and candle
book book (on) out
book book so on sth
book book so through (to some place)
book book sth up
book by the book
book close the books on so/sth
book coffee-table book
book cook the books
book crack a book
book cuddle up with a (good) book
book curl up (with a good) book
book do sth by the book
book Don't judge a book by its cover.
book go by the book
book Good Book
book have one's name inscribed in the book of life
book have one's nose in a book
book hit the books
book in one's book
book (like) an open book
book make book on sth
book on the books
Neither a borrower nor a live on borrowed time

borrow

borrow trouble

born

not born yesterday

borrow

borrow sth from so

borrow

borrow trouble

borrow live on borrowed time

borrow Neither a borrower nor a lender be.
brake break in (on sth)
brake break into a gallop
break break into sth
break break into (of sth or some place)
break break in(to) tears
break Break it up!
break Break loose (from so)
break break new ground
break break off (from sth)
break break off (with so)
break break one’s arm patting oneself on the back
break break one’s back (to do sth)
break break one’s balls to do sth
break break one’s habit
break break one’s neck (to do sth)
break break one’s stride
break break one’s word
break break out
break break over sth
break break silence
break break so down
break break so in
break break soth of sth
break break so’s balls
break break so’s fall
break break so’s heart
break break so’s stones
break break so up
break break sth away (from sth)
break break sth down
break break sth free (from sth)
break break sth in
break break sth loose from sth
break break sth off (of) sth
break break sth on sth
break break sth out (of sth)
break break sth to pieces
break break so to so
break break sth up
break break sth off
break break the back of sth
break break the bank
break break the habit
break break the ice
break break the law
break break the news (to so)
break break the silence
break break the spell
break break through (of sth)
break break through (to so/th)
break break up
break break (up) (into sth)
break break wind
break break with so
break breaking and entering
break breaking point
break break broken dreams
break broken reed
break cut so a break
break dead broke
break die of a broken heart
break even break
break flat broke
break Gimme a break!
break Give me a break!
break go broke
break go for broke
break Hard words break no bones.
break ignorance (of the law) is no excuse (for breaking it).
break lucky break
break make a break for so/th
break make or break so
break (nervous) breakdown
break nice break
break Promises are like piecruet, made to be broken.
break sound like a broken record
break Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.
break straw that broke the camel’s back
break take a break
break take one’s break
break tough break
break You cannot make an omelet without breaking eggs.
breakdown (nervous) breakdown
breakfast bed-and-breakfast
breakfast from hell to breakfast
breakfast have so for breakfast
breakfast Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper.
breakfast shoot one’s breakfast
breakfast Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before night.
breakfast will eat so for breakfast
break Hope springs eternal (in the human breast).
bread make a clean breast of sth (to so)
bread (all) in one breath
bread breath of fresh air
bread catch one’s breath
curse so/th under one’s breath
curse under one’s breath
Don’t hold your breath.
break Don’t waste your breath.
bread gasp for breath
break hold one’s breath
break I don’t have time to catch my breath.
bread in the same breath
break matter sth under one’s breath
break out of breath
break save one’s breath
break say sth under one’s breath
break take so’s breath away
break time to catch one’s breath
break under one’s breath
break waste one’s breath
break with bated breath
break with every (other) breath
breathe able to breathe (easily) again
breathe able to breathe (freely) again
breathe As I live and breathe!
breathe breathe a sigh of relief
breathe breathe down (so’s) neck
breathe breathe easy
breathe breathe in
breathe breathe into sth
breathe breathe one’s last
breathe breathe out
breathe breathe sth in
breathe breathe sth into sth
breathe breathe sth (of sth) (to so)
breathe breathe sth out
breathe breathe (up) on so/th
breathe Don’t breathe a word of this to anyone.
breathe hardly have time to breathe
breathe I don’t have time to breathe.
breathe (I) won’t breathe a word (of it).
breathe not breathe a word (about so/oth)
breathe not breathe a word of it
breathe scarcely have time to breathe
bred born and bred
bred born and bred
bred Breeding will tell.
breed Familiarity breeds contempt.
breed Like breeds like.
breeze breeze along
breeze breeze away
breeze breeze in (from some place)
breeze breeze in(to some place)
breeze breeze off
breeze breeze out (of some place)
breeze breeze through (to)
breeze bright and breezy
breeze fan the breeze
breeze shoot the breeze
breezy bright and breezy
brevity Brevity is the soul of wit.
brew brew a plot
brew brew up
brew brew up
brew storm is brewing.
brew suck (some) brew
brew There is trouble brewing.
brew Trouble is brewing.
bride bridle so into doing sth
brick brick one's head against a brick wall
brick brick sth up
brick bricks and mortar
brick brick(s)-and-mortar
brick built like a brick outhouse
brick drop a brick
brick fall like a ton of bricks
brick fall like a ton of bricks
brick fall like a ton of bricks
brick fall like a ton of bricks
brick head against a brick
brick head against a brick
brick head against a brick
brick head against a brick
brick make bricks without straw
brick give the bride away
bride Happy is the bride that the sun shines on.
bridge bridge over sth
bridge bridge the gap
bridge burn one's bridges (behind one)
bridge burn one's bridges in front of one
bridge cross a bridge before one comes to it
bridge cross that bridge when one comes to it
bridge water under the bridge
bridle bridle at so/ith
brief Brevity is the soul of wit.
brief brief so about so/ith
brief hold no brief for so/ith
brief in brief
bright bright and breezy
bright bright and early
bright bright as a button
bright bright as a new pin
bright bright idea
bright brighten up
bright bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
bright look on the bright side
bright on the bright side
bright One's future looks bright.
brim brim over (with sth)
brim brim with sth
brim brimming with sth
brim filled to the brim
bring April showers bring May flowers.
bring bring a charge against so/ith
bring bring a dog to heel
bring bring a verdict in
bring bring an amount of money in
bring bring down the curtain (on sth)
bring bring home the bacon
bring bring one out of one's shell
bring bring one to one's feet
bring bring one to one's senses
bring bring one to oneself
bring bring out the best in so
bring bring so around
bring bring so back out
bring bring so back to reality
bring bring so before so/ith
bring bring so down
bring bring so in (on sth)
bring bring so into the world
bring bring so on
bring bring so or an animal back to life
bring bring so/ith along (to sth)
bring bring so/ith back
bring bring so/ith forth
bring bring so/ith forward
bring bring so/ith in
bring bring so/ith into action
bring bring so/ith into contact with so/ith
bring bring so/ith into disrepute
bring bring so/ith into line (with so/ith)
bring bring so/ith into prominence
bring bring so/ith in(to) some place
bring bring so/ith into view
bring bring so/ith out
bring bring so/ith to a halt
bring bring so/ith to life
bring bring so/ith to light
bring bring so/ith to so's attention
bring bring so/ith to trial
bring bring so/ith under control
bring bring so/ith under one's control
bring bring so/ith under so/ith
bring bring so/ith up
bring bring so/ith up-to-date
bring bring so/ith within range (of so/ith)
bring bring so out of the closet
bring bring so out (on sth)
bring bring so over from some place
bring bring so over (to some place)
bring bring so over to sth
bring bring so through sth
bring bring so to
bring bring so together
bring bring so up for sth
bring bring so up on sth
bring bring so up sharply
bring bring so up short
bring bring so up to speed on so/ith
bring bring so up-to-date (on so/ith)
bring bring sth about
bring bring sth all together
bring bring sth around (to so/ith)
bring bring sth away (from sth)
bring bring sth back
bring bring sth before so/ith
bring bring sth crashing down (around one)
bring bring sth down
bring bring sth home to so
bring bring sth into being
bring bring sth into blossom
bring bring sth into focus
bring bring sth into play
bring bring sth into question
bring bring sth into service
bring bring sth off
bring bring sth on
bring bring sth out
bring bring sth to a boil
bring bring sth to a climax
bring bring sth to a close
bring bring sth to a dead end
bring bring sth to a head
bring bring sth to a standstill
bring bring sth to a successful conclusion
bring bring sth to an end
bring bring sth to fruition
bring bring sth to its feet
bring bring sth to light
bring bring sth to mind
bring bring sth to rest
bring bring sth to so's aid
bring bring sth to so's attention
bring bring sth to the fore
bring bring sth together
bring bring sth up
bring bring sth (up) on oneself
bring bring sth with
bring bring sth within a range
bring bring the house down
bring bring up to date
bring bring up to date
bring I wasn't brought up in the woods to be scared by owls.
bring *out in the open
bring *out of the closet
bring That brings me to the (main) point
bring *up to speed
bring *up to the minute
bring What brings you here?
bring which brings me to the (main) point
bring worth of a thing is what it will bring
brink drive so to the brink
brink on the brink (of doing sth)
bristle bristle at sth
bristle bristle with anger
bristle bristle with rage
britches too big for one's britches
britches wear the britches (in the family)
broaden broaden sth with so
broad broad as a barn door
broad broad in the beam
broad broaden out
broad broaden sth out
broad can't find one's butt with both hands (in broad daylight)
broad can't hit the (broad) side of a barn
broad have broad shoulders
broad hit the (broad) side of a barn
broad in broad daylight
broad Travel broadens the mind.
broaden broaden out
broaden broaden sth out
| but Many are called but few are chosen. | by by check |
| but mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken. | by by choice |
| but no guts about it | by by coincidence |
| but no ifs, ands, or buts (about it) | by By cracky! |
| but None but the brave deserve the fair. | by by day |
| but nothing but | by by dint of sth |
| but Nothing is certain but death and taxes. | by by fits and starts |
| but Nothing is certain but the unforeseen. | by by force of habit |
| but Nothing so bad but (it) might have been worse. | by By godfrey! |
| but Opportunity knocks but once. | by by guess and by golly |
| but poor but clean | by by hand |
| but saddler but wiser | by by herself |
| but separate but equal | by by hook or (by) crook |
| but slow but sure | by by itself |
| but slowly but surely | by by leaps and bounds |
| but spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. | by by main strength and awkwardness |
| but Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. | by by means of sth |
| but Thanks, but no thanks. | by by mistake |
| but There but for the grace of God (go I). | by by myself |
| but Two is company, (but) three’s a crowd. | by by night |
| but You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink. | by by no means |
| but Young men may die, but old men must die. | by by oneself |
| butler The butler did it. | by by ourselves |
| butt butt one’s butt to do sth | by by return mail |
| butt butt in (on so/so) | by by return post |
| butt butt into sth | by by rote |
| butt butt of a joke | by by shank’s mare |
| butt butt out | by by the book |
| butt butt (up) against so/so | by by the day |
| butt can’t find one’s butt with both hands (in broad daylight) | by by the dozen |
| butt get off one’s butt | by by the dozens |
| butt hot enough to burn a polar bear’s butt | by by the end of the day |
| butt If frogs had wheels, they wouldn’t bump their butts. | by by the handful |
| butt kick butt | by by the hour |
| butt kick in the butt | by by the month |
| butt bread always falls on the buttered side. | by by the nape of the neck |
| butter bread-and-butter letter | by by the numbers |
| butter butter so up | by by the same token |
| butter Butter wouldn’t melt (in so’s mouth). | by by the seat of one’s pants |
| butter Fine words butter no parsnips. | by by the skin of one’s teeth |
| butter happy as a clam (in butter sauce) | by by the sweat of one’s brow |
| butter know which side one’s bread is buttered on | by by the unit |
| butter look as if butter wouldn’t melt in one’s mouth | by by the way |
| butter one’s (butter and) egg money | by by the week |
| butter’s bread and butter | by by the year |
| butterfly butterflies in one’s stomach | by by themselves |
| butterfly gaudy as a butterfly | by by virtue of sth |
| button bright as a button | by by way of sth |
| button button sth down | by by word of mouth |
| button button sth up | by by yourself |
| button button up | by by yourselves |
| button button (up) one’s lip | by by call so by a name |
| button Dad fetch my buttons! | by by catch so by surprise |
| button hit the panic button | by by cheek by jowl |
| button on the button | by by come by (same place) |
| button press the panic button | by by come by sth |
| button push the panic button | by by come by sth honestly |
| button Well, bust my buttons! | by by conspicuous by one’s absence |
| buttress buttress sth up | by by continue by doing sth |
| buy buy a pig in a poke | by by copy sth out (by hand) |
| buy buy a round (of drinks) | by by Could I get by, please? |
| buy buy in(to sth) | by by creep by |
| buy buy it | by by crushed by sth |
| buy buy one’s way in(to sth) | by by delight so by sth |
| buy buy one’s way out of (of sth) | by by Desires are nourished by delays. |
| buy buy some food to go | by by die by one’s own hand |
| buy buy so off | by by die by sth |
| buy buy so/sth out | by by divide by sth |
| buy buy so’s wolf ticket | by by divide sth by sth |
| buy by sth | by Do as you would be done by. |
| buy buy sth at sth | by by do somehow by so |
| buy buy sth back (from so) | by by do something by so |
| buy buy sth for a song | by by do something by so |
| buy buy sth (from so) (for sth) | by by do something by so |
| buy buy sth on credit | by by do something by so |
| buy buy sth on time | by by do something by so |
| buy buy sth out | by by do something by so |
| buy buy sth sight unseen | by by do something by so |
| buy buy sth up | by by do something by so |
| buy buy the big one | by by do something by so |
| buy buy the farm | by by do something by so |
| buy buy the next round (of drinks) | by by do something by so |
| buy buy time | by by do something by so |
| buy buy trouble | by by do something by so |
| buy (Could I) buy you a drink? | by by do something by so |
| buy *for a song | by by do something by so |
| buy Let the buyer beware. | by by do something by so |
| buy not buy sth | by by do something by so |
| buy *to go | by by do something by so |
| buy Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap? | by by do something by so |
| buy Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free? | by by do something by so |
| buzz buzz along | by by do something by so |
| buzz buzz for sth | by by do something by so |
| buzz buzz in(to some place) | by by do something by so |
| buzz buzz off | by by do something by so |
| buzz buzz so into a place | by by do something by so |
| buzz with sth | by by do something by so |
| buzz get a buzz out of so/sth | by by do something by so |
| buzz give a so buzz | by by do something by so |
| buzz have a buzz on | by by do something by so |
| buzz What’s buzzin’ (cousin)? | by by do something by so |
| by abide by sth | by by do something by so |
| by accompanied by sth | by by do something by so |
| by all by one’s lonesome | by by do something by so |
| by begin by doing sth | by by do something by so |
| by benefit by sth | by by do something by so |
| by bitten by the same bug | by by do something by so |
| by blow-by-blow account | by by do something by so |
| by blow-by-blow description | by by do something by so |
| by brush by so/sth | by by do something by so |
| by by a hair’s breadth) | by by do something by so |
| by by a mile | by by do something by so |
| by by a show of hands | by by do something by so |
| by by a whisker | by by do something by so |
| by by all accounts | by by do something by so |
| by by all appearances | by by do something by so |
| by by all means | by by do something by so |
| by by and by | by by do something by so |
| by by and large | by by do something by so |
| by by ankle express | by by do something by so |
| by by any means | by by do something by so |
| by by any stretch of the imagination | by by do something by so |
| by by brute strength | by by do something by so |
| by by chance | by by do something by so |

822
calculate calculate on sth
calculate calculate sth into sth
call kill the cattle and call
call answer the call
call at sth's beck and call
call a halt to sth
call a meeting
call a spade a spade
call Call again.
call call (all) the shots
call call around (about so/sth)
call call at some place
call call attention to so/sth
call back
call call for so/sth
call call horns
call call in sick
call call in (to some place)
call call it a day
call call it a night
call call it quits
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
call Call no man happy till he dies.
call Call my service.
cannot (I) can’t say that I do.
cannot (I) can’t say (as) I do.
cannot I can’t get over
cannot (I) can’t argue with that.
cannot (I) can’t beat that.
cannot I can’t believe (that)!
cannot (I) can’t complain.
cannot I can’t get over sth!
cannot (I) can’t help it.
cannot (I) can’t rightly say.
cannot (I) can’t say (as) I do.
cannot (I) can’t say (as) I have.
cannot (I) can’t say for sure.
cannot (I) can’t say’s I do.
cannot (I) can’t say’s I have.
cannot (I) can’t say that I do.
cannot (I) can’t say that I have.
cannot (I) can’t thank you enough.
cannot (I) can’t top that.
cannot (I) would if I could,( but I can’t).
cannot If you can’t be good, be careful.
cannot If you can’t beat them, join them.
cannot If you can’t lick ’em, join ’em.
cannot If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.
cannot (I) can’t be helped.
cannot leopard cannot change his spots.
cannot make an offer one cannot refuse cannot make one an offer one cannot refuse
cannot mill cannot grind with water that is past.
cannot Never make a threat you cannot carry out.
cannot offer one cannot refuse cannot One cannot be in two places at once.
cannot One cannot love and be wise.
cannot Those who can, do; those who can’t, teach.
cannot What can’t be cured must be endured.
cannot What’s done cannot be undone.
cannot You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.
cannot You cannot get a quart into a pint pot.
cannot You cannot get blood from a stone.
cannot You cannot get blood from a turnip.
cannot You cannot have your cake and eat it (too).
cannot You cannot lose what you never had.
cannot You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear.
cannot You cannot make an omelet without breaking eggs.
cannot You cannot make bricks without straw.
cannot You cannot please everyone.
cannot You cannot put new wine in old bottles.
cannot You cannot serve God and mammon.
cannot You cannot teach an old dog new tricks.
cannot (You) cannot beat that.
cannot You cannot expect me to believe that.
cannot (You) can’t fight city hall.
cannot (You) can’t get there from here.
cannot You can’t mean that!
cannot (You) can’t take it with you.
cannot you can’t tell a book by its cover.
cannot (You) can’t top that.
cannot (You) can’t win them all.
cannot ope your own canoe
cap cap and gown
cap feather in one’s cap
cap put a cap on sth
cap put one’s thinking cap on
capable capable of doing sth
capacity Genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains.
capitalize capitalize on sth
capillitate capillitate to so/sth
capitan captain of industry
capture capture s(0)’s imagination
car wrap one’s ear around sth
card card
card card-carrying member
card cards are stacked against one
card deal the race card
card drawing card
card few cards short of a deck
card few cards shy of a full deck
card have the cards stacked against one
card hold all the cards
card in the cards
card keep one’s cards close to one’s vest
card lay one’s cards on the table
card Lucky at cards, unlucky in love.
card play one’s cards close to one’s chest
card play one’s cards right
card play one’s cards well
card play one’s trump card
card play the race card
card put one’s cards on the table
card see sth in the cards
card stack the cards (against so/sth)
card the race card
card use the race card
care care about so/sth
care care for so/sth
care care for sth
care care nothing about so/sth
care care nothing for so/sth
care care to do sth
care could(n’t) care less
care devil-may-care attitude
care devil-may-care manner
care didn’t care a whit
care didn’t care too hard
care (Do you) care if I join you?
care doesn’t care who knows it
care don’t care a whit
care for all I care
care (I) could(n’t) care less.
care I don’t care.
care (I) don’t care if I do.
care in care of so

care in so’s care
care in the care of so
care (just) taking care of business
care leave so/sth on one’s care

care leave so/sth in the care of so

care leave so/sth under so’s care

care not have two hoots about so/sth
care not have a care in the world
care past caring
care place so/sth in so’s care

care place so/sth into the care of so

care place so/sth under so’s care
care See if I care!
care Take care.
care take care of number one

care take care of numero uno

care take care of so

care take care of sth
care Take care (of yourself).
care That takes care of that.
care under so’s care
care Who cares?
care (Would you) care for another (one)?
care (Would you) care to...?
care (Would you) care to dance?
cart

cast-iron stomach

cast

die is cast.
cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast

cast
catch catch so(sth in sth)
catch catch so out
catch catch so red-handed
catch catch so’s eye
catch catch so up in sth
catch catch so up (on so/sth)
catch catch so up short
catch catch so with sth
catch catch sth
catch catch sth from so
catch catch sth on sth
catch catch sth up in sth
catch catch the devil
catch catch the next wave
catch catch to it
catch catch up (on so/sth)
catch catch up (on sth)
catch catch up (to so/sth)
catch catch up with so
catch catch up with (with so/sth)
catch catch wind of sth
catch catch-as-catch-can
catch catch caught in the act
catch caught in the crossfire
catch caught short
catch caught unaware(s)
catch caught up in sth
First catch your hare.
catch I didn’t catch the name.
catch I didn’t (quite) catch that (last) remark.
catch I don’t have time to catch my breath.
catch If you run after two hare’s, you
will catch neither.
catch (I’ll) catch you later.
catch (I’ll) try to catch you later.
catch (I’ll) try to catch you some other
time.
catch not let so catch so doing sth
catch not want to catch so doing sth
catch Set a thief to catch a thief.
catch time to catch one’s breath
catch try up with so
catch What’s the catch?
catch *whiff of sth
catch would not be caught dead (doing sth)
catch You can catch more flies with
honey than with vinegar.
catch You must lose a fly to catch a
tROUT.
catches eat in gloves catches no mice.
catches early bird catches the worm.
cater cater to so/sth
catche caught in the act
catche caught in the crossfire
catche caught short
catche caught unaware(s)
catche caught up in sth
catche would not be caught dead (doing sth)
cause cause a commotion
cause cause hard feelings
cause cause lean times (ahead)
cause cause qualms (about so/sth)
cause cause (quite) a stir
cause cause (some) eyebrows to raise
cause cause some raised eyebrows
cause cause (some) tongues to wag
cause give cause for sth
cause have cause to do sth
cause lost cause
cause Men are blind in their own
cause. (That causes) no problem.
cause caution caution so about so/sth
cause caution throw caution to the wind
cave cave in
cavil cavil at so
cause cease cease and desist
cause Wonders never cease!
cede cede sth to so
closing hit the ceiling
celebrate celebrate so for an
accomplishment
cement cement sth on
cement cement sth on(to) sth
cement cement sth together
censure censure so (for sth)
cent He wears a ten-dollar hat on a
five-cent head.
cent not worth a red cent
cent put one’s two cents’ (worth) in
center center around so/sth
center center of attention
center center on so/sth
center center sth on so/sth
center center sth on(to) sth
center dead center
center off center
center on dead center
central busy as Grand Central Station
century turn of the century
c ‘cept did everything he could ‘cept eat
us
ceremony Don’t stand on ceremony.
ceremony stand on ceremony
certain certain party
certain certain sure
certain Certainly not!
certain dead certain
certain in no uncertain terms
certain make certain of sth
certain Nothing is certain but death
and taxes.
certain Nothing is certain but the
unforeseen
-certainly Certainly not!
chafe chafe at sth
chaff separate the wheat from the
chaff
chain ball and chain
chain chain is no stronger than its
weakest link.
chain chain of command
chain chain so or an animal up
chain chain so/sth down
chain chain sth to sth
chain chain sth up
chain weak link (in the chain)
chain yank so’s chain
chair grab a chair
chair keep one’s chair
chair play first chair
chair Pull up a chair.
chair chalk chalk sth out
chair chalk chalk sth up
chair challenge challenge so on sth
chair challenge challenge so to sth
chair challenge hygienically challenged
chair challenge rise to the challenge
chair challenge take up the challenge
champ champ at the bit
chance by chance
chance chance sth
chance chance (up) on so/sth
chance chances are
chance fancy so’s chances
chance fat chance
chance fighting chance
chance ghost of a chance
chance Give me a chance!
chance last chance (for sth)
chance leave sth to chance
chance let the chance slip by
chance Not a chance!
chance not have a snowball’s chance
in hell
chance off chance
chance on the off chance
chance once-in-a-lifetime chance
chance slim chance
chance sporting chance
chance stand a chance (of doing sth)
chance take a chance
chance (There is) no chance.
chance when you get a chance
chance You pay your money and you
takes your chance(s).
change and change
change change back (from sth)
change change back ((in)to so/sth)
change change hands
change change horses in midstream
change change horses in the middle of the
stream
change change into so/sth
change change (of life)
change change of pace
change change of scene
change change off
change change out of sth
change change over (from so/sth) (to
so/sth)
change change places with so
change change so/sth into so/sth
change change so’s mind
change change so’s tune
change change sth back
change change sth with so
change change the channel
change change the subject
change change to sth
change chunk of change
change Don’t change horses in
midstream.
change *for the better
change go through the changes
change have a change of heart
change (Have you) changed your
mind?
change (I) changed my mind.
change I felt like a penny waiting for
change.
change (It’s) time for a change.
change leopard cannot change his
spots.
change make change (for so) (for sth)
change sea change
change small change
change Times are changing.
change Times and we with time.
change Times change, people
change.
change You changed your mind?
channel change the channel
channel channel sth in(to sth)
Cheats never prosper.

Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap?

Talk is cheap.
chink chink in one's armor
chip bargaining chip
chip cash (one's chips) in
chip chip away
chip chip (away) at sth
chip chip in (on sth) (for so)
chip chip off the old block
chip chip on one's shoulder
chip chip sth away (from sth)
chip chip sth in (on sth)
chip chips and dip
chip cow chip
chip in the chips
chip Let the chips fall where they may.
chip when the chips are down
chisel chisel in (on so/sth)
chisel chisel so out of sth
chock chock full of sth
choice by choice
choice Hobson's choice
choir preach to the choir
choke choke on sth
choke choke so off
choke choke so up
choke choke sth back
choke choke sth down
choke choke sth off
choke choke sth up
choke choke up
chomp chomp at the bit
chose Beggar's can't be choosers.
choose choose among so/sth
choose choose between two people or
choose choose from so/sth
choose choose so as sth
choose choose so/sth for sth
choose choose sth for so
choose choose (up) sides
choose Many are called but few are
choose anything to choose from
choose pick and choose
chop chop so off
chop chop so/sth (up) (in(to) sth)
chop chop sth back
chop chop sth down
chop chop sth off (of) sth
chop chop one's chops
chord strike a chord (with so)
chortle chortle about so/sth
chortle chortle with sth
chosen Many are called but few are
chosen
chow chow (st)h down
Christmas cancel so's Christmas
Christmas Christmas comes but once a
chuck chuck it in
chuck chuck so/sth away
chuck chuck so out of some place
chuck chuck so under the chin
chuck chuck sth away
chuck chuck sth down
chuck chuck sth into sth
chuck chuck sth over sth
chuck chuck sth up
chuckle chuckle about so/sth
chuckle chuckle with sth
chug chug along
chum chum up to so
chun chum up with so
chunk chunk of change
chunk chunk sth
church Church ain't out till they quit
singing.
church church key
church nearer the church, the farther
from God.
church poor as a church mouse
church quiet as (a church) mouse
churn churn sth out
churn churn sth up
chute down the chute
chute go down the chute
Cigar Close, but no cigar.
cinch have sth cinched
cinch It's a (dead) cinch.
cinch lead-pipe cinch
Cinder burned to a cinder
circle circle around (over so/sth)
circle circle around so/sth
circle come full circle
circle could fight a circle-saw (and it a-
runnin')
circle go (a)round in circles
circle in a vicious circle
circle run circles around so
circle run in circles
circle talk in circles
circulate circulate among so/sth
circulate circulate sth through sth
circulate circulate through sth
circulation back in(to) circulation
circulation out of circulation
circumstances Circumstances alter
cases.
circumstances extenuating
circumstances
circumstances in reduced
circumstances
circumstances not under any
circumstances
circumstances under certain
circumstances
circumstances under no
circumstances
circumstances under normal
circumstances
circumstances under the
circumstances
circus like a three-ring circus
cite cite so for sth
cite devil can cite Scripture for his own
purpose.
city city slicker
city (You) can't fight city hall.
civil Civility costs nothing.
civil keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
civility Civility costs nothing.
claim claim a life
claim claim sth for so/sth
claim claim sth for sth
claim lay claim to sth
claim so's claim to fame
claim stake a claim to so/sth
claim stake out a claim to sth
claim claim up
claim happy as a clam (at high tide)
claim happy as a clam (in butter sauce)
clamber clamber onto sth
clamber clamber up (st)
clamor clamor against so/sth
clamor clamor for so/sth
clasp clasp to sth to sth
class class so/sth with so/sth
class cut class
clatter clatter around
clause grandfather clause
claw claw one's way to the top
claw claw sth off so/sth
claw one's claws are showing
clay have feet of clay
clean clean as a hound's tooth
clean clean as a whistle
clean clean bill of health
clean clean one's act up
clean clean one's plate
clean clean out (of sth)
clean clean so/sth down
clean clean so/sth out of sth
clean clean so/sth up
clean clean so's low
clean clean sth off
clean clean sth off sth
clean clean sth out
clean clean sweep
clean clean the floor up with so
clean clean up (on sth)
clean clean (up one's) plate
clean clean-cut
clean cleaned out
clean Cleanliness is next to godliness.
clean come clean (with so) (about sth)
clean have clean hands
clean keep one's nose clean
clean make a clean breach of sth (to so)
clean make a clean sweep
clean New brooms sweep clean.
clean poor but clean
clean so clean you could eat off the
floor
clean start (off) with a clean slate
clean start (over) with a clean slate
clean take so to the cleaners
clean wipe so's slate clean
clean wipe the slate clean
cleaners take so to the cleaners
cleanliness Cleanliness is next to
godliness.
clear clear as a bell
clear clear as crystal
clear clear as mud
clear clear as vodka
clear clear of sth
clear clear off ((of) some place)
clear clear out (of some place)
clear clear sailing
clear clear so of sth
clear clear so/sth out of some place
clear clear sth's name
clear clear sth away
clear clear sth for publication
clear clear sth from some place
clear clear sth off sth
clear clear sth up
clock turn back the clock
clock turn the clock back
clockwork go like clockwork
clockwork regular as clockwork
clockwork run like clockwork
clog clog so up
clog clog ssh up
clog clog ssh with ssh
clog clog up
close able to do ssh with one's eyes closed
close at close range
close behind closed doors
close bring ssh to a close
close close a deal
close close a sale
close close as two coats of paint
close close at hand
close Close, but no cigar.
close close call
close close closer and a tight spitter
close close down
close close down enough for government work
close close enough to use the same toothpick
close close (in) around so'sh
close close in for the kill
close close in (on so'sh)
close close on ssh
close close one's eyes to ssh
close Close only counts in horseshoes (and hand grenades).
close close ranks
close close shave
close close so'sh down
close close so'sh in (ssh)
close close so'sh out of ssh
close close so up
close close ssh down
close close ssh off
close close ssh out
close close ssh to so
close close ssh up
close close the books on so'sh
close close the deal
close close the door on so'sh
close close the door to so'sh
close close the sale
close close to home
close close up
close close with so'sh
close closefisted (with money)
close come close (to so'sh)
close come to a close
close draw ssh to a close
close draw to a close
close have a close call
close have a close shave
close have so'sh under (close) scrutiny
close keep a close rein on so'sh
close keep a close watch on so'sh
close keep (close) watch (on so'sh)
close keep (close) watch (over so'sh)
close keep one's cards close to one's chest
close keep one's cards close to one's vest
close keep so'sh under (close) scrutiny
close move close to so'sh
close play one's cards close to one's chest
close sit close to so'sh
close stand close to so'sh
close too close for comfort
close under (close) scrutiny
closefisted closefisted (with money)
closet bring so out of the closet
closet closet so with so
closet come out of the closet
closet out of the closet
closet skeleton(s) in the closet
cloth cut from the same cloth
cloth cut one's coat according to one's cloth
cloth cut one's coat to suit one's cloth
cloth make ssh up out of whole cloth
cloth man of the cloth
clothe clothe so in ssh
clothes Clothes make the man.
clothes not have a stitch of clothes (on)
clothes Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes
clothes wolf in sheep's clothing
clothing wolf in sheep's clothing
cloud cloud over
cloud cloud up
cloud coming up a cloud
cloud Every cloud has a silver lining.
cloud Get your head out of the clouds!
cloud have one's head in the clouds
cloud on cloud nine
cloud under a cloud (of suspicion)
clover in clover
crown crown down (with so)
crown Join the club!
crown clue so in (on ssh)
crown have a clue (about ssh)
crown not a clue
crown clown down
crown clown down ssh
crown cluster around so'sh
cluster cluster so/sh around so'sh
cluster cluster together
clutch clutch at so'sh
clutch clutch at straws
clutch clutch so'sh to ssh
clutch clutch (up)
clutch drowning man will clutch at a straw.
cloak cloak ssh in secrecy
cloak and-dagger
clock against the clock
clock (a)round the clock
clock beat the clock
clock in
clock in
clock out
clock so in
clock so ssh at ssh
clock so out
clock so at speeds of some amount
clock ssh up
clock-watcher
cook face that could stop a clock
clock home enough to stop a clock
clock sleep around the clock
clock *speeds of some amount
It'll be a cold day in hell when

in cold storage

in cold blood

in a cold sweat

go cold turkey

Feed a cold and starve a fever.

dash cold water on

cold turkey

cold sober

cold, hard cash

cold shoulder

cold as marble

cold as a witch's tit

cold as a marble

cold comfort

cold feet

cold fish

cold hands, warm heart.
cold cold, hard cash

cold cold shoulder

cold sober

cold turkey

cold cold-shoulder

cold dash cold water on

cold Feed a cold and starve a fever. 
cold go cold turkey

cold in a cold sweat

cold in cold blood

cold in cold storage

cold (Is it) cold enough for you?
cold It'll be a cold day in hell when sth happens.
cold keep so or some creature out in the cold
cold knock so cold
cold leave so cold

cold leave so or some creature out in the cold
cold make so's blood run cold

cold out cold

cold out in the cold

cold pour cold water on sth

cold put so or some creature out in the cold

cold Revenge is a dish best served cold.
cold, so cold you could hang meat

cold stone(-cold) sober

cold stop so cold

cold take cold

cold take one's death (of cold)
cold throw cold water on sth

cold coldcock so

collaborate collaborate with so'suth

collapse collapse into sth

collapse collapse under so'suth

collar blue collar

collar collar-and-tie men

collar hot under the collar

collate collate sth with sth

collect collect around so'suth

collect collect (money) for so'suth

collect collect (money) for sth

collect collect on sth

collect collect one's thoughts

collect collect sth from so

collect collect sth up

collect cool, calm, and collected

collect take a collection up (from so) (for so'suth)
collection take a collection up (from so) (for so/suth)
college old college try

collide collide with so'suth

collide collide with so/suth

color color sth in

color come through sth (with flying colors)
color color horse of a different color

color horse of another color

color lend color to sth

color person of color

color riot of color

color sail under false colors

color see the color of sth's money

color show one's (true) colors

color so's true colors

color with flying colors

Columbia give so Hail Columbia
comb comb sth for so'suth
comb comb sth out of sth
comb comb through sth
comb go over sth with a fine-tooth comb
comb go through sth with a fine-tooth comb
comb run a comb through sth
comb search sth with a fine-tooth comb
combine combine sth against so'suth
combine combine sth with sth
come After a storm comes a calm.
come All good things must (come to an end.
come best things come in small packages.
come blow so'suth to kingdom come
come chickens come home to roost.
come Christmas comes but once a year.
come come a cropper
come come aboard
come come about
come come across
come come after so'suth
come Come again.
come come along (with so)
come Come and get it!
come come apart
come come (a)round
come come around (for a visit)
come come around (to doing sth)
come come around (to some place)
come come around (to visit)
come come as no surprise
come come at so'suth
come come away empty-handed
come come away (from so'suth)
come come away with so
come come back
come come before so'suth
come come between so and so else
come come between sth and sth else
come come by (some place)
come come by sth
come come by sth honestly
come come clean (with so) (about sth)
come come close (to so/suth)
come come down
come come for so
come come forth
come come forward
come come from behind
come come from far and wide
come come from nowhere
come come from some place
come come home from some place
come come home (to roost)
come come home to so
come come in
come come (in) on a wing and a prayer
come come into a (small) fortune
come come into being
come come into bloom
come come into blossom
come come into conflict
come come in(to) contact (with so/suth)
come come into effect
come come into existence
come come into fashion
come come into focus
come come into sight
come come into one's or its own
come come into play
come come into power
come come into prominence
come come into season
come come into service
come come into sight
come come into (some) money
come come into so's possession
come come into the world
come come into view
come come Monday
come Come 'n' get it!
come come naturally (to so)
come come of age
come come off
come come on
come Come (on) in.
come come on(to) so'suth
come come out
come come out in favor of so'suth
come come out
come come over
come come rain or (come) shine
come come rain or shine
come Come right in.
come come (right) on top of sth
come come short of sth
come come so's way
come come through
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> under sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> under the hammer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> unglued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come (up) from behind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come (up)on so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come what may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come with (so/sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come with the territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come within a hair(’s breadth) of so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come within an ace of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come within an inch of doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come within an inch of so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come within earshot (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come within range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come within sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come-hither look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Coming events cast their shadows before.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> coming out of one's ears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Coming through, please).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> coming up a cloud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Could I come in?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> cross a bridge before one comes to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> cross that bridge when one comes to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> doesn't have enough sense to come in out of the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *down with a disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> dream true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> easy come, easy go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> easy to come by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Everything comes to him who waits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Everything's coming up roses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> First come, first served.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Good things come in small packages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Good Things come to him who waits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> (had) known it was coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> harbinger of things to come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> has come and gone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> have another guess coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> have another think coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> have a long way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> have sth coming (to one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> How come?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> if push comes to shove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> if the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> if (the) worst comes to (the) worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> (I’m) glad you could come.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> in so/sh possession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> it’ll all come out in the wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> knew it was coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> know where one is coming from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Misfortunes never come singly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Morning dreams come true.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> not know enough to come in out of the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come not know if one is coming or going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> come not know whether one is coming or going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Nothing comes of nothing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *out in force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *out in large numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *out in the open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *out of nowhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *out of the closet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *out of the woodwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> portent of things to come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> sign of things to come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> some creature’s time has come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> so/sh time has come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> They must have seen you coming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> till kingdom come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Tomorrow never comes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *turning point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> (un)til the cows come home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *up against sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *up before so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *up for reelection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *up for sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> up-and-coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> (We’re) glad you could come.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> What goes up must come down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> What’s coming off?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> What’s coming to one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> What(’er) goes around, comes around.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> when it comes right down to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> when it comes to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> when one’s ship comes in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> When property comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> when push comes to shove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> where one is coming from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> will come of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *within earshot (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> *within range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> Won’t you come in?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>come</strong> You’ve got another think coming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comeback</strong> make a comeback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comed&quot;y</strong> Cut the comedy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comeuppance</strong> get one’s comeuppance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comfort</strong> comfort can’t come off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comfort</strong> creature comforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comfort</strong> too close for comfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comfortable</strong> comfortable as an old shoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> chain of command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> have a good command of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> He that cannot obey cannot command.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> commence with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> commend commend so/sh for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> commend so/sh to so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> comment about so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> No comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>command</strong> commiserate commiserate with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commission</strong> out of commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commit</strong> commit oneself on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commit</strong> commit oneself to so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commit</strong> commit oneself to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commit</strong> commit so/sh for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commit</strong> commit so/sh to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commit</strong> commit sth to memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commit</strong> commit to so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commode</strong> commode-hugging drunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>common</strong> common node as an old shoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>common</strong> common as dirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>common</strong> common thread (to all this)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>common</strong> have sth in common (with so/sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>common</strong> in the Common Era</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>common</strong> ounce of common sense is worth a pound of theory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commination</strong> cause a commotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commune</strong> commune with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>communicate</strong> communicate sth to so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>communicate</strong> communicate with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commute</strong> commute between places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commute</strong> commute from some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>commute</strong> commute sth into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> Desert and reward seldom keep company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep company (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep so/sh company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> man is known by the company he keeps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> Misery loves company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> part company (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> Two is company, (but) three’s a crowd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compare</strong> compare notes on so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compare</strong> compare so/sh to so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compare</strong> compare so/sh with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comparison</strong> pale by comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compartimentalize</strong> compartimentalize sth into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compel</strong> compel so/sh to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compensate</strong> compensate for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compensate</strong> compensate so/sh for so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete against so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete for so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete for so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compile</strong> sth from so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> complain about so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> complain of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> complain of so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> (I) can’t complain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> (I have) nothing to complain about.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> backhanded compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> compliment so/sh on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> fish for a compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> left-handed compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> pay so/sh a backhanded compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> pay so/sh a compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> pay so/sh a left-handed compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> return the compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comply</strong> with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comport</strong> one to one with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>composure</strong> sth into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep company (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep so/sh company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> man is known by the company he keeps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> Misery loves company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> part company (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> Two is company, (but) three’s a crowd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compare</strong> compare notes on so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compare</strong> compare so/sh to so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compare</strong> compare so/sh with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comparison</strong> pale by comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compartimentalize</strong> compartimentalize sth into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compel</strong> compel so/sh to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compensate</strong> compensate for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compensate</strong> compensate so/sh for so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete against so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete for so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compete</strong> compete with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compile</strong> sth from so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> complain about so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> complain of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> complain of so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> (I) can’t complain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>complain</strong> (I have) nothing to complain about.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> backhanded compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> compliment so/sh on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> fish for a compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> left-handed compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> pay so/sh a backhanded compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> pay so/sh a compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> pay so/sh a left-handed compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong> return the compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comply</strong> with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>comport</strong> one to one with so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>composure</strong> sth into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep company (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> keep so/sh company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> man is known by the company he keeps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> Misery loves company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> part company (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>company</strong> Two is company, (but) three’s a crowd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
corner drive so into a corner
corner from all corners of the world
corner from four corners of the earth
corner have so in one's corner
corner have so/th cornered
corner out of the corner of one's eye
corner turn the corner
corral corral so/th
 correct house of correction
 correct if my memory serves me correctly
 correct stand corrected
 correlate correlate sth with sth
 correlate with sth
 correspond correspond to sth
 correspond correspond with so (about so/th)
 corrupt Absolute power corrupts absolutely.
cost at all costs
cost at any cost
cost Civilly costs nothing.
cost cost a king's ransom
cost cost a pretty penny
cost cost an arm and a leg
cost cost sth out
cost cost the earth
cost Courtesy costs nothing.
cost estimate the cost at some amount
 cost *king's ransom
cotton cotton (on) to so/th
 cotton cotton up to so
 cotton in high cotton
cotton in low cotton
cotton in tall cotton
couch couch potato
couch couch sth in sth
 cough cough one's head off
 cough cough sth out
 cough cough sth up
 could could do with so/th
 could could fight a circle-saw (and it a-running)
could Could I be excused?
could Could I buy you a drink?
could Could I call you?
could Could I come in?
could Could I get by, please?
could Could I get you something (to drink)?
could Could I give you a lift?
could Could I have a lift?
could Could I have a word with you?
could Could I have so call you?
could Could I have the bill?
could Could I help you?
could Could I join you?
could Could I leave a message?
could Could I see you again?
could Could I see you in my office?
could Could I speak to so?
could Could I take a message?
could Could I take your order (now)?
could Could I tell him who's calling?
could Could I use your powder room?
could Could we continue this later?
could Could you excuse us, please?
could Could you hold?
could Could you keep a secret?
could did everything he could 'cept eat us
could face that could stop a clock
could face (that) only a mother could love
could How could you (do so/th)?
could (I) could be better.
could (I) could be worse.
could I could eat a horse!
could (I) could eat, but I can't.
could if looks could kill
could (I'm) glad you could come.
could (I'm) glad you could drop by.
could might could
could so clean you could eat off the floor
could so cold you could hang meat
could so mad I could scream
could so quiet you could hear a pin drop
could so still you could hear a pin drop
could (Things) could be better.
could (Things) could be worse.
could (We're) glad you could come.
could Who could have thought?
could (You) could have fooled me.
could You could have knocked me over with a feather.
couldn't couldn't be happier
couldn't couldn't(n't) care less
couldn't couldn't hit a bull in the ass with a bass fiddle
couldn't couldn't pour water out of a boot (if there was instructions on the heel)
couldn't (I) couldn't ask for more.
couldn't (I) couldn't ask you to do that.
couldn't (I) couldn't be better.
couldn't (I) couldn't(n't) care less.
couldn't (I) couldn't help it.
couldn't (I) couldn't be better.
couldn't (I) couldn't be helped.
couldn't (Things) couldn't be better.
couldn't Wild horses couldn't drag so away (from so/th).
couldn't You couldn't (do that)!counsel Council of war never fight.
counsel counsel so about sth
counsel counsel so against sth
 counsel keep one's own counsel
count Close only counts in horseshoes (and hand grenades).
count count against so
 count count down
 count count for sth
 count count from sth (up) to sth
 count count heads
 count Count no man happy till he dies.
count count noses
 count count off
 count count on so/th
 count count one's chickens before they hatch
count count so among sth
 count count so in (for sth)
count count so/th as sth
 count count so/th off
 count count so/th up
 count count so/th out (for sth)
count count sth against so
 count count sth as sth
 count count sth in
 count count sth out
 count count up to sth
 count count (up) on so/th
 count count with so
count counter so/sth with sth
count counter with sth
count Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.
count down for the count
count Every minute counts.
count Every moment counts.
count go down for the count
count go out for the count
count (l) wouldn't count on it.
count lose count of so/sth
count out for the count
count over the counter
count run counter to sth
count stand up and be counted
count take the (long) count
count under the counter
country another country heard from
country country mile
country Happy is the country which has no history.
country In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.
country prophet is not without honor save in his own country.
country So many countries, so many customs.
couple couple of
couple couple so with so
couple couple sth (on) to sth
couple couple sth together
couple couple sth with sth
couple couple up (with so)
couple couple with so
couple couple with sth
courage Dutch courage
courage get enough courage up (to do sth)
courage get the courage up (to do sth)
courage have the courage of one's convictions
courage pluck up so's courage
courage screw up one's courage
courage as a matter of course
course course of action
course course of true love never did run smooth.
course course through sth
course crash course in sth
course drift off course
course in due course
course in the course of time
course of course
course off course
course on course
course par for the course
course run its course
course stay on course
course take a course (in sth')
course take its course
court appear in court
court ball is in so's court
court have the ball in one's court
court in contempt (of court)
court kangaroo court
court laugh sth out of court
court pay court to so
court settle sth (out of court)
court stand up in court
court take so to court
courtesy Courtesy costs nothing.
courtesy out of courtesy (to so)
cousin kissing cousins
cousin think so is God's own cousin
cousin What's buzzin' (cousin)?
cover blow so's cover
cover cover a lot of ground
cover cover for so
cover cover so in sth
cover cover so/sth against sth
cover cover so/sth for so
cover cover so/sth up
cover cover so's tracks (up)
cover cover sth up
cover cover the territory
cover cover the waterfront
cover cover (up) for so
cover Don't judge a book by its cover.
cover duck and cover
cover take cover
cover You can't tell a book by its cover.
cow awkward as a cow on a crutch
cow awkward as a cow on roller skates
cow cow chip
cow cow juice
cow cow put
cow cow patty
cow cow pie
cow cow so into sth
cow Don't have a cow!
cow Holy cow!
cow sacred cow
cow (un)til the cows come home
cow Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap?
cow Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?
coward bully is always a coward.
coward Conscience does make cowards of us all.
coward Cowards die many times before their death(s).
coward take the coward's way out
cower cower (away) from so/sth
cower cower down (from sth)
cower cower from sth
cozy cozy up (to)
crack at the crack of dawn
crack crack a book
crack crack a bottle open
crack crack a joke
crack crack a smile
crack crack at so
crack crack at sth
crack crack down (on so/sth)
crack crack open
crack crack some suds
crack crack so/sth up
crack crack so up
crack crack sth up
crack crack sth (wide) open
crack crack the door (open)
crack crack the window (open)
crack crack under the strain
crack crack up
crack cracked
crack dirty crack
crack fall through the cracks
crack first crack at sth
crack get cracking
crack give so a crack at sth
crack go through the cracks
crack hard nut to crack
crack He that would eat the kernel must crack the nut
crack make cracks about so/sth

...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>crease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>create</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>create</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>create</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cringe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cringe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crinkle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crisp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>criticize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crocodile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crocodile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crocodile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cropper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross-examine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cruise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cruise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cramped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crumple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crumple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crusade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crusade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crusty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crusty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crystal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cucumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>culminate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>culturally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>culturally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cunning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
cut both ways
cut cut class
cut cut corners
cut cut down (on sth)
cut cut from the same cloth
cut cut in (ahead of so/so)
cut cut in (on so)
cut cut in (on sth)
cut cut in (to sth)
cut Cut it out!
cut cut loose (with sth)
cut cut no ice (with so)
cut cut off
cut cut one’s coat according to one’s cloth
cut cut one’s coat to suit one’s cloth
cut cut one’s eyes at so/so
cut cut one’s eyeteeth on sth
cut cut one’s losses
cut cut one’s nose off to spite one’s face
cut cut one’s own throat
cut cut one’s wolf loose
cut cut one’s loose (from so/so)
cut cut oneself off on sth
cut cut out
cut cut school
cut cut some Zs
cut cut so a break
cut cut (so) a check
cut cut so dead
cut cut so down
cut cut so in (on sth)
cut cut so off at the pass
cut cut so off without a penny
cut cut so/sth loose from sth
cut cut so/sth off (from sth)
cut cut so/sth off (short)
cut cut so/sth out
cut cut so/sth to so/so
cut cut so/sth up
cut cut so/sth with sth
cut cut so’s water off
cut cut so’s some slack
cut cut so’s to the bone
cut cut so’s to the quick
cut cut so up
cut cut so’s away (from sth)
cut cut so’s back
cut cut so’s down
cut cut so’s off sth
cut cut help off sth
cut cut so’s into sth
cut cut so’s off
cut cut so’s on sth
cut cut so’s out
cut cut so’s to the bone
cut cut so’s with sth
cut cut the cheese
cut Cut the comedy!
cut cut the deadwood out
cut cut the dust
cut Cut the funny stuff!
cut cut the ground out from under so
cut cut the mustard
cut cut the pie up
cut Cut the shit!
cut cut through red tape
cut cut through sth
cut cut to so/so
cut cut to the chase
cut cut up
cut cut your peaches
cut cutting edge
cut Fish or cut bait.
cut have one’s work cut out for one
cut It cuts two ways.
cut (It) don’t cut no ice (with so).
cut (It) don’t cut no squares (with so).
cut on the cutting edge
cut one’s work is cut out for one
cut run around like a chicken with its head cut off
cute cute as a bug’s ear
cylinder firing on all cylinders
cylinder hitting on all cylinders
cylinder run on all cylinders
dab dab at sth
dab dab sth off
dab dab sth on(to)
dab smack (dab) in the middle
dabble dabble at sth
dabble dabble in sth
dad Dad fetch my buttons!
daddy daddy of them all
daddy grandaddy of them all
dagger cloak-and-dagger
dagger look daggers at so
daily daily do
daily daily grind
daisy fresh as a daisy
daisy pushing up (the) daisies
daily daily do
daily daily with so
daily dilly-dally (around) with so/sth
dam busy as a beaver (building a new
dam)
dam dam sth up
dam water over the dam
damage acceptable damage
damage do so damage
damage What’s the damage?
damn Damn it to blue blazes!
damn (damn) sight better
damn damn so/sth with faint praise
damn damn so/sth
damn Damned if you do, damned if you don’t.
damn Hot damn!
damn I’m damned if I do and damned if I don’t.
damn not give a tinker’s damn
damn not worth a damn
damnation Hellfire and damnation!
damp damp off
damp damp sth down
damp dampen sth
damp dampen so’s spirits
damper put a damper on sth
dance dance at so’s wedding
dance dance on air
dance dance out of step (with so/so)
dance dance out of time (with so/so)
dance dance to a different tune
dance dance to another tune
dance dance to sth
dance dance with death
dance dance with so
dance go into a song and dance
(dance about sth)
dance go into the same old song and dance about sth
dance tap-dance like mad
dance (Would you) care to dance?
dander get so’s dander up
dandy fine and dandy
dandy jim-dandy
dead
dead to the world
dead
dead wrong
dead
deaden sth with sth
dead
deader than a doornail
dead
deadly dull
dead
drop dead
dead
drop-dead gorgeous
dead
died
dead, female of the species is more
deadly than the male.
dead
flog a dead horse
dead
give so up for dead
dead
have one’s heart (dead) set against sth
dead
have so dead to rights
dead
in a dead heat
dead
It’s a (dead) cinch.
dead
It’s ill waiting for dead men’s shoes.
dead
knock so dead
dead
leave so for dead
dead
Let the dead bury the dead.
dead
look like a (dead) ringer (for so)
dead
more dead than alive
dead
Never speak ill of the dead.
dead
on dead center
dead
one’s heart is (dead) set against sth
dead
Over my dead body!
dead
play dead
dead
raise so from the dead
dead
reach a dead end
dead
rise from the dead
dead
roll over and play dead
dead
silent as the dead
dead
stone dead
dead
stop dead in one’s tracks
dead
stop or sth dead in one’s or sth’s
tacks
dead
take so for dead
dead
taken for dead
dead
wake the dead
dead
would not be caught dead (doing sth)
dead
would not be seen dead (doing sth)
deaden
deaden sth with sth
deader
deader deader than a doornail
deadline
under a deadline
deadwood
cut the deadwood out
deaf
dead and dumb
deaf
dead as a post
deaf
fall on deaf ears
deaf
There's none so deaf as those who will not hear.
deaf
turn a deaf ear (to so/sth)
deal
close a deal
deal
close the deal
deal
cut a deal
deal
deal in sth
deal
deal so in
deal
deal so into sth
deal
deal so out of sth
deal
deal sth out
deal
deal the race card
deal
deal with so
deal
dirty deal
deal
done deal
deal
great deal
deal
It’s a deal.
deal
Like it’s such a big deal!
deal
make a big deal about sth
deal
make a deal with so
deal
no big deal
deal
package deal
deal
raw deal
deal
shady deal
deal
square deal
deal
strike a deal
deal
sweeten (up) the deal
deal
sweetheart deal
deal
think a great deal of so/sth
deal
What’s the deal?
deal
wheel and deal
deal
dear departed
deal
Dear John letter
deal
Dear me!
deal
hang on for dear life
deal
thing you don’t want is dear at any price.
death
at death’s door
death
badger so/sth to death
death
baleful as death
death
between life and death
death
bleed to death
death
bore so to death
death
brush with death
death
catch one’s death (of cold)
death
Cowards die many times before their death(s).
death
dance with death
death
Death is the great leveler.
death
death on sth
death
die a natural death
death
fate worse than death
death
feel like death warmed over
death
fight to the death
death
flog so to death
death
freeze so/sth to death
death
frighten so or an animal to death
death
frightened to death
death
have a death wish
death
kiss of death
death
lie at death’s door
death
like death warmed over
death
look like death warmed over
death
matter of life and death
death
meet one’s death
death
nickel-and-dime so (to death)
death
Nothing is certain but death and taxes.
death
pale as death
death
put so or some creature to death
death
scare so or an animal to death
death
scared to death
death
send one to one’s death
death
sick to death (of so/sth)
death
sign one’s own death warrant
death
snatch so from the jaws of death
death
snatch so out of the jaws of death
death
nothing is certain but death and taxes.
death
pale as death
death
put so or some creature to death
death
scare so or an animal to death
death
scared to death
death
send one to one’s death
death
sick to death (of so/sth)
death
sign one’s own death warrant
death
snatch so from the jaws of death
death
snatch so out of the jaws of death
death
still as death
death
suffer to the death
death
take one’s death (of cold)
death
The wages of sin is death.
death
There is a remedy for everything except death.
death
thrilled to death
death
tickle so to death
death
will be the death of so/sth (yet)
deathbed
on one’s deathbed
debate
debate on sth
debate
debate (with so) about sth
debtor
debtor sth against so/sth
debtor
debtor sth to so/sth
debtor
debtor sth with sth
debtor
head over heels in debt
dept in debt
debt
out of debt
debt
owe so a debt of gratitude
debt
pay one’s debt (to society)
decay
fall into decay
deceive
Appearances can be deceiving.
deceive
deceive so into sth
deceive
deceive so with sth
deceive
deceive so against so/sth
deceive
deceive between so and so else
deceive
deceive to against so/sth
deceive
deceive in favor of so/sth
deceive
decide (up)on so/sth
decision
arrive at a decision
decision
eleventh-hour decision
decision
reach a decision
decid
deck so/sth out (in sth)
decid
few cards short of a deck
decid
few cards shy of a full deck
decid
have the deck stacked against one
decid
hit the deck
decid
not playing with a full deck
decid
on deck
decid
play with a full deck
decid
stack the deck (against so/sth)
decid
decks
clear the decks
declare
declare (oneself) against so/sth
declare
declare (oneself) for so/sth
declare
declare war against so/sth
declare
I declare (to goodness)!
declare
I (do) declare!
decorate
decorate so for sth
decorate
decorate sth with sth
dedicate
dedicate so/sth to so/sth
dedicate
rededicate oneself or sth to so/sth
deduce
deduce sth from sth
deduct
deduct sth from sth else
deed
deed sth (over) to so
doom
doom (it to be) necessary
depth
Beauty is only skin-deep.
depth
between the devil and the deep blue sea
depth
cork high and bottle deep
depth
depth-six so/sth
depth
dig deep
depth
get in deeper
depth
go off the deep end
depth
in deep
depth
jump off the deep end
depth
knee-deep in sth
depth
one’s deepest sympathy
depth
stand knee-deep in sth
depth
Still waters run deep.
depth
deepest one’s deepest sympathy
deface
deface sth with sth
default
default on sth
defeat
defeat go down in defeat
defeat
defeat go down to defeat
defeat
snatch victory from the jaws of defeat
defect
defect from sth
defect
defect to sth
defend
defend against so/sth
defend
defend so with sth
defense
best defense is a good offense.
defense
on the defensive
defense
spring to so’s defense
defensive
on the defensive
defier
defier to so/sth (on sth)
defier
Hope deferred makes the heart sick.
die
Whom the gods love die young.
to die for
Old habits die hard.
Never say die.
Live by the sword, die by the sword.

Die Young men may die, but old men
must die.
go on a diet
don a diet
put so on a diet
stay on a diet
beg to differ (with so)
differ from sth
derfer in sth
nderfer (with so) about sth
tnderfer Tastes differ.
(Lit) makes me no difference.
(Lit) makes no difference to me.
make a difference in so/sh
make a difference to so
make no difference (to so)
same difference
split the difference
tell the difference between so and so else or sth and sth else
What difference does it make?
different dance to a different tune
different different as night and day
different strokes for different folks.
different horse of a different color
different march to (the beat of) a different drummer
derfer sing a different tune
derferentiate differentiate between so/sh and so/sh else
derferentiate differentiate so/sh from so/sh else
difficult difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer.
difficult difficult times
 diffuse diffuse sth through sth else
 diffuse diffuse through sth
dig dig at so/sh
dig deep
dig down
dig for sth
dig in (to sth)
dig one's heels in
dig one's own grave
dig out (of sth)
dig some dirt up (on so)
dig so/sh in sth
dig so/sh out of sth
dig so/sh up
dig sth into sth
dig sth out
Dig up!
dig up one's tomahawk
give so a dig
take a dig at so
take digs at so
diggy Hot diggity (dog)!

Dilly dilly-dally (around) with so/sh
dim dim down
dim dim out
dim dim sh down
dim dim sh up
dim take a dim view of so/sh
dime dime a dozen
dime get off the dime
nickel-and-dime so (to death)
nickel-and-dime so

Dine dine at some place
dine in
dine off sth
dine on sth
dine out
dine wine and dine so
ding dinged out
dink dink so off
dinner Dinner is served.
take so out to dinner
dirt by dirt
chips and dip
dip dip into one's savings
in (to sth)
dip sth in (to sth)
dip to sth
skinny-dip
dire in dire straits
direct direct so/sh's attention to so/sh
direct sth at so/sh
direct sth at so/sh
direct so/sh to so/sh

Direction ride off in all directions
run off in all directions
common as dirt
curly dirt
dig some dirt up (on so)
dirt cheap
dish the dirt
dirt hit pay dirt
take a dirt nap
dirt Throw dirt enough, and some will stick.

Dirt You have to eat a peck of dirt before you die.
air one's dirty linen in public
air one's dirty linen
air dirty crack
air dirty deal
air dirty dog
air dirty look
air dirty old man
air dirty one's hands
air dirty sth up
air dirty word
air dirty work
air Do not wash your dirty linen in public.

Dirty do so dirt(y)
dirty down and dirty
get one's hands dirty
quick and dirty
so's dirty laundry
wash one's dirty linen in public

Disadvantage disadvantage culturally
disadvantaged
disagree agree to disagree
disagree disagree with so

Disagree disagree (with so) (about so/sh)
disappear disappear from so/sh
do do one's part
do do one's utmost (to do sth)
do do oneself proud
do do or die
do do's and don'ts
do Do sit down.
do do so
do do some fine coin
do do somehow by so
do do somehow for so
do do so a favor
do do so a good turn
do do so a heap of good
do do so a kindness
do do so a power of good
do do so credit
do do so damage
do do so dirt(y)
do do so (down)
do do so good
do do so in
do do so one better
do do so/up
do do so out of sth
do do so over
do do so proud
do do so's bidding
do do so's heart good
do do sth about so/sth
do do sth by hand
do do sth by the book
do do sth from scratch
do do sth hand in hand
do do sth in
do do sth over
do do sth up
do do sth with so/sth
Do tell.
do do the dishes
do do the honors
do do the trick
do do time
do do too
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
do Do we have to go through all that again?
do Do what?
do do with so/sth
do do without
do do (Do you) care if I join you?
do Do (Do you) eat with that mouth?
do Do you expect me to believe that?
do Do you follow?
do Do (Do you) get my drift?
do Do (Do you) get the picture?
do Do (Do you) hear?
do Do (Do you) kiss your momma with that mouth?
do Do (Do you) know what?
do Do (Do you) know what I mean?
do Do (Do you) know what I'm saying?
do Do (Do you) mean to say sth
Do (Do you) mean to tell me sth?
do Do you mind?
do Do (Do you) mind if I join you?
do Do you read me?
do Do (Do you) want to know something?
do Do (Do you) want to make something of it?
do Do (Do you) want to step outside?
do done and gone
do done by mirrors
do done deal
do done for
do done in
do done 'n' did
do done over
do done to a T
do done to a turn
do done told you
do done with mirrors
do done with so/sth
do Don't do anything I wouldn't do.
do Don't even think about (doing) it.
do Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today.
do Don't tell me what to do!
do easier said than done
do fine how do you do
do get down to (doing) sth
do get out of (doing) sth
do good as done
do have nothing to do with so/sth
do have sth doing
do have sth to do with sth
do have to do with sth
do How (are) you doing?
do How do you do.
do How do you know?
do How do you like school?
do How do you like that?
do How do you like them apples?
do How do you like this weather?
do How do you like that?
do How do you like school?
do How do you like them apples?
do How do you like this weather?
do How do you like that?
do How many times do I have to tell you?
do (I) can't say (as) I do.
do (I) can't say that I do.
do I couldn't ask you to do that.
do I do believe.
do I (do) declare!
do I (do) can't say that I do.
do I (do) can't say (as) I do.
do I (do) declare!
do I couldn't ask you to do that.
do I do believe.
do I (do) declare!
do I (do) can't say that I do.
do I (do) can't say (as) I do.
do I (do) declare!
do I couldn't ask you to do that.
do I do believe.
do I (do) declare!
do I (do) can't say that I do.
do I (do) can't say (as) I do.
do I (do) declare!
do I couldn't ask you to do that.
do I do believe.
do I (do) declare!
do I (do) can't say that I do.
do I (do) can't say (as) I do.
do I (do) declare!
do I couldn't ask you to do that.
do I do believe.
do I (do) declare!
do I (do) can't say that I do.
do I (do) can't say (as) I do.
do I (do) declare!
do I couldn't ask you to do that.
do I do believe.
do I (do) declare!
Phrase-Finder Index

does Does it work for you?
does Dog does not eat dog.
does Easy does it.
does Handsome is as handsome does.
does How does that grab you?
does Man does not live by bread alone.
does Money does not grow on trees.
does neither does so.
does One swallow does not make a summer.
does Pretty is as pretty does.
does That does it!
does What difference does it make?
does What does that prove?
doesn’t Crime doesn’t pay.
doesn’t doesn’t care who knows it
doesn’t doesn’t have enough sense to bell a cat
doesn’t doesn’t have enough sense to come in out of the rain
doesn’t doesn’t have the sense God gave him (or her)
doesn’t doesn’t know beans (about something)
doesn’t doesn’t know his ass from his elbow
doesn’t (it) doesn’t bother me any.
doesn’t (it) doesn’t bother me at all.
doesn’t (it) doesn’t hurt to ask.
doesn’t It doesn’t quite suit me.
doesn’t (it) (really) doesn’t matter to me.
doesn’t doesn’t left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing.
doesn’t This doesn’t quite suit me.
doesn’t What one doesn’t know won’t hurt one.
doesn’t What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over.
dog barking dog never bites.
dog Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.
dog bring a dog to heel
dog call the dogs off
dog crooked as a dog’s hind leg
dog dirty dog
dog dog and pony show
dog dog ate my homework.
dog dog days
dog Dog does not eat dog.
dog dog in the manger
dog Dog my cats!
dog dog-eat-dog
dog dog-faced liar
dog doggy bag
dog Every dog has its day.
dog go to the dogs
dog hair of the dog that bit one
dog Hot diggity (dog)!
dog I wouldn’t wish that on a dog.
dog If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.
dog It’s raining cats and dogs.
dog lead a dog’s life

dog Let sleeping dogs lie.
dog like a blind dog in a meat market
dog live a dog’s life

dog Love me, love my dog.
dog lucky dog
dog meaner than a junkyard dog (with fourteen sucking pups)
dog put a dog off the scent
dog put on the dog
dog rain cats and dogs
dog see a man about a dog
dog shaggy-dog story
dog shouldn’t happen to a dog
dog sick as a dog
dog tail wagging the dog
dog throw so to the dogs
dog Why keep a dog and bark yourself?
dog You cannot teach an old dog new tricks.
doggo lie doggo
doggy doggy bag
doghouse find oneself in the doghouse
doghouse in the doghouse
doghouse put so into the doghouse
doldrums in the doldrums
doldrums put so into the doldrums
dole dole so out (to so)
dole on the dole
doll (all) doled up
doll doll so up

dollar almighty dollar

dollar bet one’s bottom dollar
dollar bet so dollars to doughnuts
dollar day late and a dollar short

dollar dollar for dollar

dollar feel like a million (dollars)
dollar He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-cent head.
dollar like a million (dollars)
dollar look like a million dollars

dollar photo as a three-dollar bill

dollar queer as a three-dollar bill

dollar sixty-four-dollar question

dollar sound as a dollar

dominion gain dominion over so/so

don’t Better the devil you know than the devil you don’t know.
don’t Can’t say (a)s I do, can’t say (a)s I don’t.
don’t Damned if you do, damned if you don’t.
don’t do’s and don’ts

don’t don’t amount to a bucket of spit

don’t Don’t ask.
don’t Don’t ask me.
don’t Don’t be gone (too) long.
don’t Don’t be too sure.
don’t Don’t bite off more than you can chew.
don’t Don’t bother.
don’t Don’t bother me!
don’t Don’t breathe a word of this to anyone.
don’t Don’t call us, we’ll call you.
don’t don’t care a whit

don’t Don’t ask me.
don’t Don’t ask.
don’t do’s and don’ts

damn you don’t.
damn yourself don’t.
damn yourself you don’t.
don’t I know it!
don’t I know you from somewhere?
don’t Don’t judge a book by its cover.
don’t Don’t knock it.
don’t don’t know whether to eat it or rub it on

don’t Don’t let it go any further.
don’t Don’t let it out of this room.
don’t Don’t let 50/50 get you down.
don’t Don’t let the bastards wear you down.
don’t Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.
don’t Don’t make me laugh!
don’t Don’t make me say it again!
don’t Don’t make me tell you again!
don’t Don’t make two bites of a cherry.
don’t Don’t mention it.
don’t Don’t mind me.
don’t Don’t push (me)!
don’t Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.
don’t Don’t put off for tomorrow what you can do today.
don’t Don’t put the cart before the horse.
don’t Don’t quit trying.
don’t Don’t quit your day job.
don’t Don’t rush me!
don’t Don’t say it!
don’t Don’t speak too soon.
don’t Don’t spend it all in one place.
don’t Don’t stand on ceremony.
don’t Don’t start (on me)!
don’t Don’t stay away so long.
don’t Don’t sweat it!
don’t Don’t take any wooden nickels.
don’t Don’t teach your grandmother to suck eggs.
don’t Don’t tell a soul.
don’t Don’t tell me what to do!
don’t Don’t that (just) beat all!
don’t Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater.
don’t Don’t touch that dial!
don’t Don’t waste my time.
don’t Don’t waste your breath.
don’t Don’t waste your time.
don’t Don’t work too hard.
don’t Don’t worry (about a thing).
don’t Don’t worry your (pretty little) head about it.
don’t Don’t you know it!
You don't know where it's been.

You don't know the half of it.

You don't expect me to believe (We) don't see you much around here anymore.

Some people (just) don't know when to quit.

I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.

I don't want to upset you, but I don't want to alarm you, but I don't understand (it).

I don't think so.

(I) don't believe I've had the pleasure.

(b) don't make me no pleasure.

(I) don't think so.

I don't want to wear out my welcome.

I don't wonder.

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

If that don't beat a pig a-pecking!

You make a better door than you used to.

When poverty comes in at the doorstep, love flies out of the window.

When the wolf from the door lay sth at so's door.

When the stable door was shut after the horse was bolted.

When the wolf is at the door.

When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.

When the wolf comes in the door.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.

You make a better door than you do a window.

Dead as a doornail.

When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.

When the wolf comes in at the door.

You make a better door than you do a window.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creep out of the window.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.

You make a better door than you do a window.

When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.

When the wolf comes in at the door.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.

You make a better door than you do a window.

When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.

When the wolf comes in at the door.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.

You make a better door than you do a window.

When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.

When the wolf comes in at the door.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.

You make a better door than you do a window.

When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.

When the wolf comes in at the door.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creep out of the window.

When poverty comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.
down buckle down (to s.th.)
down buckle s.o./sth down
down buff s.th down
down build down
down bunk down (for the night)
down burn down
down burn s.o. down
down burn s.th down
down button s.th down
down call so down
down call s.th down (on so)
down call s.th down (to so)
down calm down
down calm s.o. or an animal down
down carry s.th down
down cast s.th down
down cast s.th down
down cast one's eyes down
down catch one with one's pants down
down chain s.o./sth down
down charge down on s.o./sth
down chase s.o./sth down
down choke s.th down
down chop s.th down
down chow (s.th.) down
down chuck s.th down
down clamp down (on s.o./sth)
down clean s.o./sth down
down climb down (from s.th)
down close down
down close s.o./sth down
down close s.th down
down close down
down clunk down
down clunk s.th down
down come down
down cool down
down cool s.o. down
down copy s.th down (from s.th)
down count down
down cower down (from s.th)
down crack down (on s.th)
down crash down (around s.o./sth)
down crouch down
down crush s.th down
down crush s.o./sth down
down cut down (on s.th)
down cut s.o. down
down cut s.th down
down damp s.th down
down die down
down dig down
down dim down
down dim s.th down
down do not let the sun go down on your anger,
down do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
down do sit down.
down do so (down)
down don’t let s.o./sth get you down.
down don’t let the bastards wear you down.
down doss down (for some time)
down down and dirty
down down and dirty
down down by some amount
down down for s.th.
down down for the count
down down in the damps
down down in the mouth
down down on one’s luck
down down on s.o./sth
down down one for the road
down down pat
down down South
down down the chute
down down the drain
down Down the hatch.
down down the little red lane
down down the road
down down the street
down down the tube(s)
down down to a gnat’s eyebrow
down down to chill and beans
down down to the last bit of money
down down to the last detail
down down under
down down with a disease
down down (with so)
down Down with s.o./sth!
down down-and-out
down down-at-the-heels
down down-home
down down-to-earth
down down-to-the-wire
down drag s.o./sth down
down draw s.th down
down dress s.th down
down dressing-down
down drill down (to s.th)
down drink s.th down
down drive a price down
down drive down (to some place)
down drive so down (to some place)
down drive s.th down (to some place)
down drizzle down (on s.o./sth)
down drop down
down drop s.o./sth down
down duck down
down dwindle down (to s.th)
down ease s.o./sth down (from s.th)
down face s.th down
down face s.o./sth down
down face down
down fade s.th down
down fade s.o./sth down
down fall down
down fall (down) at s.th
down fasten s.th down (to s.th)
down fight s.o./sth down
down fight s.th down
down file s.th down
down flag s.o./sth down
down flake down
down fling s.o./sth down
down flop down
down fling s.th down on(to) s.th
down flutter down
down force s.o./sth down
down force s.th down
down force s.o./sth down
down freedom s.th down
down get down
down get (down) off one’s high horse
down get so down
down get s.o./sth down (from s.th)
down get s.o./sth down s.th
down get s.th down
down glance down (at s.th)
down glare down on s.o./sth
down glare s.th down
down go down
down gobble s.th down
down grade so down (on s.th)
down grind so down
down grind s.th down
down grind s.o./sth down
down go down
down grow down (into s.th)
down gulp s.th down
down gun so or an animal down
down guzzle s.th down
down hack s.th down
down hammer s.th down
down hand s.th down from so to so
down hand s.th down (to so)
down hands down
down hang down (from s.o./sth)
down haul s.th down
down have a yellow streak down one’s back

drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive
drive

drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop
drop

Phraser-Index
dust cut the dust
dust dry as dust
dust dust bunny
dust dust kitten
dust dust so off
dust dust so/sth off
dust dust so/sth off
dust dust sth out
dust gather dust
dust kiss the dust
dust when the dust settles
dutch double Dutch
dutch Dutch auction
dutch Dutch courage
dutch Dutch treat
dutch Dutch uncle
dutch go Dutch
dutch in Dutch (with so)
duty come on (duty)
duty do one's duty
duty duty bound (to do sth)
duty go above and beyond one's duty
duty go above and beyond the call of duty
duty in the line of duty
duty off duty
duty on active duty
duty on duty
duty relieve one of one's duties
duty shirk one's duty
dwell dwell in an ivory tower
dwell dwell (up) on so/sth
dwell dwell (up) on sth
dwell *in an ivory tower
dwindle dwindle away (to sth)
dwindle dwindle down (to sth)
dye dye in the wool
dying dying to do sth
dying dying to know (sth)
each cancel each other out
each fall in love (with each other)
each made for each other
each To each his own.
each with each passing day
earmark earmark sth for so/sth
earth heart
earn earn one's spurs
earn earn one's spurs
ear nut saved is a penny earned.
earnest act in earnest
earnest in earnest
earnest speak in earnest
ear shot come within earshot (of sth)
ear shot move within earshot (of sth)
ear shot out of earshot
ear shot within earshot (of sth)
earth all over the earth
earth bring so down to earth
earth come down to earth
earth cost the earth
earth down-to-earth
earth from the four corners of the earth
earth hell on earth
earth like nothing on earth
earth move heaven and earth to do sth
earth no earthly reason
earth on earth
earth paradise (on earth)
earth plummet to earth
earth run so/sth to earth
earth salt of the earth
earth to the ends of the earth
earth Where on (God's green) earth?
earth wipe so/sth off the face of the earth
eat
Dog does not eat dog.
eat
dog ate my homework.
(Do) you eat with that mouth?
eat
dog does not eat dog.
eat
dog-eat-dog
eat
don’t know whether to eat it or rub it on
eat
eat (a meal) out
eat
eat an animal up
eat
eat and run
eat
eat (away) at so
eat
eat (away) at sth
eat
eat crow
eat
Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.
eat
eat high on the hog
eat
eat humble pie
eat
in
eat in
eat
in(to sth)
eat
eat like a bird
eat
eat like a horse
eat
Eat my shorts!
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I’d like to eat a horse!
eat
I’ll eat my hat.
eat
I could eat a horse!

Phase-Finder Index
engulf engulf so/sth in sth
enjoin enjoin so/sth from sth
enjoin-enjoin so to do sth
enjoy enjoy the best of both worlds
enjoy Enjoy your meal.
enlarge enlarge (up)on sth
enlighten- enlighten so (about so/sth)
enlist enlist (oneself) for sth
enlist enlist (oneself) in sth
enlist enlist so for sth
enlist enlist so in sth
enmesh enmesh so/sth in sth
enough angry enough to chew nails
enough close enough for government work
enough close enough to use the same toothpick
enough doesn’t have enough sense to bell a cat
enough doesn’t have enough sense to come in out of the rain
enough enough and some to spare
enough Enough is enough.
enough and some to spare
enough
enough good enough for government work
enough good enough for so/sth
enough have had enough
enough homely enough to stop a clock
enough hot enough to burn a polar bear’s butt
enough (!) can’t thank you enough.
enough (is it) cold enough for you?
enough (Is it) hot enough for you?
enough I’ve had enough of this!
enough leave well enough alone
enough enough mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets)
enough mad enough to kick a cat
enough mad enough to spit nails
enough not enough room to swing a cat
enough not know enough to come in out of the rain
enough old enough to be so’s father
enough old enough to be so’s mother
enough That’s enough!
enough That’s enough for now.
enough (That’s) enough (of this) foolishness!
enough There aren’t enough hours in the day.
enough Throw dirt enough, and some will stick.
enough Too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
enough word to the wise (is enough).
enrich enrich so/sth with sth
enroll enroll (so) for sth
enroll enroll (so) in sth
ensconce ensconce oneself in sth
enshrine enshrine so in one’s heart
enshrine enshrine so’s memory in one’s heart
enshrine enshrine sth in sth
ensnare ensnare so/sth in sth
ensue ensue from sth
entangle entangle so/sth in sth
entangle entangle so/sth with sth
enter Aberdeen hope, all ye who enter here.
enter breaking and entering
enter enter in sth
enter enter into sth
enter enter one’s mind
enter enter so/sth in(to) sth
enter enter (sth) by sth
enter enter the fray
enter enter the lists
enter enter (up)on sth
entertain entertain so with sth
enthrall enthrall so with sth
enthusiasm fire so with enthusiasm
entice entice so or an animal into sth
entice entice so or an animal into sth
entice entice so or an animal with sth
entirely in its entirety
entirely in their entirety
entitle entitle so to do sth
entomb entomb so or an animal in sth
entrance make an entrance
entrap entrap so (in sth) (with sth)
treat treat so to do sth
entrust entrust so with so/sth
entwine entwine around so/sth
entwine entwine around so/sth
enunciate enunciate so to so/sth
envelop envelop so/sth in so/sth
envelope push the envelope
envisage envisage so/sth as so/sth
envision envision so as so else
envy envy so for so/sth
envy green with envy
epic disaster or proportions
equal all things being equal
equal equal so/sth in sth
equal equal to so
equal other things being equal
equal separate but equal
equate equate so/sth with so/sth
equate equate so to so/sth
equip equip so/sth with so/sth
’er Put ’er there,( pal).
era in the Common Era
erase erase sth from sth
err To err is human,( to forgive divine).
errend do an errand
errand do an errand
errand go on a fool’s errand
errand go on an errand
errand on a fool’s errand
errand run an errand
errand send so (out) on an errand
error rounding error
error trial and error
erupt erupt from sth
erupt erupt into sth
escalate escalate into sth
escalate escalate into sth
escape avenue of escape
escape escape by the skin of one’s teeth
escape escape (from so/sth) (to some place)

853
Every little bit helps.

Every Jack has his Jill.

Every horse thinks its own pack.

Every fool thing.

Every dog has its day.

Every cloud has a silver lining.

At every turn.

It is easy to be wise after the event.

In the unlikely event of.

Coming events cast their blessed event.

Able to make (an) evening.

Evening.

Evening of life.

Good evening.

Lady of the evening.

Evening.

Thank you for a lovely evening.

Event.

Event.

Event in the unlikely event of

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.

Event.
Monday's child is fair of face.

Face red in the face
Face save (one's) face
Face say sth (right) to so's face
Face set sth in a type face
Face slam the door in so's face
Face slap in the face
Face smack in the face
Face smash so's face in
Face soak one's face
Face stand there with one's bare face
Face hanging out
Face stare so in the face
Face straight face
Face stuff one's face
Face take so's/at face value
Face take sth at face value
Face talk until one is blue in the face
Face tell one to one's face
Face throw sth in(to) so's face
Face what's his face
Face wipe so's/off the face of the earth
Face wipe sth off (one's face)
Fact after the fact
Fact and that's a fact
Fact as a matter of fact
Fact face (the) facts
Fact Fact is stronger than fiction.
Fact facts of life
Fact get down to the facts
Fact get the facts straight
Fact grounded in (actual) fact
Fact have the facts straight
Fact in fact
Fact in point of fact
Fact it's for a fact.
Fact known fact
Factor fudge factor
Fade do a fade
Fade fade away (into sth)
Fade fade back (into sth)
Fade fade down
Fade fade from sth
Fade fade from view
Fade fade fade out
Fade fade sth down
Fade fade sth in
Fade fade sth out
Fade fade fade up
Fade fog so out
Fade lagged out
Fail fall in sth
Fail fail so on sth
Fail sth never fails
Fail without fail
Faint damn so/sth with faint praise
Faint faint dead away
Faint faint from sth
Faint Faint heart never won fair lady.
Faint faint of heart
Fair All's fair in love and war.
Fair Faint heart never won fair lady.
Fair fair and impartial
Fair fair and square
Fair fair game (for sth)
Fair fair shake
Fair fair sth out
Fair fair to middlin'
Fair fair-haired boy
Fair fair-weather friend
Fair Hoist your sail when the wind is
Fair Fair Monday's child is fair of face.
Fair No fair!
Fair None but the brave deserve the fair.
Fair one's fair share
Fair play fair
Fair Turnabout is fair play.
Faith act of faith
Faith Faith will move mountains.
Faith have faith in so
Faith in bad faith
Faith in good faith
Faith keep faith with so
Faith leap of faith
Faith Oh, ye of little faith.
Faith pin one's faith on so/sth
Faith require a leap of faith
Faith show good faith
Faith take sth on faith
Fake fake it
Fake fake off
Fake fake so out
Fall *asleep at the switch
Fall at one fell swoop
Fall bigger they are, the harder they fall.
Fall bottom fell out (of sth)
Fall bread always falls on the buttered side.
Fall break so's fall
Fall easy as falling off a log
Fall fall (a)foot of so/sth
Fall fall (all) over oneself (to do sth)
Fall fall all over so
Fall fall apart (at the seams)
Fall fall asleep
Fall fall away (from so/sth)
Fall fall away toward sth
Fall fall back
Fall fall behind (in sth)
Fall fall behind schedule
Fall fall behind (so/sth)
Fall fall behind (with sth)
Fall fall below sth
Fall fall beneath sth
Fall fall between sth and sth else
Fall fall between two stools
Fall fall by some amount
Fall fall by the wayside
Fall fall down
Fall fall down (at sth)
Fall fall (flat) on one's face
Fall fall for so
Fall fall for sth
Fall fall from grace
Fall fall from power
Fall fall from so/sth
Fall fall head over heels
Fall fall heir to sth
Fall fall ill
Fall fall in
Fall fall into a trap
Fall fall into decay
Fall fall into disfavor
Fall fall into disgrace
Fall fall into disuse
Fall fall into line
Fall fall into one's lap
Fall fall (in/to) place
Fall fall into so's trap
Fall fall (in/to) sth
Fall fall (in/to) step
Fall fall into the gutter
Fall fall into the trap
Fall fall into the wrong hands
famous

famous last words

family

family run in the family

family like one of the family

family run in the family

family wear the britches (in the family)

family wear the pants (in the family)

famine (either) feast or famine

famous famous last words

fan of so

fan fan out

fan fan out

fan the breeze

fan the flames (of so)

fan hit the fan

fan when the shit hits the fan

fancy fancy footwork

fancy Fancy meeting you here!

fancy fancy so's chances

fancy Fancy that!

fancy flight of fancy

fancy footloose and fancy-free

fancy strike so's fancy

fancy suit so's fancy

fancy take a fancy to so'sh

fancy tickle so'sh fancy

fantastic trip the light fantastic

far as far as anyone knows

far as far as it goes

far as far as possible

far as far as so is concerned

far as far as sh is concerned

far come from far and wide

far and away the best

far be it from me to do sh

far far cry from sh

far far from it

far far from the madding crowd

far far gone

far far into the night

far far out

far far-off look

far few and far between

far from far and near

far from near and far

far go so far as to say sh

far go too far

far make it to sh; make it as far as sh

far push so too far

far so far as anyone knows

so far as anyone knows

far so far as possible

far so far as sh is concerned

far so far as sh is concerned

Far So far, so good.

faraway faraway look

farm bet the farm

farm buy the farm

farm farm so out

farm farm sh out

farm sell the farm

farm You can bet the farm (on so'sh).

fantastic try the light fantastic

familiar

familiarize

familiar have a familiar ring (to it)

familiar unfamiliar territory

familiarity Familiarity breeds contempt.

familiarize familiarize so with sh

familiar (all) in the family

family black sheep of the family

family family that prays together stays together.

family get so in a family way

family How's the family?

family How's your family?

family in a family way

family in the family way

family like one of the family

family run in the family

family wear the britches (in the family)

family wear the pants (in the family)

famine (either) feast or famine

famous famous last words

fan of so

fan fan out

fan fan out

fan the breeze

fan the flames (of sh)

fan hit the fan

fan when the shit hits the fan

fancy fancy footwork

fancy Fancy meeting you here!

fancy fancy so's chances

fancy Fancy that!

fancy flight of fancy

fancy footloose and fancy-free

fancy strike so's fancy

fancy suit so's fancy

fancy take a fancy to so'sh

fancy tickle so'sh fancy

fantastic trip the light fantastic

far as far as anyone knows

far as far as it goes

far as far as possible

far as far as so is concerned

far as far as sh is concerned

far come from far and wide

far and away the best

far be it from me to do sh

far far cry from sh

far far from it

far far from the madding crowd

far far gone

far far into the night

far far out

far far-off look

far few and far between

far from far and near

far from near and far

far go so far as to say sh

far go too far

far make it to sh; make it as far as sh

far push so too far

far so far as anyone knows

far so far as possible

far so far as sh is concerned

far so far as sh is concerned

Far So far, so good.

faraway faraway look

farm bet the farm

farm buy the farm

farm farm so out

farm farm sh out

farm sell the farm

farm You can bet the farm (on so'sh).

fantastic try the light fantastic

familiarize familiarize so with sh

familiar (all) in the family

family black sheep of the family

family family that prays together stays together.

family get so in a family way

family how's the family?

family how's your family?

family in a family way

family in the family way

family like one of the family

family run in the family

family wear the britches (in the family)

family wear the pants (in the family)

famine (either) feast or famine

famous famous last words

fan of so

fan fan out

fan fan out

fan the breeze

fan the flames (of sh)

fan hit the fan

fan when the shit hits the fan

fancy fancy footwork

fancy Fancy meeting you here!

fancy fancy so's chances

fancy Fancy that!

fancy flight of fancy

fancy footloose and fancy-free

fancy strike so's fancy

fancy suit so's fancy

fancy take a fancy to so'sh

fancy tickle so'sh fancy

fantastic trip the light fantastic

far as far as anyone knows

far as far as it goes

far as far as possible

far as far as so is concerned

far as far as sh is concerned

far come from far and wide

far and away the best

far be it from me to do sh

far far cry from sh

far far from it

far far from the madding crowd

far far gone

far far into the night

far far out

far far-off look

far few and far between

far from far and near

far from near and far

far go so far as to say sh

far go too far

far make it to sh; make it as far as sh

far push so too far

far so far as anyone knows

far so far as possible

far so far as sh is concerned

far so far as sh is concerned

Far So far, so good.
fight fight (with) so/sth (about so/sth)
fight fighting chance
fight give up the fight
fight go down fighting
fight He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day.
fight I won't give up without a fight.
fight knock-down, drag-out fight
fight like fighting snakes
fight pick a fight (with so)
fight put up a fight
fight spoiling for a fight
fight Them's fighting words!
fight throw a fight
fight (You) can't fight city hall.
figure ballpark figure
figure cut a fine figure
figure express sth in round figures
figure figure in sth
figure figure in on doing sth
figure figure on so/sth
figure figure out the root of the problem
figure figure so as sth
figure figure so/sth in
figure figure so/sth in ((to) sth)
figure figure so/sth out
figure figure sth up
figure flatter one's figure
figure Go figure.
figure in round figures
figure it figures.
figure write sth in round figures
filch filch sth (from so)
file file charges (against so)
file file for sth
file file in (to) sth
file file out of sth
file file past (of sth)
file file sth (away)
file file sth away (from sth)
file file sth down
file file sth off ((of) sth)
file file sth with so/sth
file file sth off
file have sth on file
file in (a) single file
file march in (a) single file
file rank and file
file single file
file walk in (a) single file
fill back and fill
fill eat one's fill
fill fill
fill fill one's face
fill fill out
fill fill so full of lead
fill fill so in (on so/sth)
fill fill so/sth up (with sth)
fill fill so/sth with lead
fill fill so's head with sth
fill fill so's shoes
fill fill sth in
fill fill sth out
fill fill sth to sth
fill fill the bill
fill fill the gap
fill fill up
fill filled to the brim
fill Little and often fills the purse.
fill one's fill of so/sth
fill refill a prescription
fill smoke-filled room
film film over
filter filter in (to some place)
filter filter sth out of sth
filter filter through (sth)
filthy filthy lucre
financially financially embarrassed
find can't find one's butt with both hands (in broad daylight)
find devil finds work for idle hands to do.
find find a way around so/sth
find find against so/sth
find find fault (with so/sth)
find find favor with so
find find for so/sth
find find it (in one's) heart (to do sth)
find find it in (to do sth)
find find its way somewhere
find find (neither) hide nor hair
find find one's feet
find find one's own level
find find one's tongue
find find one's way around
find find one's way around (stg)
find find one's way (somewhere)
find find oneself
find find oneself in a bind
find find oneself in a jam
find find oneself in the doghouse
find find oneself in the market (for sth)
find find oneself in the public eye
find find oneself with so/sth
find find oneself without so/sth
find find out a thing or two (about so/sth)
find find out sth (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find find sth out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find find sth out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find find sth out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find find sth out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find find sth out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find find sth out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find find sth out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
find Keep a thing seven years and you'll (always) find a use for it.
find lost-and-found
find Love will find a way.
find *(neither) hide nor hair
find *one's* bearings
find *root of the problem
find Seek and ye shall find.
find Where will I find you?
finder Finders keepers, losers weepers.
fine Come on in, the water's fine!
fine cut a fine figure
fine do some fine coin
fine Everything will be just fine.
fine fine and dandy
fine Fine feathers make fine birds.
fine fine how do you do
fine fine kettle of fish
fine fine print
fine fine so for sth
fine fine state of affairs
fine Fine weather for ducks.
fine Fine words butter no parsnips.
fine Fine weather for ducks.
fine Fine words butter no parsnips.
fine Fine weather for ducks.
fine Fine words butter no parsnips.
fine Fine weather for ducks.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
Fine words butter no parsnips.
five He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-cent head.
five nine-to-five job
five Slip me five!
five slip so five
five take five
fix fix
fix fix an animal
fix fix so’s wagon
fix fix so up (with so)
fix fix so up (with sth)
fix fix sth
fix fix sth for (a meal)
fix fix sth on(to) sth
fix fix sth with so
fix fix (up)on so/sth
fixed up
fix fixin(g) to do sth
fix How is so fixed for sth?
fix in a fix
fix with all the fixin(g)s
fixings with all the fixin(g)s
fixure regular fixture
fizz fizz up
fizzle fizzle out
flack flack out
flag flag so/ith down
flair have a flair for sth
flake flake away (from sth)
flake flake down
flake flake off ((of) sth)
flake flake out
flake flake sth off
flame add fuel to the flame
flame burn with a low blue flame
flame burst into flame(s)
flame drawn like a moth to a flame
flame fan the flames (of sth)
flame flame up
flame flame with anger
flame flame with lust
flame flame with resentment
flame flame with vengeance
flame go down in flames
flame go up in flames
flame shoot so down in flames
flank flank (up)on so/ith
flap flap around
flap flap one’s gums
flap flap one’s jaws
flake flare out
flare flare sth out
flare flare up
flash flash a smile (at so)
flash flash across sth
flash flash back (on so/ith)
flash flash back (to so/ith)
flash flash in the pan
flash flash into one’s mind
flash flash into view
flash flash off
flash flash on
flash flash out
flash flash sth around
flash flash sth at so/ith
flash flash sth up (some place)
flash flash through one’s mind
flash flash with anger
flash flash with recognition
flash in a flash
flash quick as a flash
flat catch so flat-footed
flat fall (flat) on one’s face
flat flat as a board
flat flat as a pancake
flat flat broke
flat flat busted
flat flat on one’s ass
flat (flat) on one’s back
flat flat out
flat flatten so/ith out
flat in no time flat
flat in nothing flat
flat leave so flat
flatter flatter one’s figure
flatter Flattery will get you nowhere.
flatter Flattery is the sincerest form of flattery.
flavor flavor food with sth
flea If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.
flea not hurt a flea
fleck fleck sth with sth
flee flee from so/ith
flee flee to sth
flee fleet of foot
flee fleeting glance
flesh flesh and blood
flesh flesh out
flesh flesh sth out (with sth)
flesh in the flesh
flesh make so’s flesh crawly
flesh owe so a pound of flesh
flesh own flesh and blood
flesh pay so a pound of flesh
flesh pound of flesh
flesh press (the) flesh
flesh spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
flesh take a pound of flesh
flesh thorn in so’s flesh
flex flex sth out of shape
flex flexed out of shape
flick flick out
flick flick sth off
flick flick sth on
flick flick sth out
flick flick sth with sth
flick flick through sth
flicker flicker out
flight flight of fancy
flight Have a nice flight.
flight in flight
flight in full flight
flich flich from so/ith
flying flying final flying
flying flying one’s head back
flying flying oneself at so
flying flying so/ith around
flying flying so/ith aside
flying flying so/ith away
flying flying so/ith back
flying flying so/ith down
flying flying so/ith out of sth
flying flying sth at so/ith
flying flying sth in(to) sth
flying flying sth off of oneself
flying flying sth off (of) sth
flying flying sth on oneself
flying flying sth up in so’s face
flying flying sth up (in sth)
flying flying up
flip do a flip-flop (on sth)
flip flip around
flow with flow
flow over
flow through
flow on with

flow with flow
flow across
flow along
flow away
flow from
flow (from sth) (to sth)
flow in(to sth)
flow out (of sth)
flow over (of sth)
flow with

fly When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.
fly with flying colors
fly You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.
fly You must lose a fly to catch a trout.
foam foam at the mouth
foam foam up
fob fob sth off (on(sth)
focus bring sth into focus
focus come into focus
focus focus on sth
focus focus sth on sth
focus go out of focus
focus in focus
focus out of focus
foe friend or foe
fog able to fog a mirror
fog fog over
fog fog sth up
fog fog up
fog foggiest (idea)
frog in a fog
foggiest foggiest (idea)
foist foist sth off (on sth)
fold fold back
fold fold one’s hands
fold fold sth away
fold fold sth back
fold fold sth into sth
fold fold sth over
fold fold sth up
fold fold, spindle, or mutilate
fold fold up
fold folding money
fold unfold into sth
fold unfold sth into sth
folk Different strokes for different folks.
folk (home) folks
folk idle folk have the least leisure.
follow Do you follow?
follow follow after the style of sth
follow follow in sth’s tracks
follow follow on (after sth)
follow follow one’s heart
follow follow one’s nose
follow follow orders
follow follow sth about
follow follow sth out
follow follow sth’s lead
follow follow sth up
follow follow sth through
follow follow sth up
follow follow suit
follow follow the crowd
follow follow through (on sth)
follow follow through (with sth)
follow follow up (on sth)
follow follow up (on sth)
follow follow up (on sth)
follow follow up (on sth)
follow hard act to follow
follow tough act to follow
folly Where ignorance is bliss, ’tis folly to be wise.
foment foment trouble
fond Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
fond fond of sth
food flavor food with sth
food food for thought
fool any fool thing
fool Children and fools tell the truth.
foot  every fool thing
foot  Experience is the teacher of fools.
foot  fool and his money are soon parted.
foot  fool around
foot  fool (around) with so/so
foot  Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.
foot  fool's paradise
foot  fool so into so
foot  Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
foot  go on a fool's errand
foot  make a fool (out) of so
foot  nobody's fool
foot  on a fool's errand
foot  penny-wise and pound-foolish
foot  play so for a fool
foot  play the fool
foot  take so for a fool
foot  (That's) enough (of this)
foolishness
foot  There's no fool like an old fool.
foot  (You) could have fooled me.
foolish  penny-wise and pound-foolish
foolishness  (That's) enough (of this)
foolishness!
foot  back on one's feet
foot  balls of one's feet
foot  bound hand and foot
foot  bring one to one's feet
foot  bring sth to its feet
foot  catch so flat-footed
foot  cold as a well-digger's feet (in January)
foot  cold feet
foot  come to one's feet
foot  dead on one's feet
foot  dive in with both feet
foot  drag one's feet (on or over so)
foot  find one's feet
foot  fleet of foot
foot  foot in both camps
foot  foot the bill (for so)
foot  foot-in-mouth disease
foot  get one on one's feet
foot  get one's feet wet
foot  get one's feet in the door
foot  get some weight off one's feet
foot  get to one's feet
foot  have feet of clay
foot  have one foot in the grave
foot  have one's feet on the ground
foot  have the shoe on the other foot
foot  have two left feet
foot  hotfoot it (off to) somewhere
foot  hotfoot it out of somewhere
foot  I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole.
foot  itchy feet
foot  jump in with both feet
foot  keep one's feet on the ground
foot  keep out from under so's feet
foot  keep sth on its feet
foot  knock off one's feet
foot  land (up) on both feet
foot  land (up) on one's feet
foot  lay sth at so's feet
foot  let grass grow under one's feet
foot  load off one's feet
foot  My foot!
foot  not let the grass grow under one's feet
foot  not set foot somewhere
foot  not touch so/so with a ten-foot pole
foot  off on the right foot (with so/so)
foot  off on the wrong foot
foot  on foot
foot  on its feet
foot  on one's feet
foot  patter of tiny feet
foot  play footsie with so
foot  put one foot in front of the other
foot  put one on one's feet
foot  put one's best foot forward
foot  put one's feet up
foot  put one's feet down (about so/so)
foot  put one's foot in it
foot  put one's foot in one's mouth
foot  put sth on its feet
foot  regain one's feet
foot  rise to one's feet
foot  run one's feet off
foot  set foot in some place
foot  set one (back) on one's feet
foot  set one on one's feet again
foot  shoe is on the other foot.
foot  shoot oneself in the foot
foot  sit at the feet of so
foot  six feet under
foot  spring to one's feet
foot  start on one's (own) two feet
foot  start off on the wrong foot
foot  step off on the wrong foot
foot  stick one's foot in one's mouth
foot  sweep one off one's feet
foot  take a load off one's feet
foot  think on one's feet
foot  throw oneself at so's feet
foot  vote with one's feet
foot  wait on so hand and foot
foot  walk so's feet off
foot  wouldn't touch so/so with a ten-foot pole
foot  football  political football
foot  foothold
foot  foothold (somewhere)
foot  foothold help so get a foothold (somewhere)
foot  footloose  footloose and fancy-free
foot  footsie  play footsie with so
foot  footwork  fancy footwork
foot  for  for A for effort
foot  for accept the blame for so
foot  for account for so/so
foot  for account for sth
foot  for ache for so/so
foot  for acquire a taste for sth
foot  for act for so
foot  for adapt sth for sth
foot  for adjourn for a time
foot  for admire so for so
foot  for admonish so for so
foot  for adore so for doing sth
foot  for adore so for having sth
foot  for advertise so for so
foot  for advertise sth for a price
foot  for advertise sth for sth
foot  for affinity for so/so
foot  for agitate for sth
foot  for aim for sth
foot  for aim for the sky
foot  for Aim for the stars!
foot  for (all) for so/so
foot  for (all) for the best
foot  for All right for you!
foot  for all the more reason for doing sth
foot  for allow so/so
foot  for allow sth for sth
foot  for angle for sth
foot  for announce (one's) support for so/so
foot  for answer for so
foot  for apologize (to so) (for so)
foot  for appeal (to a court) (for sth)
foot  for appear for so
foot  for apply (to so/so) (for sth)
foot  for appropriate sth for sth
foot  for (Are (you)) ready for this?
foot  for argue for so/so
foot  for arguing the sake of arguing
foot  for arguing the sake of argument
foot  for arrange for so to do sth
foot  for arrange for sth
foot  for arrange some music for sth
foot  for arrange sth for some time
foot  for arrange sth for so/so
foot  for as for so/so
foot  for ask for a knuckle sandwich
foot  for ask for so/so
foot  for ask for sth bad or dire
foot  for ask for the moon
foot  for ask for trouble
foot  for ask so for sth
foot  for ask so out (for sth)
foot  for assume liability for sth
foot  for at a loss (for words)
foot  for atone for sth
foot  for audition for sth
foot  for audition so for sth
foot  for augur well for so/so
foot  for average oneself (on so/so) (for sth)
foot  for award sth (to so) (for sth)
foot  for babysit for so/so
foot  for back so for sth
foot  for bang for the buck
foot  for bang the drum for so/so
foot  for bargain (for so/so) (with so)
foot  for bargain for sth
foot  for barter for sth
foot  for barter sth for sth else
foot  for battle for sth
foot  for be for doing sth
foot  for be for so/so
foot  for bear the blame for sth
foot  for beat the drum for so/so
foot  for bed down (for sth)
foot  for beg for so/so
foot  for bend over backwards (to do sth) (for so)
foot  for bid (so) for sth
foot  for big hand for sth
foot  for bill so for sth
foot  for blame for sth
foot  for blame so for sth
foot  for blame so for so
foot  for blast off (for some place)
foot  for bleed for so
foot  for Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.
foot  for bode somehow for so/so
foot  for bounce for sth
foot  for bound for somewhere
foot  for brace oneself for sth
foot  for break for sth
foot  for break ground (for sth)
foot  for break sth down (for so)
foot  for bring so up for sth
foot  for buck for sth
foot  for budget sth for so/so
foot  for build up for (st)
for Bully for you!
for bunk down (for the night)
for burn for so/th
for but for so/th
for buy sth for a song
for buy sth (from so) (for sth)
for buzz for so
for Bye for now.
for call for so/th
for call so in (for sth)
for call (up)on so (for sth)
for campaign for so/th
for can (just) whistle for sth
for candidate for a pair of wings
for cannot see the forest for the trees
for cannot see the wood for the trees
for can't wait (for sth (to happen))
for care for so
for care for sth
for care nothing for so/th
for carry a torch (for so)
for cash sth in (for sth)
for cast around for so/th
for celebrate so for an accomplishment
for censure so for sth
for charge (sthl) for so
for charge (sthl) for sth
for chart sth out (for so/th)
for cheer for so/th
for chide so for sth
for chip in (on sth) (for so)
for chip in (with sth) (on sth) (for so)
for chip sth in (on sth) (for so)
for choose so/th for so/th
for choose sth for so
for cite so for sth
for claim sth for so/th
for claim sth for sth
for clamor for so/th
for clear sthl for publication
for close enough for government work
for close in for the kill
for coach so for sth
for collect (money) for so/th
for collect (money) for sth
for comb sth for so/th
for come around (for a visit)
for come for so
for come in for sth
for come out for so/th
for come through (for so/th)
for come up for air
for come up for auction
for come up for reelection
for come up for sale
for come up for sth
for commend so for sth
for commit so/th for sth
for compensate for sth
for compensate so for sth
for compete for so/th
for condemn so for sth
for consider so for sth
for contend with so (for sth)
for contract with so (for sth)
for contribute sth (to so) (for so/th)
for count for sth
for count so in (for sth)
for count so out (for sth)
for cover for so
for cover so/th for sth
for cover (up) for so
for cram for a test
for cram for an examination
for cram for an examination
for crazy for so/th
for credit (for sth)
for credit so/th for sth
for criticize so for sth
for cruising for a bruising
for crusade for so/th
for cry for so/th
for cry out for so/th
for crying need (for so/th)
for curse so for sth
for curtains so/th for sth
for cut out (for some place)
for cut out for so/th
for cut out for sth
for dash out (for sth)
for dash over (for sth)
for (dead) ringer (for so)
for decide for so/th
for declare (oneself) for so/th
for decorate so for sth
for demonstrate for so/th
for disapprove so for sth
for depart for some place
for desert so/th for so/th else
for deserve credit for sth
for design sth for so
for design sth for sth
for despise so for sth
for desist so for sth
for destined for sth
for detail so for sth
for devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose.
for devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose.
for devil finds work for idle hands to do.
for devil so or an animal for sth
for dicker with so (for sth)
for die for so/th
for die for so/th
for Different strokes for different folks.
for dig for sth
for discipline so for sth
for dismiss so (from sth) (for sth)
for disqualify so/th for sth
for do for so
for do for sth
for Do I have to spell it out (for you)?
for do somehow for so
for dock so/th for sth
for Does it work for you?
for dollar for dollar
for done for
for Don’t put off for tomorrow what you can do today.
for dose down (for some time)
for dose down for sth
for down for the count
for down one for the road
for draft so for sth
for draw for sth
for draw straws for sth
for dress for so
for dress for sth
for drop around (for sth)
for dun so for sth
for earmark sth for so/th
for Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.
for educate so for sth
for embark for some place
for employ so for sth
for enlist (oneself) for sth
for enlist so for sth
for enroll (so) for sth
for envy so for so/th
for equip so/th (with sth) (for sth)
for Every man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost).
for Everything will work out for the best.
for examine so/th for sth
for exchange sth for sth
for excuse so for sth
for expect so/th for sth
for expend sth for sth
for expropriate sth (from so/th) (for so/th)
for eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth).
for fair game (for sth)
for fall for so
for fall for sth
for fault so (for sth)
for fear so/th for sth
for feel around (for so/th)
for feel for so
for feel for sth
for fend for oneself
for fight for so/th
for file for sth
for fill in (for so/th)
for find for so/th
for find oneself in the market (for sth)
for find time for so/th
for fine so for sth
for Fine weather for ducks.
for fish for a compliment
for fish for sth
for fit for a king
for fit for the gods
for fit so for sth
for fit so/th out (for sth)
for fix sth for a (meal)
for flip so for sth
for food for thought.
for foot the bill (for sth)
for for a drive
for for a lark
for for a living
for for a ride
for for a song
for for a spin
for for a split second
for for all I care
for for all I know
for for all intents and purposes
for for all it's worth
for for (all) one's trouble
for for all practical purposes
for for all so's problems
for for all the world
for for better or for worse
for for chicken feed
for for crying in a bucket!
for for crying out loud!
for for days on end
for for fear of sth
for for free
for for giggles
for for good
for for goodness sake!
for for gosh sake!
for for heaven(s) sake!
for for hours on end
for for instance
for for keeps
for for kicks
for for life
for for miles
for for my money
for for one’s (own) part
for for one’s (own) sake
for for openers
for for peanuts
For for Pete’s sake!
For for pity’s sake!
for for real
for for safekeeping
for for sale
For for shame!
for for short
for for (some) days running
for for (some) months running
for for (some) years running
for for so/so’s sake
for for starters
for for sure
for for that matter
for for the asking
for for the better
for for the birds
for for the devil of it
for for the duration
for for the fun of it
for for the good of so/so
for for the heck of it
for for the hell of it
for for the life of me
For For the love of Mike!
for for the moment
for for the most part
for for the record
for for the sake of so/so
for for the time being
for For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost; for for (whatever) it’s worth
for for your information
for forage (around) (for sth)
for forgive so so sth
for fork some money out (for sth)
for front for so/so
for fumble for sth
for furnish sth for so/so
for furnish sth for sth
for gasp for air
for gasp for breath
for gear so/so’s up (for so/so)
for gear up for so/so
for Geronimo is an infinite capacity for taking pains.
for get an amount of money for sth
for get so up (for sth)
for get sth for an amount of money
for get sth for so
for get sth for sth
for get sth together (for a particular time)
for give cause for sth
for give one’s eyeteeth (for so/so)
for give one’s right arm (for so/so)
for give so/so’s up (for lost)
for give so pause (for thought)
for give so bit for tat
for give so up for dead
for give sth for sth
for for gluton for punishment
for for all out (for so/so’s)
for for all (with so) for the ride
for for away (for sth)
for for down for the count
for for down for the third time
for for go broke
for Go for it!
for for go for nothing
for for go for so/so
for for go in for sth
for for go on for an age
for for go out for so/so
for for go out (for sth)
for for go out for the count
for for go to bat for so
for for go up for auction
for for good enough for government work
for for good enough for so/so
for for good for what ails you
for Good for you!
for for Good-bye for now.
for for grab for so/so
for for grapple (with so) (for sth)
for for grieve for so/so
for for grist for the mill
for for groom so for sth
for for grope (about) (for so/so)
for for grope (around) (for so/so)
for for grounds for sth
for for grub around (for so/so)
for for guarantee sth against sth (for sth)
for for gulp for air
for for gun for so
for for hang on for dear life
for for hang so for sth
for for hard up for (for)
for for have a flair for sth
for for have a gift for (doing) sth
for for have a head for sth
for for have a lot going (for one)
for for have a nose for sth
for for have a passion for so/so
for for have a penchant for doing sth
for for have a soft spot (in one’s heart) for so or an animal
for for have a thirst for sth
for for have (a) use for so/so
for for have a weakness for so/so
for for have an appetite for sth
for for have an urge for so/so
for for have an eye for so/so
for Have I got something for you!
for for have it in for so
for for have one’s eye out (for so/so)
for for have one’s work cut out for one
for for have so around (for sth)
for for have so for breakfast
for for have so over (for sth)
for for have so slated for sth
for for have so up (for sth)
for for have sth for (a meal)
for for have sth for so
for for have sth going (for oneself)
for for have sth in store (for so)
for for have the coats for so
for for have the stomach for sth
for For He that would go to sea for pleasure, would go to hell for a pastime.
for for head for so/so
for for head for the hills
for for head for the last roundup
for for head for (the) tall timber
for for head out (for sth)
for for headed for sth
for for hell-bent for leather
for for hell-bent for somewhere or sth
for for hint for sth
for for hit out (for sth or some place)
for for hit so up (for sth)
for for hold good for so/so
for for hold no brief for so/so
for for hold out (for so/so)
for for hold so accountable for sth
for for hold so for ransom
for for hold so responsible for sth
for for hold sth back for a rainy day
for for hold sth so
for for hold sth in store (for so)
for for hold still (for so/so)
for for hold still for sth
for for hold terror for so
for for hold up (for so/so)
for for honest for so/so
for for honest so for sth
for for hope for sth
for for hope for the best
for for How is so fixed for sth?
for for hunger for so/so
for for hungry for sth
for for hunt for so/so
for for hunt high and low (for so/so)
for for hunt for so/so
for for hurtin’ for sth
for for (I) can’t say for sure.
for for (I) couldn’t ask for more.
for for I felt like a penny waiting for change.
for for I’d like (for) you to meet so.
for for If ifs and ands were pots and pans (there’d be no work for tinkers’ hands).
for for if one knows what’s good for one
for for if you don’t see what you want, please ask for it.
for for if you know what’s good for you
for for If you want peace, (you must) prepare for war.
for for Ignorance (of the law) is no excuse (for breaking it).
for for impeach so for sth
for for in exchange (for so/so)
for for in for sth
for for in return for (so/so)
for for in some transaction for so
for for in store (for so)
for for in the market (for sth)
for for in the mood (for sth)
for for incapacitate so for sth (for a period of time)
for for indict so for sth
for for inquire for so
for for insist (against) for sth (for sth)
for for intend sth for so/so
for for intercede (for so) with so/so
for for interpret for so
for for interpret sth for so
for for interview so for sth
for for interview with so for sth
for for invite so over (for sth)
for for (Is it) cold enough for you?
for for (Is it) hot enough for you?
for for issue a call for sth
for for It’s for a fact.
for for (Is it) cold enough for you?
for There is a time and a place for everything.
for There is no accounting for taste(s).
for There is no rest for the weary.
for There's no accounting for taste.
for think for oneself
for think so fit for sth
for think so fit for so/th
for thirsty for sth
for thirsty for so/th
for throw a party (for so)
for throw so for a loop
for throw so for a loss
for throw so over for so else
for ticket so for some place
for tie (with so) (for sth)
for Time and tide wait for no man.
for time for so/th
for time off for good behavior
for to die for
for toil for so
for toil for sth
for toll for so
for too big for one's britches
for too close for comfort
for too funny for words
for too rich for so's blood
for tos (so) for sth
for touch so (up) for sth
for trade sq/sth for so/th
for trade sth in (for sth)
for train for sth
for train so or an animal for sth
for travel for so/th
for treat so (for sth) (with sth)
for trouble so for sth
for trust so for sth
for try for sth
for try out (for so)
for try so for sth
for try sth (on) (for size)
for turn out (for sth)
for turn to sq/sth (for sth)
for unit for sq/th (for sth)
for up for auction
for up for grabs
for up for reelection
for up for sale
for up for sth
for upbraid so for sth
for use for so/th
for use for sq/th
for use your head for more than a hatrack
for use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart
for utilize sq/sth for sth
for value sq/sth for sth
for vie (with so) (for sq/th)
for volunteer for sth
for vote for so/th
for vouch for so/th
for wait (around) (for sq/sth)
for wait at sth (for sq/sth)
for wait for the next wave
for wait for the other shoe to drop
for wait up (for sq/sth)
for want for nothing
for want for sth
for want so for sth
for want sth for so/th
for wash up (for sth)
for watch for sq/th
for watch out for so
for weep for joy
for weep for so or an animal
for What can I do for you?
for What do you know for sure?
for What else can I do for you?
for what for
for What's in it for me?
for What's on tap for today?
for What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.
for Whistle for sq/sth
for Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?
for will eat so for breakfast
for wire ahead (for sth)
for wire for sth
for wire sq/th for sth
for wish for so/th
for with sq/th for some time
for without (so much as) a (for or) by your leave
for witness for so/th
for word for word
for work for so
for work for sth
for work out for the best
for worse for wear
for (Would you) care for another (one)?
for write away for sth
for write for sth
for write in(to sq/th) (for sth)
for write off (to so) (for sth)
for write so for sth
for yeem for sq/th
for yen for sq/th
for You asked me if?
for You don't get something for nothing.
for You get what you pay for.
for zone sth for sth
for forage forage (around) (for sth)
for forbid forbidden fruit
for forbid God forbid!
for forbid Heaven forbid!
for force arrive in force
for force attack in force
for force by force of habit
for force come out in force
for force driving force (behind sq/th)
for force force so out of sth
for force force sq/th down
for force force sq/th in(to) sth
for force force sq/th off of sth
for force force sq/th (off) on so
for force force sq/th out of sth
for force force sq/th through sth
for force force so out of office
for force force so's hand
for force force so to the wall
for force force sth down
for force force sth through sth
for force force sth up
for force force to be reckoned with
for force go out in force
for force in force
for force join forces (with sth)
for force out in force
for force serve as the driving force (behind sq/th)
for fore bring sth to the fore
for fore come to the fore
for fore and aft
forth

set forth

sally forth

put (forth)

forth

lead forth

launch forth

issue (forth) from

hold forth

gush (forth) (from)

come forth

toss forth back and forth

venture forth

fortify

come into a (small) fortune

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

Fortune favors the bold.

Fortune favors the brave.

small fortune

catch forty winks

Forty winks

Life begins at forty.

take forty winks

forward bend forward

bring sq/sth forward

call so forward

carry sth forward

come forward

face sq/sth forward

forward sth from some place (to so or some place)

from this day forward

go forward with sth

inch forward

incline forward

incline sth forward

know sth backwards and forwards

know sth forwards and backwards

lean forward

leap forward

look forward to sth

lurch forward

move forward with sth

move sq/sth forward

pass sth forward

pitch forward

press forward

push forward

push sq/sth forward

put one's best foot forward

put sq/sth forward

put sth forward

set sth forward

step forward

thrust sth forward

urge so forward

foul

foul of one's own nest

foul out (of sth)

foul play

foul sq/sth up

foul up

fouled up

foul

It's an ill bird that fouls its own nest.

foul use foul language

found

found money

found sq/sth (up)on sth

found lost-and-found

found four between you and me and these four walls

four sheets in the wind

four from the four corners of the earth

get down (on all fours)

on all fours

sixty-four-dollar question

foursome

make up a foursome

fourth

grow knee-high by the 4th of July

knee-high by the 4th of July

fowl

neither fish nor fowl

fox

cunning as a fox

sly as a fox

Fraid.

Fraid so.

fraidy cat

frame

frame sth in sth

frame sth out

frame

one's frame of mind

frankly

frank

speaking

frank

(speaking) (quite)

fraternize

fraternize with sq/sth

fraught

fraught with danger

fray

enter the fray

join the fray

jump into the fray

frazzle

wear so to a frazzle

freak

freak out (at sq/sth)

freak

freak out (on sq/sth)

freak

freak out (over sq/sth)

freak so out

freak

freaked (out)

able to breathe (freely) again

best things in life are free.

break free (from)

break free (from sth)

feel free (to do sth)

feel free and fancy-free

free

free for

free and clear

free and easy

free

free as the air

free hand (with)

free lunch

free ride

free sq/sth from sq/sth

free

free translation

get free of sq/sth

free

get off scot-free

free sq/sth free (from sq/sth)

free

give free rein to so

get scot-free

home free

make free with so

free

Nothing is given so freely as advice.

free

set sq/sth free (from sth)

free

There ain't no such thing as a free lunch.

true

There's no such thing as a free lunch.

Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?

freedom

give one's freedom

freeze

give so on doing sth

freeze

give so to sth

freeze

go (to) sq/sth

freeze

give so on sth

freeze

give so to sth

freeze

give so (from sq/sth)

freeze

give so (from sq/sth)

freeze

give so (from sq/sth)

freeze

give so (from sq/sth)

freeze

give so (from sq/sth)

freeze

give so (from sq/sth)

freeze

give so (from sq/sth)

freeze
frogs If a toady frog had wings, he wouldn’t bump his ass.

frog If frogs had wheels, they wouldn’t bump their butts.

frog know no more about sth than a frog knows about bedsheets

frog like herding frogs

frog from abduct so from so/sth

frog from absent oneself so from so/sth

frog from absolve so from sth

frog from abstain from sth

frog from abstain from voting

frog from abstract sth from so/sth

frog from abstract sth from sth

frog from adapt sth from sth

frog from alienate so from so/sth

frog from allight from sth

frog from allow so up (from sth)

frog from aloof from so/sth

frog from another country heard from

frog from arouse so from sth

frog from arrive (same place) from some other place

frog from ascertain sth from so/sth

frog from aside from so/sth

frog from avert sth (away) from so/sth

frog from awake(n) from sth

frog from awake(n) so from sth

frog from away from it all

frog from away from one’s desk

frog from away (from so/sth)

frog from back away (from so/sth)

frog from back down (from so/sth)

frog from back off (from so/sth)

frog from back so/sth off (from sth)

frog from back so/sth out (from sth)

frog from bake sth from scratch

frog from ban so from sth

frog from banish so/sth from some place

frog from bar so from some place

frog from beg sth from so

frog from benefit from sth

frog from bleed from sth

frog from blow in (from some place)

frog from blow in(to some place) (from some place)

frog from bolt from the blue

frog from borrow sth from so

frog from bounce back (from sth)

frog from branch off (from sth)

frog from branch out (from sth)

frog from break away (from so)

frog from break free (from so)

frog from break loose (from so)

frog from break off (from sth)

frog from break sth away (from sth)

frog from break free sth (from sth)

frog from break sth loose from sth

frog from breeze in (from some place)

frog from bring so over from some place

frog from bring sth away from sth

frog from brush sth away from sth

frog from buffet so/sth from so/sth to so/sth

frog from build so/sth up (from sth)

frog from bundle from heaven

frog from buy sth back (from so)

frog from buy sth (from so) (for sth)

frog from cads sth from so

frog from call so away (from sth)

frog from carry so/sth over from sth

frog from carry sth from some place

frog from cast off (from sth)

frog from catch sth from so

frog from change back (from sth)

frog from change over (from so/sth) (to so/sth)

frog from chase so/sth (away) from some place

frog from chutter from sth

frog from check out (from sth)

frog from chip sth away (from sth)

frog from choose from so/sth

frog from clear sth from some place

frog from climb down (from sth)

frog from clip sth from sth

frog from collect sth from so

frog from come away (so/sth)

frog from come back (from some place)

frog from come down (from some place)

frog from come from behind

frog from come from far and wide

frog from come from nowhere

frog from come from some place

frog from come from some place

frog from come home from some place

frog from come (up) from behind

frog from commute from some place

frog from compile sth from sth

frog from conceal so/sth from so/sth

frog from conduct so away (from so/sth)

frog from confiscate sth from so/sth

frog from constrain so from doing sth

frog from construct sth from sth

frog from converse about sth from sth

frog from convert sth from so/sth

frog from convert sth from sth (in)to sth

frog from convert sth (from sth) (in)to sth

frog from convey sth (from so/sth) (to so/sth)

frog from copy sth from so/sth

frog from copy sth down (from so/sth)

frog from count from sth to sth

frog from cover (away) from so/sth

frog from cover down (from sth)

frog from cover from sth

frog from crawl out (from under so/sth)

frog from creep out (from under so/sth)

frog from crib sth from so/sth

frog from cringe away from so/sth

frog from cross from some place to some place

frog from cut from the same cloth

frog from cut (oneself) loose from so/sth

frog from cut so/sth loose from sth

frog from cut so/sth off (from sth)

frog from cut sth away (from sth)

frog from cut sth from sth

frog from cut the ground out from under so/sth

frog from dangle from sth

frog from dangle sth from sth

frog from date from sth

frog from *day one

frog from dead from the neck up

frog from deduce sth from sth

frog from deduct sth from sth else

frog from defect from sth

frog from deflect sth away from so/sth

frog from delete sth from sth

frog from deliver so from so/sth

frog from demand sth from so/sth

frog from demote so from sth (to sth)

frog from depart from some place

frog from deport so (from some place) (to some other place)

frog from derive from sth

frog from derive sth from so/sth

frog from derive sth from sth

frog from descend from or some group

frog from descend from sth
from | deserve better from so/sth
from | desert from sth
from | detach so/sth from so/sth
from | deter so/sth from sth
from | detract from so/sth
from | develop from so/sth (into so/sth)
from | deviate from sth
from | die from curiosity
from | differ from sth
from | differentiate so/sth from so/sth else
from | digest from sth
from | disappear from sth
from | disbar so from sth
from | discern so/sth from so/sth else
from | discern sth from so/sth else
from | discharge so from sth
from | discharge sth from sth
from | disconnect so/sth from so/sth
from | discourage so from sth
from | disembark from sth
from | disengage (one self) from so/sth
from | disengage sth from sth
from | disentangle so/sth from so/sth
from | dislodge so/sth from so/sth
from | dismiss so (from sth) (for sth)
from | dismount from sth
from | dispatch so from some place
from | dispense sth (to so) (from sth)
from | dissipate from sth
from | dissociate oneself from so/sth
from | dissuade so from sth
from | distance oneself from so/sth
from | distill sth from sth
from | distinguish so/sth from so/sth else
from | distract so from sth
from | diverge from sth
from | divert so/sth from so/sth
from | divide sth (off) (from sth or animals)
from | divorce oneself from sth
from | do sth from scratch
from | dock sth from sth
from | doesn’t know his ass from a hole in the ground
from | doesn’t know his ass from his elbow
from | Don’t know you from somewhere?
from | downhill from here on
from | drag sth away (from sth)
from | draw sth from sth
from | draw sth away (from sth)
from | draw sth from so/sth
from | draw apart from so/sth
from | draw away from so/sth
from | draw fire from so
from | draw some kind of attention away (from so/sth)
from | draw (so/sth) from sth
from | draw (so/sth) fire (away from so/sth or an animal
from | drive sth off (from sth)
from | drift apart (from each other)
from | drift away (from so)
from | drift away (from so/sth)
from | drive so or an animal away (from sth or same place)
from | drop so/sth from sth
from | ease away (from so/sth)
from | ease off (from so/sth)
from | ease so/sth down (from sth)
from | edge away (from so/sth)
from | eject so from some place
from | elicit sth from so
from | eliminate so/sth from sth
from | emanate so from so/sth
from | emancipate so from so/sth
from | embezzle sth from so/sth
from | emerge (from sth) (as sth)
from | emigrate (from some place) (to some place)
from | emit sth (from sth) (into sth)
from | enjoin so/sth from sth
from | ensue from sth
from | erase sth from sth
from | erupt from sth
from | escape (from so/sth) (to some place)
from | escort so/sth from sth
from | estranged from so
from | evacuate so (from sth) (to sth)
from | everything from A to Z
from | everything from soup to nuts
from | evict so from some place
from | evolve (from sth) (into sth)
from | exact sth from so
from | exempt so/sth from sth
from | exclude so/sth from sth
from | excuse so from sth
from | exempt so from sth
from | exile so (from sth) (to sth)
from | exit (from sth) (to sth)
from | expect sth from so/sth
from | expel from so/sth
from | expel sth from sth
from | expatriate sth (from so/sth) (for so/sth)
from | expunge sth from sth
from | expurgate sth from sth
from | expunge sth from sth
from | expunge sth from sth
from | expel sth from sth
from | expel sth from sth
from | expel sth from sth
from | extricate so/sth from so/sth
from | face away (from so/sth)
from | face from sth
from | fade from sth
from | fade from view
from | faint from sth
from | fall away (from so/sth)
from | fall from grace
from | fall from power
from | fall from so/sth
from | far out (from some place)
from | far be it from me to do sth
from | far cry from sth
from | far from it
from | far from the madding crowd
from | fence so/sth from so/sth
from | ferret sth out (from sth)
from | filch sth from sth
from | file sth away (from sth)
from | find sth (out) (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
from | flake away (from sth)
from | flee from so/sth
from | flinch from so/sth
from | flit from person to person
from | flit from sth to sth else
from | flow from sth
from | flow (from sth) (to sth)
from | fly from so/sth (to sth)
from | fly from sth (to sth)
from | fly so/sth in(to some place) (from some place)
from | force so or an animal from sth
from | form from sth
from | forward sth from some place (to so or some place)
from | free so/sth from so/sth
from | free from A to Z
from | from all corners of the world
from | from dawn to dusk
from | from day one
from | from day to day
from | from door to door
from | from far and near
from | from giddy-up to whoa
from | from hand to hand
from | from head to toe
from | from hell to breakfast
from | from here on (in)
from | from here till next Tuesday
from | from Missouri
from | from my perspective
from | from near and far
from | from overseas
from | from pillar to post
from | from the cradle to the grave
from | from the four corners of the earth
from | from (the) git-go
from | from the ground up
from | from the heart
from | from the old school
from | from the outset
from | from the sublime to the ridiculous
from | from the top
from | from the word go
from | from this day forward
from | from this day on
from | from time to time
from | from tip to toe
from | from top to bottom
from | from way back
from | from where I stand
from | from gain from sth
from | from gain sth from sth
from | gather sth from so
from | gather sth from sth
from | generalize from sth
from | get a rise from so
from | get away (from so/sth)
from | get down (from sth)
from | get one’s kicks (from so/sth)
from | get so/sth away from so/sth
from | get so/sth down (from sth)
from | get so/sth free (from so/sth)
from | get sth from so/sth
from | get sth straight from the horse’s mouth
from | get up (from sth)
from | get up (from sth)
from | glide away (from so/sth)
from | go from bad to worse
from | go from one extreme to the other
from | go out from sth
from | grab so/sth away (from so/sth)
from | graduate (from sth)
from | Great oaks from little acorns grow.
from | grin from ear to ear
from grow apart (from so/sth)
from grow away from so
from grow away from sth
from grow from sth
from grow sth from sth
from guard so/sth from so/sth
from guide so away from so/sth
from guide sth away (from so/sth)
from gush (forth) (from so/sth)
from hail from some place
from hand sth down from so to so
from hang back (from so/sth)
from hang down (from so/sth)
from hang from sth
from hang so/sth from sth
from haul sth (from some place) to some place
from haul sth up (from sth)
from have calluses from patting one's own back
from head away from so/sth
from hear from so/sth
from hear word (from so/sth)
from heartbeat away from being sth
from help so down (from sth)
from help so up (from sth)
from hide from so or an animal
from hide out (from so/sth)
from hinder so from sth
from hire so away (from so/sth)
from hold off (from) doing sth
from hold so/sth or an animal back (from so/sth)
from hound so from some place
from hurl sth away (from so/sth)
from immigrate (in)to some place (from some place)
from import sth (from sth) ((in)to sth)
from incline away (from so/sth)
from increase sth (from sth) (to sth)
from infer sth from sth
from inherit sth from so
from inhibit so from doing sth
from inhibit sth from doing sth
from isolate so/sth from so/sth
from issue (forth) from some place
from issue sth from sth
from jerk sth away (from so/sth or an animal)
from jet (from some place) (to some place)
from jet from sth
from jump (down) (from sth)
from jump from sth to sth
from jump up (from sth)
from (just) a stone's throw away (from so/sth)
from (just) a stone's throw (from sth)
from jut out (from sth)
from keep aloof from so/sth
from keep at arm's length from so/sth
from keep away (from sth)
from keep from sth
from keep one's distance (from so/sth)
from keep out from under so's feet
from keep so from doing sth
from keep so from so/sth
from keep so/sth away (from so/sth)
from keep so/sth from doing sth
from keep so/sth or an animal back (from so/sth)
from keep sth from so
from keep the wolf from the door
from kiss sth away (from sth)
from knock the props out from under so
from know from sth
from know shit from Shinola
from know so from so
from know sth from memory
from know sth from sth
from know where one is coming from
from lapse from grace
from last (from sth) until sth
from lay off ((from) sth)
from lay so off (from sth)
from leach sth away (from sth)
from lead so/sth (away) (from so/sth)
from leap down (from sth)
from learn sth from so/sth
from learn sth from the bottom up
from lease sth from so
from liberate so/sth from so/sth
from lift so/sth down (from sth)
from lift sth from so/sth
from like a bolt from the blue
from like stealing acorns from a blind pig
from like taking candy from a baby
from live apart (from so)
from live from day to day
from live from hand to mouth
from look away (from so/sth)
from look up (from sth)
from lure so/sth away (from so/sth)
from made from the same mold
from mail sth from some place
from make a living from sth
from make sth from scratch
from make sth from sth
from make sth up from sth
from manna from heaven
from march (from some place) (to some place)
from Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.
from migrate (from some place) (to some place)
from move away (from so/sth)
from money from home
from mooch (st) from so
from mood sth from so/sth
from move away (from so/sth)
from move back (from so/sth)
from move (from some place) (to some place)
from move off (from so/sth)
from move out (from under so/sth)
from move so/sth away (from so/sth)
from move so/sth back (from so/sth)
from move so/sth off ((from) so/sth)
from nearer the church, the farther from God.
from not know from nothing
from not know so from Adam
from nothing to choose from
from obliterate so/sth from sth
from omit so/sth from sth
from on loan (from so/sth)
from one's home away from home
from ooze (out) (from so/sth)
from operate from sth
from order sth from so/sth
from originate from sth
from out so/sth
from out from sth
from out (from under so/sth)
from withdraw so from sth
from withdraw sth from so/so
from withhold so from so or an animal
from woo so away (from so/so)
from word (from so/so)
from wrench sth from so
from wrest so/so (away) from so/so
from wrestle sth from so
from wring sth from sth
from yank so/so away (from so/so)
from You cannot get blood from a stone.
from You cannot get blood from a turnip.
from (You) can't get there from here.
front burn one's bridges in front of one
front can't see one's hand in front of one's face
front dangle sth in front of so
front front for so/th
front front off (about sth)
front front on sth
front front so some amount of money
front front-runner
front in the forefront (of sth)
front on the front burner
front out front
front out front
front parade so/so in front of so/so
front pull (out) in front of so/so
front put on (a brave) front
front put one foot in front of the other
front put sth on the front burner
front put up a (brave) front
front up front
front frost over
front frost (over)
front froth sth up
front froth up
front frown
front froth at so/so
front frown on so/so
front fruit bear fruit
front fruit forbidden fruit
front fruit fruits of one's labor(s)
front fruit low-hanging fruit
front fruit Stolen fruit is sweetest.
front fruit tree is known by its fruit.
front fruitcake nuttier than a fruitcake
front fruitcake nusy as a fruitcake
front fruition bring sth to fruition
front fruition come to fruition
front fry sth up
front fry Go fry an egg!
front fry go out of the frying pan into the fire
front fry have bigger fish to fry
front fry jump out of the frying pan into the fire
front fry language that would fry bacon
front fry out of the frying pan (and) into the fire
front fry small fry
front fuck Fuck you!
front fuck What the fuck?
front fudge fudge factor
front fuel add fuel to the fire
front fuel add fuel to the flame
front fuel sth (up)
front fuel fuel up
front fuel take fuel on
front full act full of oneself
front full at full throttle
front full at full tilt
front full check full of sth
front full come full circle
front full few cards shy of a full deck
front full so full of lead
front full as a tick
front full of beans
front full of bull
front full of holes
front full of hot air
front full of Old Nick
front full of oneself
front full of prunes
front full of the devil
front full plate
front full steam ahead
front full up
front full get up a (full) head of steam
front full have one's hands full (with so/so)
front full He that hath a full purse never wanted a friend.
front full in full flight
front full in full swing
front full mouth full of South
front full move into full swing
front full not playing with a full deck
front full play at full blast
front full play sth at full blast
front full play with a full deck
front full run at full blast
front full run sth at full blast
front full shot full of holes
front full woods are full of so/so
front fulminate fulminate against so/so
front fumble fumble for sth
front fume fume about so/so
front fume fume at so
front fun barrel of fun
front fun for the fun of it
front fun and games
front fun have fun
front fun make fun of so/so
front fun more fun than a barrel of monkeys
front fun poke fun at so/so
front fun time flies (when you're having fun)
front function bodily functions
front funeral Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage.
front funeral Dream of a funeral and you hear of a wedding.
front funeral It's your funeral.
front funk funky out
front funk in (a blue) funk
front funny Cut the funny stuff!
front funny funny as a barrel of monkeys
front funny funny as a crutch
front funny funny bone
front funny funny business
front funny funny ha-ha
front funny funny money
front funny funny peculiar
front funny rich man's joke is always funny.
front funny strike so funny
front funny That's funny.
front funny too funny for words
front fur fur piece
front fur make the fur fly
front fur rub so (fur) the wrong way
front furious fast and furious
front furnish furnish sth for so/so
front furnish furnish sth for sth
front further cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
front further Don't let it go any further.
front further see no further than the end of one's nose
front further Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach.
front further without further ado
front furtive furtive glance
front fury Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.
front fuse blow a fuse
front fuse blow one's fuse
front fuse fuse sth with sth
front fuse fuse with sth
front fuss fuss about
front fuss fuss and feathers
front fuss fuss around
front fuss (around) with so/so
front fuss fuss at so/so
front fuss fuss over so/so
front fuss kick up a fuss
front fuss land so poor it wouldn't even raise a fuss
front fuss make a fuss (over so/so)
front future in the near future
front future One of future looks bright.
front futz futz around
front futz futz sth up
front gab gab up a storm
front gab have the gift of gab
front gab *up a storm
front gad gad around
front gag gag on sth
front gain gain dominion over so/so
front gain gain from so/so
front gain gain ground
front gain gain in sth
front gain gain on so/so
front gain gain sth by doing sth
front gain gain sth from sth
front gain ill-gotten gains
front gain No pain, no gain.
front gain Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
front gain One man's loss is another man's gain.
front gain *perspective on sth
front gall have the gall to do so
front gallery play to the gallery
front gallivant gallivant around
front gamble gamble on so/so
front gamble gamble sth away
front game ahead of the game
front game at the top of one's game
front game at this stage (of the game)
front game be game
front game end of the ball game
front game fair game (for sth)
front game fun and games
front game game is up.
front game game that two can play
front game give the game away
front game keep ahead of the game
front game name of the game
front game off one's game
front game play games (with so)
front game put one off one's game
get a load of so's
get a lot of mileage out of so
get a move on
get a rise from so
get a say (in so)
get a ticket
get a weight off one's mind
get a word in edgewise
get aboard so
get about
get across (so)
get after so
get ahead (in so)
get ahead of oneself
get along
get an amount of money for so
get around
get (around) to so's
get at so
get at so
get away
get axed
get back (to so) (on so)
get back to so
get better
get between so's and so's else
get busy
get by (on a shoestring)
get by (on a small amount of money)
get by (so)
get by (with so)
get by (without so's)
get carried away
get cracking
get down
get (down) off one's high horse
get enough courage up (to do so)
get enough guts up (to do so)
get enough nerve up (to do so)
get euchred out of so
get free of so's
get going
get hell (about so's)
get hip to so's
get home to so's
get in deeper
get inside so
get into a mess
get into an argument (with so)
get into bed with so
get into one's stride
get into so
get in(to) the act
get in(to) the swing of things
get it
get laid
get lost
get mad (at so)
get married
get moving
get nowhere fast
get off
get on
get one on one's feet
get one right here
get one's act together
get one's ass in gear
get one's bowels in an uproar
get one's comeuppance
get one's ducks in a row
get one's ears pinned back
get one's ears set out
get one's feet wet
get one's fingers burned
get one's foot in the door
get one's hands dirty
get one's head above water
get one's head together
get one's hooks in(to) so's
get one's just deserts
get one's just reward(s)
get one's kicks (from so's)
get one's knuckles rapped
get one's lumps
get one's nose out of joint
get one's nose out of so's business
get one's rocks off (on so)
get one's shit together
get one's stuff together
get one's tail in gear
get one's teeth into so
get one's ticket punched
get one's wits about one
get (oneself) into a stew (over so's)
get oneself up
get on(to) so (about so)
get on(to) the (tele)phone
get out
get (out) while the gettin(g)'s good
Get over it!
get over so
get over so
get over (to some place)
get past (so's)
Get real!
get religion
get right on so
get rolling
get screwed
Get serious!
get shed of so's
get shut of so's
get smart (with so)
get some kind of mileage out of so
get (some) steam up
get some weight off one's feet
get so across (in a good way)
get so (all) wrong
get so around the table
get so down
get so going
get so in a family way
get so in(to) so
get so off
get so on(to) so's
get so's across so's
get so's away from so's
get so's back
get so's by so's
get so's down (from so's)
get so's down so's
get so's free (from so's)
get so's in(to) so
get so's off so's
get so's out of one's mind
get so's out of one's sight
get so's out of so's
get so's through (to so's)
get so's together
get so out of a jam
get so out of one's hair
get so's attention
get so's back up
get so's blood up
get so's dander up
get so's drift
get so's eye
get so's goat
get so's hackles up
get so's Irish up
get so through so
get so through (to so's)
get so up
get so
get so across (to so)
get so down
get so for an amount of money
get so for so
get so for so
get so from so's
get so going with so
get so home to so's
get so into a mess
get so in(to) so
get so into so's thick head
get so in(to) so's
get so off
get so out
get so over (to so)
get so past (so's)
get so straight
get so through so's thick skull
get so to so
get so together (for a particular time)
get so up
get so wrapped up
get so started on so
get the ball rolling
get the courage up (to do so)
get the draw on so
get the drift of so
get the drop on so
get the facts straight
get the final word
get the gate
get the go-by
get the hell out (of here)
get the kinks (ironed) out
get the lead out
Get the message?
get the most out of so's
get the picture?
get the point (of so)
get the shaft
get the show on the road
get the spunk up (to do so)
get the word
get the wrinkles out (of so)
get through (so)
get through (to so)
get through (to so's)
get through (with so's)
get to first base (with so's)
get to one's feet
get to so
get to so
get to the bottom of so
get to the point (of so)
get to the top (of so)
get together (with so) (on so's)
get tough (with so)
get under so's skin
get under so's
get up
get well
get wet
get wind of so
get *in on sth
get *in on the act
get *in on the ground floor
get *in power
get *in so's face
get *in so's good graces
get *in so's hair
get *in so's possession
get *in step (with so)
get *in the best of health
get *in the clear
get *in the groove
get *in the (home)stretch
get *in the mainstream (of sth)
get *in the open
get *in the public eye
get *in touch (with so)
get *in tune with the times
get *infested with sth
get *inkling (of sth)
get *inside track
get *intimate with so
get *involved (with so)
get *involved with sth
get (it's) got me beat.
get it takes (some) getting used to.
get *itch for sth
get *itch to do sth
get *itchy feet
get *itchy palm
get (I've) been getting by.
get (I've) got better things to do.
get (I've) got to be shoving off.
get I've got to fly.
get (I've) got to get moving.
get (I've) got to go.
get (I've) got to go home and get my beauty sleep.
get (I've) got to hit the road.
get (I've) got to run.
get (I've) got to shove off.
get (I've) got to split.
get (I've) got to take off.
get (I've) got work to do.
get (I've) gotta fly.
get *jump on so
get *keyed up (about sth)
get *knee-deep in sth
get *knuckle sandwich
get *last laugh (on so)
get *last word
get *leg up on so
get *leg up
get Let me get back to you (on that).
get Let's get down to business.
get Let's get out of here.
get Let's get together (sometime).
get let so (get) by
get let so get by with sth
get let so (get) off (sthl)
get let so get on with sth
get let so (get) past
get let so or an animal (get) out of (sthl)
get let sthl (get) out
get *licking
get *load off one's feet
get *load off one's mind
get *mental block (against sth)
get *mixed up in sth
get *mixed up with so else
get *nod
get *out to get sth for love or money
get *out to get one's hopes up
get *off base
get *off course
get *off on a sidetrack
get *off (on sth)
get *off on the wrong foot
get *off the beaten track
get *off the hook
get *off (to a flying start)
get *off topic
get *off (work)
get *(old) heave-ho
get *on a first-name basis (with so)
get *on course
get *on its feet
get *on one's way ((to) same place)
get *on so's case
get *on so's nerves
get *on the bandwagon
get *on the dot
get *on the good side of so
get *on the stick
get *on the telephone
get *on the wrong side of so
get *on track
get *on your mark, get set, go
get *one's bearings
get *one's money's worth
get *one's (own) way
get *one's say
get *one's sea legs
get *one's second wind
get *one's start
get *one's walking papers
get *one that got away
get *one up (on so)
get *onto a good thing
get *onto so
get *onto sth
get *out and about
get *out from sth
get *out in the open
get *out of debt
get *out of favor (with so)
get *out of harm's way
get *out of one's depth
get *out of practice
get *out (of sth)
get *out of syn
get *out of the frying pan (and) into the fire
get *out of the way
get *out on a limb
get out to get sth
get *out-of-bounds
get *over a barrel
get *over (and done) with
get *over (with)
get *physical (with so)
get play hard to get
get (Please) don't get up.
get *raw deal
get *ready (to do sth)
get (real) go-getter
get *red-carpet treatment
get *reputation (as a sth)
get *reputation (for doing sth)
get *right-of-way
get *root of the problem
get *runaround
get *sack
give give a ride

give give a ring

give give a whack at sth

give Give an inch and he'll take a mile.

give Give an inch and he'll take a yard.

give give away (to so)

give Give so enough rope and he'll hang himself.

give give so Hail Columbia

give give so no quarter

give give so odds that...

give give so a wide berth

give give so/another away

give give so/another back (to so/another)

give give so/another up (for lost)

give give so/another up (to so)

give give so/another pause (for thought)

give give so/another some lip

give give so/another some skin

give give so/another some sugar

give give so/another so static

give give so/another the eye

give give so/another the finger

give give so/another the gate

give give so/another the go-by

give give so/another the raspberry

give give so/another the shaft

give give so/another the shirt off one's back

give give so/another the slip

give give so/another the tit for tat

give give so/another to understand sth

give give so/another up for dead

give give so/another a go

give give so/another a shot

give give so/another a try

give give so/another a whirl

give give so/another away (to so)

give give so/another back (to so) (with interest)

give give so/another for sth

give give so/another off

give give so/another one's best shot

give give so/another one's best shot up

give give so/another over (to so/another)

give give so/another to so

give give so/another under (the) threat of sth

give give so/another up

give give so/another teeth to sth

give give so/another the bride away

give give so/another the devil her due

give give so/another the devil his due

give give so/another the game away

give give so/another the lie to sth

give give so/another up

give Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.

give give so/another went to sth

give give so/another voice to sth

give give so/another way to so/another

give give so/another weight to sth

give give so/another with sth

give given to doing sth

give given to understand sth

give *glad hand

give *good working over

give *goose bumps

give *gray hair(s)

give *hand in sth

give *hand with sth

give *handle on sth

give *hard sell

give *hard time

give He gives twice who gives quickly.

give *hell

give *helping hand

give *high sign

give I won't give up without a fight.

give It is better to give than to receive.

give It is more blessed to give than to receive.

give *knuckle sandwich

give *lick and a promise

give *licking

give lot of give-and-take

give *lump in one's throat

give *nud

give not give a hang about so/another

give not give a tinker's damm

give not give anyone the time of day

give not give it another thought

give not give two hoots about so/another

give Nothing is given so freely as advice.

give * (old) heave-ho

give *on a silver platter

give *once-over

give *one's money's worth

give *one's (own) way

give *one's start

give *one's walking papers

give *out

give *pumpative on sth

give *pound of flesh

give *real deal

give *red-carpet treatment

give *reputation (as a sth)

give *reputation (for doing sth)

give *right-of-way

give *rook idea (about sth)

give *run for one's money

give *runaround

give *sack

give *shellback

give *shock of one's life

give *short end of the stick

give Silence gives consent.

give *slap on the wrist

give *some elbow room

give Something’s got to give.

give *start

give *swelled head

give *taste for sth

give *take one's own medicine

give *third degree

give *time off

give *time to catch one's breath

give *tongue-lashing

give *try at so

give *try at sth

give *upper hand (on so)

give *voice (in sth)

give *what for

give What gives?

give *what's coming to one

give *wherewithal (to do sth)

give *whit of sth

give *works

give *worst of sth

give *wrong number

give You (always) give up too easy(ly).

giveaway dead giveaway

glad Am I glad to see you!

glad glad hand

glad (I'm) glad to hear it.

glad (I'm) glad you could come.
go go to one's (just) reward
go go to pieces
go go to press
go go to rack and ruin
go go to sea
go go to seed
go go to so (about so/this)
go go to so/this
go go to so's head
go go to the bathroom
go go to the bother (of doing sth)
 go go to the crux of the matter
go go to (the devil)
go go to the dogs
go go to the expense (of doing sth)
 go go to the heart of the matter
 go go to the lavatory
 go go to the limit
 go go to the polls
 go go to the root of the matter
 go go to the toilet
 go go to the trouble (of doing sth)
 go go to the wall (on sth)
 go go to town
 go go to trial
 go go to war (over so/this)
 go go to waste
 go go to work (on so/this)
 go go to wrack and ruin
 go go to your room!
 go go together
 go go too far
 go go toward so/this
 go go under
 go go up
 go go well with so/this
 go go whole hog
 go go wild
 go go window-shopping
 go go with it
 go go with so
 go go with (so/this)
 go go with sth
 go go with the flow
 go go with the territory
 go go with the tide
 go go without
 go go wrong
 go going, going, gone
 go going great guns
 go going on
 go going rate
 go going strong
 go going to tattle
 go going to tell
 go gone but not forgotten
 go gone goose
 go gone on
 go gone to meet one's maker
 go gone with the wind
 go Good going!
 go good to go
 go *hand in hand
 go has come and gone
 go have a go at sth
 go have a good thing going
 go have a lot going (for one)
 go have a thing going (with so)
 go have one's heart go out to so
 go have some food to go
 go have sth going (for oneself)
 go have something going (with so)
 go have to go some (to do sth)
 go He that would go to sea for pleasure, would go to hell for a pastime.
 go heavy going
 go Here goes nothing.
 go Here (it) goes.
 go Here today, (and) gone tomorrow.
 go Here we go again.
 go Here you go.
 go How goes it?
 go How goes it (with you)?
 go How’s it going?
 go How’re things going?
 go (I) have to go now.
 go I hope all goes well.
 go (I) really must go.
 go (I’d) better be going.
 go If anything can go wrong, it will.
 go if the going gets tough
 go If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.
 go I’ll (have to) let you go.
 go I’m gone.
 go *in a body
 go (Is) anything going on?
 go (It) just goes to show (you) (stl).
 go (It) (just) goes without saying.
 go (It’s) time to go.
 go It’s time we should be going.
 go (I’ve) got to go.
 go (I’ve) got to go home and get my beauty sleep.
 go keep (going) on about so/this
 go keep (going) on at so/this
 go keep so/this going
 go leave go of so/this
 go let go of so/this
 go let go (with sth)
 go Let it go.
 go let oneself go
 go Let’s go somewhere where it’s (more) quiet.
 go Let’s not go through all that again.
 go let so go
 go like it was going out of style
 go *like stink
 go *like the devil
 go *like the dickens
 go long gone
 go lost and gone forever
 go Love makes the world go round.
 go make a go of sth
 go March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb.
 go *make a minute
 go Nice going!
 go no go
 go not able to go on
 go not going to win any beauty contests
 go not know if one is coming or going
 go not know whether one is coming or going
 go *off course
 go *off one's rocker
 go off so/this goes
 go *off (to the side) with so
 go *on a diet
 go *on a fool's errand
 go *on a power trip
 go on the go
 go on your mark, get set, go
 go one's heart goes out to so
 go only way to go
 go order some food to go
 go *out in force
 go *out of control
 go *out of one's mind
 go *out of one's skull
 go *out on a limb
 go *over so's head
 go *over the hill
 go *over the wall
 go pay as you go
 go Pride goes before a fall.
 go ranin' to go
 go ready, set, go
 go (real) go-getter
 go slow going
 go So it goes.
 go spend money like it's going out of style
 go *stir-crazy
 go Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes
 go take a go at so
 go take a go at sth
 go That's (just) the way it goes.
 go (That's the) way to go!
 go There but for the grace of God (go I).
 go There you go.
 go *through the cracks
 go *through the mill
 go to go
 go to hell and gone
 go touch-and-go
 go tough going
 go *up a blind alley
 go *up against sth
 go *up for auction
 go Where what goes up must come down.
 go What's going down?
 go What's going on (around here)?
 go What(ever) goes around, comes around.
 go when the going gets tough
 go When the going gets tough, the tough get going.
 gooad goad is into sth
 gooad goad so on
 go goal fall short of one's goal(s)
 go goat get so's goat
 go goat make so the scapegoat for sth
 go gobbled gobble so/this up
 go gobbled gobble sth down
 go gobbled gobble sth up
 go God act of God
 go God ain't the brains God gave a squirel
 go God ain't the sense God gave geese
 go God consecrate so/this to God
 go God doesn't have the sense God gave geese
 go God doesn't have the sense God gave him (or her)
 go god fit for the gods
 go God God forbid!
 go God God helps them that help themselves.
 go God God only knows!
 go God God rest so's soul.
 go God God's gift (to women)
good

diligence is the mother of good luck.
good do so a good turn
good do so a heap of good
good do so a power of good
good do so good
good do so’s heart good
good Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves.
good Enough is as good as a feast.
good fight the good fight
good Fire is a good servant but a bad master.
good for good
good For goodness sake!
good for the good of so/th good
good get off a few good ones
good get (out) while the gettin(g)’s good
good get so across (in a good way) good
good give a good account of oneself
good give as good as one gets
good give (a (good) bawling out
good go at a good clip
good (Good) afternoon.
good and sth
good as done
good as gold
good as good
good as new
good bet
good Book
good die young.
good egg
good Good enough.
good good enough for government work
good good enough for so/th good
good (Good) evening.
good Good fences make good neighbors.
good good for what ails you
good Good for you!
good Good going!
good (Good) golly, Miss Molly!
good (good) grasp of sth
good Good grief!
good (Good) heavens!
good Good husband makes a good wife.
good good is the enemy of the best.
good good Jack makes a good Jill.
good Good job!
good Good luck!
good good man is hard to find.
good good many
good Good men are scarce.
good (Good) morning.
good (Good) night.
good good old boy
good good old days
good good riddance (to bad rubbish)
good Good seed makes a good crop.
good good sport
good Good things come in small packages.
good Good things come to him who waits.
good good time was had by all.
good good to go
good (good) working over
good Good-bye and good riddance.
good Good-bye for now.
good (Good-bye) until then.
good goods on so
good have a good arm
good have a good command of sth
good have a good head on one’s shoulders
good have (a (good) mind to do sth
good Have a good one.
good have a good thing going
good Have a good time.
good Have a good trip.
good have a (good) working over
good (have) never had it so good
good have too much of a good thing
good hold good for so/th
good Honest to goodness.
good Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper.
good I declare (to goodness)!
good (!) had a good time.
good I must say good night.
good if one knows what’s good for one
good If you can’t be good, be careful.
good if you know what’s good for you
good in (all) good conscience
good in good condition
good in good faith
good in good hands
good in good repair
good in good shape
good in good spirits
good in good time
good in (good) (with so)
good in so’s good graces
good It’s an ill wind that blows nobody (any) good.
good (It’s been) good talking to you.
good (It’s) good to be here.
good (It’s) good to have you here.
good (It’s) good to hear your voice.
good (It’s) good to see you (again).
good keep good time
good keep in good condition
good keep in good shape
good keep in good spirits
good keep on the good side of so
good Keep up the good work.
good kiss sth good-bye
good Life’s been good (to me).
good Listeners never hear any good of themselves.
good look good on paper
good make good as sth
good make good (at sth)
good make good money
good make good on sth
good make good time
good make (good) use of sth
good make so look good
good make sth good
good miss is as good as a mile.
good move at a good clip
good (My) goodness (gracious)!
good No news is good news.
good nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.
good off to a good start (with so/th)
good on good terms (with so)
good on so’s good side
good on the good side of so
good One good turn deserves another.
good onto a good thing
good (Open) confession is good for the soul.
Where on (God's green) earth?

green hedge between keeps friendship
green Greek
It's (all) Greek to me.
speak at great length
set great store by
no great shakes
make a great show of
Little thieves are hanged, but
make a great show of sth

great make a great show of sth

great go to great lengths (to do sth)
great keep great guns
Great Balls of fire!
great beyond
Great Death is the great leveler.
great Everything will be great.
great explain at great length
Great day (in the morning)
great deal
Great minds think alike.
great Great oaks from little acorns
grow

grow Great Scott!
grow great unwashed
grow greater the truth, the greater the libel,
great greatest thing since indoor plumbing

great greatest thing since sliced bread
great in great demand
great in great haste
Great Little strokes fell great oaks.
great Little strokes fell great oaks.
Great those thieves are hanged, but
make a great show of sth

great no great shakes
great question so at great length
great set great store by so

great speak at great length
take (great) pains (to do sth)
great think a great deal of so

great Time is a great healer.
great to a great extent
Greek Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.
Greek Greek to so
Greek It's (all) Greek to me.
green grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence).
green grass around the gills
green green as grass
green green stuff
green green with envy
green have a green thumb
green hedge between keeps friendship
green sure as God made little green apples.
green Where on (God's green) earth?

ground cut the ground out from under so

ground doesn't know his ass from a
hole in the ground
ground drive sth into the ground

ground from the ground up

ground gain ground
ground get sth off the ground
ground give ground
ground ground so in sth
ground ground sth on sth
ground grounded in (actual) fact
ground grounds for sth

ground have one's ear to the ground
ground have one's feet on the ground
ground hit the ground running

ground hold one's ground
ground in on the ground floor

ground keep an ear to the ground

ground keep one's ear to the ground

ground keep one's feet on the ground

ground let so in on the ground floor
ground level sth to the ground
ground lose ground (to so)
ground middle ground
ground on dangerous ground

ground on moral grounds

ground on shaky ground

ground one's old stamping ground

ground raise sth to the ground

ground riveted to the ground

ground run sth into the ground

ground shift one's ground

ground stand one's ground

ground worship the ground so walks on

group group so/sth around so/sth


group group so/sth together
group group sth under sth
grouse grouse about so/sth
grouse grouse at so or an animal


grovel grovel (about) in sth
grovel grovel before so/sth
grovel grovel to so


grow Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
grow Great oaks from little acorns
grow.


grow accustomed to doing sth
grow accustomed to so/sth
grow apart (from so/sth)
grow away from so

grow away from sth
grow back
grow disgusted at so/sth
grow disgusted with so/sth

grow dissatisfied with so/sth
grow down (into sth)
grow from sth
grow in sth
grow into sth
grow knee-high by the 4th of July
grow on so
grow out
grow over sth
grow poles apart
grow sick (and tired) of so/sth
grow soft on so


grow sth from sth
grow thick-skinned
grow thin-skinned
grow to do sth
grow together
grow
grow up

grow worlds apart

grow

growing youth has a wolf in his belly.
grow

grow have growing pains

grow

* knee-high by the 4th of July

* guess word apart

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow Money does not grow on trees.
grow

* guide

grow

grow not grow on trees.
grow

grow not let the grass grow under one's feet

grow

* guide

grow

grow not let the grass grow under one's feet

grow

* guide

grow

grow * out of (all) proportion

grow

* thin-skinned

* thick-skinned

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guillotine

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guess

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guess

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guess

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guess

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guess

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* guide

grow

grow

* hack

grow

* guesstimate

grow

* guesstimate

grow

grow

* guide
hand can't find one's butt with both hands (in broad daylight)
hand can't see one's hand in front of one's face
hand catch so red-handed
hand change hands
hand close at hand
hand Close only counts in horseshoes (and hand grenades).
hand Cold hands, warm heart.
hand come away empty-handed
hand come in hand
hand copy sth out (by hand)
hand cup one's hands together
hand devil finds work for idle hands to do.
hand die by one's own hand
hand dirty one's hands
hand do sth by hand
hand do sth hand in hand
hand Don't hand me that (lime)!
hand eat out of so's hand
hand exercise a firm hand
hand fall into the wrong hands
hand firm hand
hand fold one's hands
hand force so's hand
hand free hand (with so/whole)
hand from hand to hand
hand get one's hands dirty
hand glad hand
hand go away empty-handed
hand go hand in hand
hand hand in glove (with so)
hand hand in hand
hand hand in sth
hand Hand it over.
hand hand over fist
hand hand over hand
hand hand so/whole over (to so/whole)
hand hand so sth
hand hand sth around
hand hand sth back (to so)
hand hand sth down from so to so
hand hand sth down (to so)
hand hand sth in
hand hand sth in (to so)
hand hand sth off (to so)
hand hand sth on (to so/whole)
hand hand sth out (to so)
hand hand sth to sth
hand hand sth to so
hand hand sth up (to so)
hand hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
hand hand with sth
hand hands down
hand Hands off
hand Hands up!
hand hand have clean hands
hand hand have one's hand in sth
hand hand have one's hand in the till
hand hand have one's hands full (with so/whole)
hand hand have one's hands tied
hand hand have so/whole in one's hands
hand hand have so/whole on one's hands
hand hand have so/whole (well) in hand
hand hand have so/whole blood on one's hands
hand hand sth in hand
hand hand have to hand it to so
hand hand have (too much) time on one's hands
hand hand helping hand
hand hold so's hand
hand if ifs and ands were pots and pans (there'd be no work for tinkers' hands).
hand in good hands
hand in hand
hand join hands
hand keep on the left-(hand) side (of sth)
hand keep on the right-(hand) side (of sth)
hand keep one's hand in (so)
hand keep one's hands off (st)
hand keep one's hands to oneself
hand know so/whole like the back of one's hand
hand know so/whole like the palm of one's hand
hand lay one's hands on so/whole or an animal
hand leave so/whole in one's hands
hand left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing
hand left-handed compliment
hand lend a hand (to so)
hand lend (so) a hand
hand lend so a hand with sth
hand lift a hand (against so/whole)
hand live from hand to mouth
hand Many hands make light work.
hand near at hand
hand need a firm hand
hand need a helping hand
hand not lift a hand (to help so)
hand offer a helping hand
hand old hand at doing sth
hand on (the) one hand
hand on the other hand
hand One hand for oneself and one for the ship.
hand out of hand
hand out of so's hands
hand pay so a backhanded compliment
hand pay so a left-handed compliment
hand play into so's hands
hand pull sth out of so's hands
hand put one's hand to the plow
hand put one's hand up
hand put one's hands on so/whole or an animal
hand putty in so's hands
hand raise a hand (against so/whole)
hand reject so/whole or out of hand
hand run one's hand through one's hair
hand second hand
hand seem like putty in so's hands
hand shake hands
hand shake (hands) on sth
hand shake so's hand
hand show of hands
hand show one's hand
hand sit hand in hand
hand sit on its hands
hand sit on one's hands
hand sit on their hands
hand soil one's hands
hand so's hands are tied
hand take a hand in sth
hand take one's hands off (of) so/whole
hand take so in hand
hand take so/whole off so's hands
hand take so's life in one's hands
hand take sth out of so's hands
hand take the law into one's own hands
hand throw one's hands up (in despair)
hand throw one's hands up in horror
hand tie one's hands.
hand Time hangs heavy on one's hands.
hand tip one's hand
hand try one's hand (at
hand turn one's hand to
hand upper hand (on
hand use a firm hand
hand wait on one's hand and foot
hand walk hand in hand
hand wash one's hands of
hand well in hand
hand with both hands tied behind one's back
hand (with) hat in hand
hand with one hand tied behind one's back
handful
by the handful
handful handful
handle fly off the handle
handle handle on
handle handle so with kid gloves
handle It's raining pitchforks (and hammer handles).
handle postage and handling
handle shipping and handling
handsome Handsome is as handsome does.
handwriting read the handwriting on the wall
handwriting see the (hand)writing on the wall
handy come in handy
hang busy as a one-armed paperhanger
hang creaking door hangs longest.
hang creaking gate hangs longest.
hang Give so enough rope and he'll hang himself.
hang a few on
hang hang a huey
hang hang a left
hang hang a louie
hang hang a ralph
hang hang a right
hang hang around (some place)
hang hang around so/th
hang hang around (with so)
hang hang back (from so/th)
hang hang behind (so/th)
hang hang by a hair
hang hang by a thread
hang hang by sth
hang hang down (from so/th)
hang hang fire
hang hang five
hang hang from sth
hang hang in the balance
hang Hang in there.
hang Hang it all!
hang hang it up
hang hang loose
hang hang of sth
hang hang off
hang hang on
hang hang one on
hang hang one's hat (up) somewhere
hang hang out (of sth)
hang hang out (some place)
hang hang out (with so/th)
hang hang over so/th
hang hang over so's head
hang hang so by the neck
hang hang so for sth
hang hang so in effigy
hang hang so/th from sth
hang hang so/th with sth
hang hang so out to dry
hang hang sth on so
hang hang sth out (of sth)
hang hang sth over so/th
hang hang sth up
hang hang ten
hang hang together
hang hang tough (on sth)
hang hang up
hang hang with so
hang have sth hanging over one's head
hang have sth hung up and salted
hang hung up (on so/th)
hang if you're born to be hanged, then you'll never be drowned.
hang *in the balance
hang keep so/th hanging (in midair)
hang leave so/th hanging (in midair)
hang let it all hang out
hang Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
hang low-hanging fruit
hang might as well be hung for a sheep as (for) a lamb
hang not give a hang about so/th
hang so cold you could hang meat
hang somewhere to hang (up) one's hat
hang stand there with one's bare face hanging out
hang teach so the hang of sth
hang thereby hangs a tale
hang think so hung the moon (and stars)
hang Time hangs heavy on so's hands.
hang You'll get the hang of it.
hang after sth
hang happen Accidents will happen.
hang happen Don't even think about it (happening).
hang happen happen before so's time
hang happen happen in the (very) nick of time
hang happen happen to so/th
hang happen happen (up) on so/th
hang happen if anything should happen
hang happen no matter what (happens)
hang happen Shit happens.
hang happen shouldn't happen to a dog
hang happen unexpected always happens.
hang happen What happened?
hang happen What's happen(ing)?
hang happiness feel a glow of happiness
hang Be happy to (do sth)
hang Call no man happy till he dies.
hang couldn't be happier
hang Count no man happy till he dies.
hang fat and happy
hang feel a glow of happiness
hang happen as a lark
hang happen as a lark (at high tide)
hang happen as a clam (in butter sauce)
hang happy as a clam
hang happy as can be
hang happy camper
hang happy hour
hang happy is the bride that the sun shines on.

happy Happy is the country which has no history.
happy hit a happy medium
happy (I'd be) happy to (do sth).
happy live happily ever after
happy strike a happy medium
harbinger harbinger of things to come
harbor harbor sth against so/th
hard between a rock and a hard place
hard cause hard feelings
hard cold, hard cash
hard come down (hard) (on so/th)
hard didn't care too hard
hard do sth the hard way
hard Don't work too hard.
hard drive a hard bargain
hard fall on hard times
hard find (stf) out the hard way
hard first hundred years are the hardest.
hard first step is always the hardest.
hard good man is hard to find.
hard hard act to follow
hard hard as a rock
hard hard as nails
hard hard as stone
hard hard at sth
hard hard feelings
hard hard nut to crack
hard hard of hearing
hard hard on so's heels
hard hard on so
hard put (to do sth)
hard hard row to hoe
hard hard sell
hard hard shedding
hard hard time
hard hard times
hard hard to believe
hard hard to swallow
hard hard to take
hard hard up (for sth)
hard Hard words break no bones.
hard hardly dry behind the ears
hard hardly exchange more than some number of words with so
hard hardly have time to breathe
hard hardly have time to think
hard hard-noised
hard hit so hard
hard learn (stf) the hard way
hard little (hard) work never hurt anyone.
hard no hard feelings
hard not any hard feelings
hard Old habits die hard.
hard 'On so's heels
hard play hard to get
hard put in a hard day at work
hard put the hard word on so
hard school of hard knocks
hard take a hard line (with so)
hardball play hardball (with so)
harden harden oneself to sth
harden harden sth off
harden harden sth up
harder bigger they are, the harder they fall.
harder harder than the back of God's head
hardly hardly dry behind the ears
hardly hardly exchange more than some number of words with so

Phrasal Verb Index

Phrase-Finder Index
Phrase-Finder Index

hardly hardly have time to breathe
hardly hardly have time to think
hare First catch your hare.
hare If you run after two hares, you
will catch neither.
hare mad as a March hare
hare run with the hare and hunt with
the hounds
hark hark(en) back to sth
harm come to harm
harm in harm’s way
harm No harm done.
harm out of harm’s way
harm put so in harm’s way
harmonize harmonize with so/sth
harmony in harmony (with so/sth)
harness back into (the) harness
harness harness an animal up
harness harness so or an animal to sth
harp harp on so/sth
harp keep harping on sth
harry any Tom, Dick, and Harry
harry (every Tom, Dick, and Harry
has cat has nine lives.
has Every cloud has a silver lining.
has Every dog has its day.
has Every Jack has his Jill.
has Every man has his price.
has growing youth has a wolf in his
belly.
has Happy is the country which has no
history.
has has come and gone
has (Has the) cat got your tongue?
has has the world by the tail (with a
downhill drag)
has It has so/so gone on it.
has (It) hasn’t been easy.
has It is a long lane that has no
turning.
has has moment everyone has been
waiting for
has has more so than Carter has (liver)
hay mouse that has but one hole is
quickly taken.
has has One has to draw the line
somewhere.
has has price one has to pay
has has rumor has it that...
has hitherto the stable door after the
horse has bolted.
has has some creature’s time has come
has so’s time has come
has has Them as has, gits.
has has worm (has) turned.
hash hash so over (with so)
hash hash sh up
hash hash settle so’s hash
hassle hassle so about sth
haste beat a (hasty) retreat
haste haste makes waste.
haste in great haste
haste Make haste slowly.
haste Make haste in haste, (and) repent at
leisure.
haste More haste, less speed.
haste beat a (hasty) retreat
haste hat at the drop of a hat
hat eat one’s hat
hat Hang on to your hat!
hat hang one’s hat (up) somewhere
hat hats off to so/sth
hat He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-
cent head.
hat Here’s your hat, what’s your hurry?
hat Hold on to your hat!
hat I’ll eat my hat.
hat keep sth under one’s hat
hat knock sth into a cocked hat
hat mad as a hatter
hat old hat
hat pass the hat (around) (to so)
hat pull sth out of a hat
hat somewhere to hang (up) one’s hat
hat take off one’s hat (so)
hat take one’s hat off to sth
hat talk through one’s hat
hat throw one’s hat in the ring
hat toss one’s hat into the ring
hat wear more than one hat
hat wear two hats
hat (with) hat in hand
hatband tight as Dick’s hatband
hatch batten down the hatches
hatch count one’s chickens before they
hatch
hatch Don’t count your chickens
before they are hatched.
hatch Down the hatch.
hatch hatch an animal out
hatchet bury the hatchet
hatchet hatchet man
hate hate so/sth like sin
hate hate so’s guts
hate (I) hate to eat and run.
hate love-hate relationship
hate pet hate
hath He that hath a full purse never
wanted a friend.
hath Hell hath no fury like a woman
scorned.
hatrack use your head for more than a
hattrack
hatter mad as a hatter
haul haul off and do sth
haul haul so in
haul haul so on the carpet
haul haul so/sth over to sth
haul haul so over the coals
haul haul so (up) before so/sth
haul haul sth down
haul haul sth (from some place) to some place
haul haul sth up (from sth)
haul haul up (somewhere)
haul in the long haul
haul in the short haul
haul over the long haul
haul over the short haul
haunt come back to haunt one
haunt return to haunt one
have not Haven’t I seen you
somewhere before?
have not (I) haven’t got all day.
have not (I) haven’t seen you in a long
time.
have not (I) haven’t seen you in a
month of Sundays
have not Things haven’t been easy.
have *advantage of so
have *all the marbles
have and what have you
have *ants in one’s pants
have as luck would have it
have *attack (of illness)
have *bee in one’s bonnet
have been had
have *benefit of the doubt
have *best of both worlds
have *better of so
have *bite (to eat)
have *black mark beside one’s name
have Blood will have blood.
have *blues
have *break
have *busiest men have the most
leisure.
have *butterflies in one’s stomach
have *carpe blanche
have *case of sth
have cat has nine lives.
have *charley horse
have *checkup
have *chip on one’s shoulder
have *clear sailing
have *cold feet
have *contact with so
have Could I have a lift?
have Could I have a word with you?
have Could I have so call you?
have Could I have the bill?
have *creeps
have *crush on so
have *day off
have *desperate remedies must have
desperate remedies.
have devil’s children have the devil’s
luck.
have (Do) have some more.
have Do I have to paint (you) a
picture?
have Do I have to spell it out (for
you)?
have Do unto others as you would
have them do unto you.
have Do we have to go through all that
again?
have doesn’t have enough sense to
bell a cat
have doesn’t have enough sense to
come out of the rain
have doesn’t have the sense God gave
geese
have doesn’t have the sense God gave
him (or her)
have Don’t have a cow!
have don’t have a pot to piss in (or a
window to throw it out of)
have *down pat
have eat one’s cake and have it too
have *(either) feast or famine
have Every cloud has a silver lining.
have Every dog has its day.
have Every Jack has his Jill.
have Every man has his price.
have *feel of sth
have *feeling (that sth is the case)
have Fields have eyes, and woods have
ears.
have *first crack at sth
have *fix on sth
have *floor
have *foot in both camps
have *foothold (somewhere)
have *fresh start
have *frog in one’s throat
have gods send nuts to those who
have no teeth.
have good time was had by all.
have a heart-to-heart (talk)
have a heart
have a head for
have a glass jaw
have a fit
have a field day
have a death wish
have a clue (about)
have a close shave
have a close call
have a close up
have a close up
have a close up
having a mind as sharp as a steel trap
have a mind of one's own
have a mind to
have a near miss
have a nice day.

have a nice flight.

have a nose for

have a one-track mind
have a passion for

have a penchant for
doing sth
have a place in
have a rare old time

have a tough time (of it)

have a roving eye

have a run of

have a run-in (with so)

have a safe journey.

have a safe trip.

have a score to settle (with so)

have a scud (with so)

have a screw loose
have a seat

have a set-to (with so)

have a soft spot (in one's heart)

for so or an animal

have a (sound) grasp of

have a spadeful of

have a staff in

have a stroke

have a sweet tooth

have a thing about

have a thing going

have a thing going

have a threat for

have a thimble full of

have a throat for

have (a) use for

have a yellow belly

have a yellow streak down one's back

have all one's marbles

have an accident

have an ace up one's sleeve

have an ass in a sling

have a glass jaw

have a go at

have a good arm

have a good command of

have a good head on one's shoulders

have a (good) mind to
do sth

have a good one.

have a good thing going

have a good time.

have a good trip.

have a (good) working over

have a green thumb

have a head for

have a heart

have a heart-to-heart (talk)

have have a hidden talent

have have a hitch in one's gitalong

have have a hunch (that so is the case)

have have a keen interest in so

have have a kick to it

have have a load on

have have a lot going (for one)

have have a lot on one's mind

have have a low boiling point

have have a mind as sharp as a steel trap

have have a mind of one's own

have have a mind to

have have a near miss

have Have a nice day.

have Have a nice flight.

have have a nose for

have have a one-track mind

have have a passion for so

have have a penchant for
doing sth

have have a place in

have have a rare old time

have have a tough time (of it)

have have a roving eye

have have a run of

have have a run-in (with so)

have Have a safe journey.

have Have a safe trip.

have have a score to settle (with so)

have have a scrape (with so)

have have a screw loose

have have a seat

have have a set-to (with so)

have have a soft spot (in one's heart)

for so or an animal

have have a (sound) grasp of

have have a set-to (with so)

have have a soft spot (in one's heart)

for so or an animal

have have a (sound) grasp of

have have a spadeful of

have have a staff in

have have a stroke

have have a sweet tooth

have have a thing about

have have a thing going

have have a threat for

have have a thimble full of

have have (a) use for

have have a yellow belly

have have a yellow streak down one's back

have have all one's marbles

have have an accident

have have an ace up one's sleeve

have have an ass in a sling

have have a glass jaw

have have a go at

have have a good arm

have have a good command of

have have a good head on one's shoulders

have have a (good) mind to
do sth

have have a good one.

have have a good thing going

have have a good time.

have have a good trip.

have have a (good) working over

have have a green thumb

have have a head for

have have a heart

have have a heart-to-heart (talk)

have have have a hidden talent

have have have a hitch in one's gitalong

have have have a hunch (that so is the case)

have have have a keen interest in so

have have have a kick to it

have have have a load on

have have have a lot going (for one)

have have have a lot on one's mind

have have have a low boiling point

have have have a mind as sharp as a steel trap

have have have a mind of one's own

have have have a mind to

have have have a near miss

have Have have a nice day.

have Have have a nice flight.

have have have a nose for

have have have a one-track mind

have have have a passion for so

have have have a penchant for
doing sth

have have have a place in

have have have a rare old time

have have have a tough time (of it)

have have have a roving eye

have have have a run of

have have have a run-in (with so)

have Have have a safe journey.

have Have have a safe trip.

have have have a score to settle (with so)

have have have a scrape (with so)

have have have a screw loose

have have have a seat

have have have a set-to (with so)

have have have a soft spot (in one's heart)

for so or an animal

have have have a (sound) grasp of

have have have a spadeful of

have have have a staff in

have have have a stroke

have have have a sweet tooth

have have have a thing about so

have have have a thing going (with so)

have have have a threat for

have have have a thimble full of

have have have (a) use for

have have have a yellow belly

have have have a yellow streak down one's back

have have have all one's marbles

have have have an accident

have have have an ace up one's sleeve

have have have an ass in a sling

have have have a glass jaw

have have have a go at

have have have a good arm

have have have a good command of

have have have a good head on one's shoulders

have have have a (good) mind to
do sth

have have have a good one.

have have have a good thing going

have have have a good time.

have have have a good trip.

have have have a (good) working over

have have have a green thumb

have have have a head for

have have have a heart

have have have a heart-to-heart (talk)
head able to do sth standing on one's head
head bang one's head against a brick wall
head beat one's head against the wall
head Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.
head (big) head
head bite so's head off
head bother one's (pretty little) head about so/sth
head bring sth down on one's head
head bring sth to a head
head bury one's head in the sand
head can't make heads or tails (out) of so/sth
head come to a head
head come up heads
head cooler heads prevail
head cough one's head off
head count heads
head crazy in the head
head Don't worry your (pretty little) head about it.
head face sth head-on
head fall head over heels
head fill so's head with sth
head flying one's head back
head from head to toe
head get one's head above water
head get one's head together
head get sth into so's thick head
head get up (a full) head of steam
head Get your head out of the clouds!
head go out of one's head
head go over so's head
head go to so's head
head hang over so's head
head harder than the back of God's head
head have a good head on one's shoulders
head have a head for sth
head have eyes in the back of one's head
head have one's head in the clouds
head have one's head in the sand
head have rocks in one's head
head have sth hanging over one's head
head He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-cent head.
head head
head head and shoulders above so/sth
head head away from so/sth
head head back (some-place)
head head for so/sth
head head for the hills
head head for the last roundup
head head for (the) tall timber
head head in(to) sth
head head out after so/sth or an animal
head head out (for sth)
head head over heels in debt
head head over heels in love (with so)
head head so off at the pass
head head so/th at so/sth
head head so/th into so/sth
head head so/th off
head head sh out
head head sh up
head head South
head head start (on so)
head head toward so/th
head headed for sth
head heads or tails
head Heads up!
head heads will roll
head hide one's head in the sand
head hit the nail (right) on the head
head hold one's head up
head hold sth over so's head
head in over one's head (with so/th)
head I've seen better heads on nickel beers.
head keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
head keep one's head
head Keep your head down.
head knock one's head (up) against a brick wall
head knock some heads together
head harder than the back of God's head
head head
head not trouble one's (pretty) (little) head about sth
head on so's head
head out of one's head
head over so's head
head pass over so's head
head place a price on one's head
head pound so's head in
head price on one's head
head put a price on one's head
head put ideas into so's head
head put one in over one's head
head put one's head on the block (for so/sth)
head put people's heads together
head put sth in(to) so's head
head rear its ugly head
head (right) off the top of one's head
head run around like a chicken with its head cut off
head run one's head against a brick wall
head snap so's head off
head soft in the head
head stand head and shoulders above so/sth
head stand on one's head
head stand sth on its head
head still tongue makes a wise head.
head stuff so's head with sth
head swelled head
head take so's head off
head take sth into one's head
head talk one's head off
head talk over so's head
head talk so's head off
head touched (in the head)
head tower head and shoulders above so/sth
head trouble one's head about so/sth
head turn so's head
head Two heads are better than one.
head Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

head use one's head
head use your head for more than a hatrack
head use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart
head where so's head is at
head yack one's head off
head yell one's head off
head ache splitting headache
headway make (an amount of) headway
head heal over
head heal so of sth
head heal up
head Physician, heal thyself.
head Time is a great healer.
head health clean bill of health
head health Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
head health in the best of health
head health in the pink (of health)
head health nurse so back to health
head health picture of (good) health
head health bottom of the heap
head health do so a heap of good
head health heap of sth
head health heap sight
head health heap sth up
head health heap sth up (on so/sth)
head health heap with sth
head health top of the heap
head health whole heap more
head health Ask no questions and hear no lies.
head health Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see.
head health Did you hear?
head health (Do) you hear?
head health Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage.
head health Dream of a funeral and you hear of a wedding.
head health Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves.
head health hard of hearing
head health hard of hearing
head health hear
head health hear about so/sth
head health hear from so/sth
head health hear of so/sth
head health hear so out
head health hear sth through
head health hear word (from so/sth)
head health hearing impaired
head health I didn't hear you.
head health I hear what you're saying.
head health I hear you.
head health (I'm) glad to hear it.
head health (I'm) sorry to hear that.
head health (It's) good to hear your voice.
head health like to hear oneself talk
head health Listeners never hear any good of themselves.
head health Now hear this!
head health See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.
head health so quiet you could hear a pin drop
head health so still you could hear a pin drop
head health talk to hear one's own voice
head health There's none so deaf as those who will not hear.
head health will not hear of sth
head health You hear?
heart one's heart is in one's mouth
heart one's heart is in the right place
heart one's heart is set on
heart one's heart misses a beat
heart one's heart skips a beat
heart one's heart stands still
heart open one's heart to
heart out of the goodness of one's heart
heart play one's heart out
heart pour one's heart out to
heart put one's heart and soul into
heart set one's heart against
heart set one's heart on
heart sick at heart
heart sing one's heart out
heart sob one's heart out
heart stay young at heart
heart steal so's heart
heart take heart (from)
heart take so or an animal into
heart take sth to heart
heart to one's heart's content
heart warm the core of so's heart
heart way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
heart wear one's heart on one's sleeve
heart What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over.
heart win so's heart
heart win the heart of so
heart with a heavy heart
heart with all one's heart (and soul)
heart young at heart
heartbeat heartbeat away from being
heartbeat in a heartbeat
heartstrings play on so's heartstrings
hearty hale and hearty
heat (all) hit up
heat come in(to) heat
heat go into heat
heat heat up
heat heat sth up (to sth)
heat heat up
heat If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.
heat in a dead heat
heat in heat
heat It's not the heat, it's the humidity.
heat put the heat on
heat take some heat
heat take the heat
heat turn the heat up (on so)
heat turn up the heat (on so/sth)
heave heave in(to) sight
heave heave sth at
heave heave sth up
heave heave to
heave (old) heave-ho
heaven bundle from heaven
heaven Crosses are ladders that lead to heaven.
heaven For heaven's sake!
heaven God's in his heaven; all's right with the world.
heaven (Good) heavens!
heaven Heaven forbid!
heaven Heaven help us!
heaven Heaven protects children, sailors, and drunken men.
heaven Heavens to Betsy!
heaven in heaven
heaven in hog heaven
heaven in seventh heaven
heaven manna from heaven
heaven marriage made in heaven
heaven Marriages are made in heaven.
heaven match made in heaven
heaven move heaven and earth to do sth
heaven (My) heavens!
heaven smell to (high) heaven
heaven stink to high heaven
heaven Thank heavens!
heaven the heavens opened
heaviest Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest.
heavy Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest.
heavy heavy going
heavy heavy into so
heavy heavy purse makes a light heart.
heavy hot and heavy
heavy lay a (heavy) trip on so
heavy light purse makes a heavy heart.
heavy play the heavy
heavy Time hangs heavy on so's hands.
heavy with a heavy heart
heck for the heck of it
heck What the heck!
hedge hedge against sth
hedge hedge between keeps friendship green
hedge hedge one's bets
hedge hedge so in
hedge hedge so/so in
hedge hedge sth against sth
heed pay heed to so
heed take heed (of so/so)
heel Achilles' heel
heel bring a dog to heel
heel bring so to heel
heel cool so's heels
heal couldn't pour water out of a boot
heal (if there was instructions on the heel)
heal dig one's heels in
heal go down-at-the-heels
heal fall head over heels
heal hard on so's heels
heal head over heels in debt
heal head over heels in love (with so)
heal hot on so's heels
heal kick one's heels up
heal on so's heels
heal on the heels of sth
heal right on so's heels
heal set one back on one's heels
heal take to one's heels
heal well-heeled
height at the height of sth
heir fall heir to sth
heist heist so/so (up)
hell all hell broke loose
hell all over hell and gone
hell all over hell and half of Georgia
hell beat the hell out of so
hell catch hell
hell come hell or high water
hell don't give a hoot (in hell's hollow)
hell fight like hell
hell for the hell of it
hell frighten the hell out of so
hell from hell to breakfast
hell get hell (about so/so)
hell get the hell out (of here)
hell go to hell
| high high sign | hit hit the | hind hindside first |
| high high-and-mighty | hit hit the | hindsight in hindsight |
| high high-pressure so into sth | hint hint drop a hint | hinge hinge (up) on sth |
| high hit the high spots | hint hint at sth | hinge hinge (up) on sth |
| high hold so/sth in high regard | hint hint for sth | hint high |
| high hunt high and low (for so/sth) | hint hint sth to so | hint take a hint |
| high in high cotton | hip get hip to so/sth | hip hip to so/sth |
| high in high dudgeon | hip hip joined to the hip | hip hip shoot from the hip |
| high in high gear | hire hire so away (from so/sth) | hire hire so/sth out |
| high in (high) hopes of sth | hire hire not for hire | hire not for hire |
| high it's high time | hire hire he was the lion in his den | his heard the lion in his den |
| high knee-high by the 4th of July | his his devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose. | his devil can quote Scripture for his own purpose. |
| high knee-high to a grasshopper | his his devil looks after his own. | his devil looks after his own. |
| high knee-high to a jackrabbit | his his doesn't know his ass from a hole in the ground | his doesn't know his ass from his elbow |
| high leave so high and dry | his his Every Jack has his Jill. | his Every Jack has his Jill. |
| high like hell and high lightning | his his Every man has his price. | his Every man has his price. |
| high live high off the hog | his his Every man is the architect of his own fortune. | his Every man is the architect of his own fortune. |
| high look for so/sth high and low | his his Every man to his taste. | his Every man to his taste. |
| high look high and low (for so/sth) | his his everybody and his brother | his everybody and his brother |
| high (lord) high muck-a-muck | his his everybody and his uncle | his his everybody and his uncle |
| high move into high gear | his his fool and his money are soon parted. | his his fool and his money are soon parted. |
| high on one's high horse | his his give the devil his due | his his give the devil his due |
| high run high | his his God's in his heaven; all's right with the world. | his his God's in his heaven; all's right with the world. |
| high search high and low (for so/sth) | his his growing youth has a wolf in his belly. | his his growing youth has a wolf in his belly. |
| high seem high and mighty | his his He puts his pants on one leg at a time. | his his He puts his pants on one leg at a time. |
| high since so was knee-high to a grasshopper | his his He will get his. | his his He will get his. |
| high smell to (high) heaven | his his If a toady frog had wings, he wouldn't bump his ass. | his his If a toady frog had wings, he wouldn't bump his ass. |
| high speak highly of so/sth | his his leopard cannot change his spots. | his his leopard cannot change his spots. |
| high soon to high heaven | his his Let every man skin his own skunk. | his his Let every man skin his own skunk. |
| high swing into high gear | his his Let the cobbler stick to his last. | his his Let the cobbler stick to his last. |
| high think highly of so/sth | his his man's home is his castle. | his his man's home is his castle. |
| high through hell and high water | his his prophet is not without honor save in his own country. | his his prophet is not without honor save in his own country. |
| high tail high-tail it out of somewhere | his his To each his own. | his his To each his own. |
| highway highway robbery | his his way to a man's heart is through his stomach. | his his way to a man's heart is through his stomach. |
| highway highways and byways | his his what's his face | his his what's his face |
| hike hike sth up | his his what's his name | his his what's his name |
| hike take a hike | his his hiss at so/sth | his his hiss so off ((of) the stage) |
| hill go over the hill | his his hiss so out | his his hiss so out |
| hill head for the hills | his his hizzy (fit) | his his hizzy (fit) |
| hill make a mountain out of a molehill | history ancient history | history ancient history |
| hill not amount to a hill of beans | history history goes down (in history) (as so/sth) | history history goes down (in history) (as so/sth) |
| hill not worth a hill of beans | history history Happy is the country which has no history. | history history Happy is the country which has no history. |
| hill up as the hills | history history History repeats itself. | history history History repeats itself. |
| hill over the hill | history history I'm history. | history history I'm history. |
| hill run for the hills | history history rest is history. | history history rest is history. |
| hill take to the hills | hit hit the (broad) side of a barn | hit hit the (broad) side of a barn |
| hill uphill battle | hit hit couldn't hit a bull in the ass with a bass fiddle | hit hit couldn't hit a bull in the ass with a bass fiddle |
| Hill What in (the) Sam Hill? | hit hit fat hit the fire | hit hit fat hit the fire |
| him Could I tell him who's calling? | hit hit a happy medium | hit hit a happy medium |
| him doesn't have the sense God gave him (or her) | hit hit a plateau | hit hit a plateau |
| him Everything comes to him who waits. | hit hit a sour note | hit hit a sour note |
| him Evil be to him who evil thinks. | hit hit against so/sth | hit hit against so/sth |
| him Good things come to him who waits. | hit hit and miss | hit hit and miss |
| him If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him. | hit hit at so/sth | hit hit at so/sth |
| him May I tell him who's calling? | hit hit back (at so/sth) | hit hit back (at so/sth) |
| himself Every man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost). | hit hit bottom | hit hit bottom |
| himself He who excuses himself accuses himself. | hit hit home | hit hit home |
| himself crooked as a dog's hind leg | hit hit it off (with so) | hit hit it off (with so) |
| hind get up on one's hind legs | hit hit like a ton of bricks | hit hit like a ton of bricks |
| hind hind end | hit hit on so | hit hit on so |
| hind hind end of creation | hit hit on sth | hit hit on sth |
| hind suck so's hind tit | hit hit one's stride | hit hit one's stride |
| hinder hinder so from sth | hit hit one where one lives | hit hit one where one lives |
| hindmost Devil take the hindmost. | hit hit or miss | hit hit or miss |
| hindmost Every man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost). | hit hit out (at so/sth) (in sth) | hit hit out (at so/sth) (in sth) |
| | hit hit out (for sth or some place) | hit hit out (for sth or some place) |
| | hit hit pay dirt | hit hit pay dirt |
| | hit (rock) bottom | hit hit (rock) bottom |
| | hit so | hit hit so |
| | hit so below the belt | hit hit so hard |
| | hit so in sth | hit hit so in sth |
| | hit so like a ton of bricks | hit hit so like a ton of bricks |
| | hit so (right) between the eyes | hit hit so up (for sth) |
| | hit hit with sth | hit hit so with sth |
| | hit hit sth off | hit hit sth off |
| | hit hit speeds of some amount | hit hit the books |
| | hit hit the booze | hit hit the books |
| | hit hit the bottle | hit hit the bottle |
| | hit hit the brakes | hit hit the brakes |
| | hit hit the bricks | hit hit the bricks |
| | hit hit the (broad) side of a barn | hit hit the (broad) side of a barn |
| | hit hit the bull's-eye | hit hit the bull's-eye |
| | hit hit the ceiling | hit hit the ceiling |
| | hit hit the deck | hit hit the deck |
| | hit hit the fan | hit hit the fan |
| | hit hit the ground running | hit hit the ground running |
| | hit hit the hay | hit hit the hay |
| | hit hit the high spots | hit hit the high spots |
| | hit hit the jackpot | hit hit the jackpot |
| | hit hit the nail (right) on the head | hit hit the nail (right) on the head |
| | hit hit the panel button | hit hit the panel button |
| | hit hit the pavement | hit hit the pavement |
| | hit hit the road | hit hit the road |
| | hit hit the roof | hit hit the roof |
| | hit hit the sack | hit hit the sack |
| | hit hit the skids | hit hit the skids |
| | hit hit the spot | hit hit the spot |
| | hit hit the trail | hit hit the trail |
| | hit hit town | hit hit town |
| | hit hit (up) on so/sth | hit hit (up) on so/sth |
| | hit hitting on all cylinders | hit hit (up) on all cylinders |
| | hit (I'd) better hit the road. | hit hit (I'd) better hit the road. |
| | hit (It's) time to hit the road. | hit hit (It's) time to hit the road. |
| | hit (I've) got to hit the road. | hit hit (I've) got to hit the road. |
| | hit *like a ton of bricks | hit hit *like a ton of bricks |
| | hit make a hit with so | hit hit make a hit with so |
| | hit pinch-hit for so | hit hit pinch-hit for so |
| | hit * (rock) bottom | hit hit * (rock) bottom |
| | hit smash hit | hit hit smash hit |
| | hit *speeds of some amount | hit hit *speeds of some amount |
| | hit suddenly the fat hit the fire | hit hit suddenly the fat hit the fire |
| | hit then the fat hit the fire | hit hit then the fat hit the fire |
| | hit when the fat hit the fire | hit hit when the fat hit the fire |
| | hit when the shit hits the fan | hit hit when the shit hits the fan |
| | hit have a hitch in one's gitalong | hit hit have a hitch in one's gitalong |
| | hit hitch a ride | hit hit hitch a ride |
| | hit hitch so/sth (up) (to sth) | hit hit hitch so/sth (up) (to sth) |
| | hit Hitch your wagon to a star. | hit hit Hitch your wagon to a star. |
| | hit without a hitch | hit hit without a hitch |
| | hither come-hither look | hit hit come-hither look |
I know (just) what you mean.
I (I) love it!
I must be off.
I must say good night.
I need it yesterday.
(I) never heard of such a thing!
(I) never thought I'd see you here!
I owe you one.
I promise you.
(I) read you loud and clear.
(I) really must go.
I rest my case.
I spoke out of turn.
I spoke too soon.
I suppose.
I suspect.
I/swan!
I think not.
I think so.
(I was) just wondering.
I was up all night with a sick friend.
I wasn't brought up in the woods to be scared by owls.
I wish I'd said that.
(I) wonder if
(I) won't breathe a word (of it).
I won't give up without a fight.
(I) won't tell a soul.
(I) would if I could, but I can't.
I would like you to meet so.
(I) wouldn't bet on it.
(I) wouldn't count on it.
(I) wouldn't if I were you.
(I) wouldn't know.
I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole.
I wouldn't wish that on a dog.
I wouldn't wish that on a dog.
I'd rather face a firing squad than
I'd like to speak to
I'd like (to have) a word with you.
I'd (just) as leave
(I'd) better hit the road.
(I'd) better be going.
(I'd) better get moving.
(I'd) better get on my horse.
(I'd) better hit the road.
I'd (just) as leave do sth
I'd (just) as soon (as) do sth
I'd like (for) you to meet so.
I'd like (to have) a word with you.
I'd like to speak to so, please.
I'd rather face a firing squad than do sth
if I were you
I'd if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times.
I'll be a monkey's uncle!
I'll be right there.
I'll be right with you.
I'll be seeing you.
I'll bet.
I'll bite.
I'll call back later.
I'll catch you later.
I'll drink to that!
I'll eat my hat.
I'll get back to you (on that).
I'll get right on it.
I'll have the same.
I'll have to beg off.
I'll (have to) let you go.
I'll look you up when I'm in town.
I'll put a stop to that.
I'll see you in a little while.
I'll see you later.
(I'll) see you next year.
(I'll) see you (real) soon.
I'll see you then.
I'll see you tomorrow.
I'll talk to you soon.
I'll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself.
I'll thank you to mind your own business.
I'll try to catch you later.
I'll try to catch you some other time.
I'm afraid so.
I'm all ears.
I'm aware of names.
I'm busy.
I'm cool.
I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.
I'm delighted to have you (here).
I'm delighted to make your acquaintance.
I'm doing okay.
I'm easy (to please).
I'm feeling okay.
I'm glad to hear it.
I'm glad you could come.
I'm glad you could drop by.
I'm gone.
I'm having a wonderful time; wish you were here.
I'm having quite a time.
I'm having the time of my life.
I'm history.
I'm just getting by.
I'm just looking.
I'm just minding my own business.
I'm (just) plugging along.
I'm (just) thinking out loud.
I'm like you.
I'm listening.
I'm not finished with you.
I'm not kidding.
I'm not surprised.
I'm off.
I'm only looking.
I'm out of here.
I'm pleased to meet you.
I'm (really) fed up (with so/wh).
I'm sorry.
I'm sorry to hear that.
I'm sorry you asked (that).
I'm speechless.
I'm terrible at names.
I'm (very) glad to meet you.
I'm with you.
Is there some place I can wash up?
I've been getting by.
I've been sleeping.
I've been keeping myself busy.
I've been keeping out of trouble.
I've been okay.
I've been there, done that.
I'm been under the weather.
I've done my do.
I've got better things to do.
I've got to be shoving off.
I've got to fly.
I've got to get moving.
I've got to go.
I've got to go home and get my beauty sleep.
I've got to hit the road.
I've got to run.
I've got to shove off.
I've got to split.
I've got to take off.
I've got work to do.
I've gotta fly.
I've had a lovely time.
I've had enough of this!
I've had it up to here (with so/wh).
I've heard so much about you.
I've never been better.
I've seen better.
I've seen better heads on nickel beers.
I've seen worse.
I just as I expected.
I like I was saying.
I'll see you tomorrow.
I'll see you real soon.
I'll see you next year.
I won't give up without a fight.
I wonder if
I wish I'd said that.
I was up all night with a sick friend.
I think so.
I think not.
I suspect.
I/swan!
I think so.
I think so.
I'd rather face a firing squad than
I'd like to speak to
I'd like (to have) a word with you.
I'd (just) as leave
(I'd) better hit the road.
(I'd) better be going.
(I'd) better get moving.
(I'd) better get on my horse.
(I'd) better hit the road.
I'd (just) as leave do sth
I'd (just) as soon (as) do sth
I'd like (for) you to meet so.
I'd like (to have) a word with you.
I'd like to speak to so, please.
I'd rather face a firing squad than do sth
if I were you
I'd if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times.
I'll be a monkey's uncle!
I'll be right there.
I'll be right with you.
I'll be seeing you.
I'll bet.
I'll bite.
I'll call back later.
I'll catch you later.
I'll drink to that!
I'll eat my hat.
I'll get back to you (on that).
I'll get right on it.
I'll have the same.
I'll have to beg off.
I'll (have to) let you go.
I'll look you up when I'm in town.
I'll put a stop to that.
I'll see you in a little while.
I'll see you later.
if not
if I've told you once, I've told you a
If it was a snake it woulda bit you.
If God did not exist, it would be
If at first you don't succeed, try, try
If anything can go wrong, it will.
(I) wouldn't if I were you.
(I) wonder if
(I) don't care if I do.
(I) wouldn't if I were you.
If a thing is worth doing, it's worth
doing well.
If a toady frog had wings, he
wouldn't bump his ass.
If anything can go wrong, it will.
If anything should happen
If at first you don't succeed, try, try
again.
If frogs had wheels, they wouldn't
bump their butts.
If God did not exist, it would be
necessary to invent Him.
If I were you
If ifs and ands were pots and pans
(there'd be no work for tinkers' hands).
If it ain't chickens, it's feathers.
If it was a snake it woulda bit you.
If I've told you once, I've told you a
thousand times
If looks could kill
If my memory serves me correctly
if I'm not
If one knows what's good for one
if one's a day
if words come to shove
if so
if that don't beat a pig a-pecking!
if that don't beat all!
if the going gets tough
If the mountain will not come to
Mahomet, Mahomet must go to
the mountain.
if the shoe fits, (wear it).
if the truth were known
if (the) worst comes to (the) worst
if there's anything you need, don't
hesitate to ask.
If two ride on a horse, one must ride
behind.
If wishes were horses, then beggars
would ride.
if you can't be good, be careful.
if you can't beat them, join them.
if you can't lick 'em, join 'em.
If you can't stand the heat, get out of
the kitchen.
If you don't like it, (you can) jump it.
If you don't make mistakes, you
don't make anything.
if you don't mind!
if you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
if you get your drift
if you know what's good for you
if you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
if you must
if you play with fire, you get burned.
if you please
If you run after two hares, you will
catch neither.
If you want a thing done well, do it
yourself.
If you want peace, (you must)
prepare for war.
If you would be well served, serve
yourself.
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
If you can't stand the heat, get out of
the kitchen.
If you don't like it, (you can) jump it.
If you don't make mistakes, you
don't make anything.
If you don't mind!
If you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
If you get your drift
If you know what's good for you
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you must
If you play with fire, you get burned.
If you please
If you run after two hares, you will
catch neither.
If you want a thing done well, do it
yourself.
If you want peace, (you must)
prepare for war.
If you would be well served, serve
yourself.
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
If you get your drift
If you know what's good for you
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you must
If you play with fire, you get burned.
If you please
If you run after two hares, you will
catch neither.
If you want a thing done well, do it
yourself.
If you want peace, (you must)
prepare for war.
If you would be well served, serve
yourself.
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
If you get your drift
If you know what's good for you
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you must
If you play with fire, you get burned.
If you please
If you run after two hares, you will
catch neither.
If you want a thing done well, do it
yourself.
If you want peace, (you must)
prepare for war.
If you would be well served, serve
yourself.
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
If you get your drift
If you know what's good for you
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you must
If you play with fire, you get burned.
If you please
If you run after two hares, you will
catch neither.
If you want a thing done well, do it
yourself.
If you want peace, (you must)
prepare for war.
If you would be well served, serve
yourself.
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
If you get your drift
If you know what's good for you
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you must
If you play with fire, you get burned.
If you please
If you run after two hares, you will
catch neither.
If you want a thing done well, do it
yourself.
If you want peace, (you must)
prepare for war.
If you would be well served, serve
yourself.
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you don't see what you want,
please ask (for it).
If you get your drift
If you know what's good for you
If you lie down with dogs, you will
gain up with fleas.
If you must
If you play with fire, you get burned.
If you please
If you run after two hares, you will
catch neither.
If you want a thing done well, do it
yourself.
If you want peace, (you must)
prepare for war.
in crash course in s\thing
in crazy in the head
in crick in one's back
in crick in one's neck
in crowd in
in cruise around in s\thing
in crush s\thing in
in cry in one's beer
in cry out (in s\thing)
in cue so in
in culminate in s\thing
in cut in (ahead of s\thing)
in cut in (on so)
in cut in (on s\thing)
in cut in (with s\thing)
in cut so in
in dabble in s\thing
in dangle s\thing in front of so
in dart in and out
in day in and day out
in dead in so's or an animal's tracks
in dead in the water
in deal in s\thing
in deal so in
in decide in favor of s\thing
in deck so\thing out (in s\thing)
in delight in so\thing
in detect s\thing in s\thing
in diamond in the rough
in die in one's boots
in die in s\thing
in differ in s\thing
in dig one's heels in
in dig so\thing in s\thing
in dine in
in disguise so in s\thing
in disappointed in so\thing
in dissolve in s\thing
in dissolve so\thing in s\thing
in dive in with both feet
in Do not wash your dirty linen in public.
in do so in
in do so hand in hand
in do s\thing in
in doesn't have enough sense to come out of the rain
in doesn't know his ass from a hole in the ground
in dog in the manger
in done in
in Don't change horses in midstream.
in Don't get your bowels in an uproar!
in don't give a hoot (in hell's hollow)
in don't have a pot to piss in (or a window to throw it out of)
in Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
in Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
in Don't spend it all in one place.
in double in brass (as s\thing)
in down in the dumps
in down in the mouth
in drag so in (on s\thing)
in drape so\thing in s\thing
in draw a line in the sand
in draw in one's horns
in drench so\thing in s\thing
in dress so\thing up (in s\thing)
in drill so in s\thing
in drink s\thing in
in drop behind (in s\thing)
in drop in (on so)
in drop in one's tracks
in Drop in sometime.
in drop in the bucket
in drop in the ocean
in drop in (to say hello)
in drown in s\thing
in drown so in s\thing
in drown so or an animal in s\thing
in dub s\thing in
in dwell in an ivory tower
in dyed-in-the-wool
in easy as shooting fish in a barrel
in eat in
in educate so in s\thing
in embed so\thing in s\thing
in embed so\thing in
in embody so\thing in s\thing
in embroil so in s\thing
in employ so in s\thing
in encase so\thing in s\thing
in encourage so in s\thing
in end in itself
in end so in
in end up in the poorhouse
in enfold so in s\thing
in engage in small talk
in engage so\thing in s\thing
in engraved in stone
in engross so in s\thing
in engulf so\thing in s\thing
in enlist oneself in s\thing
in enlist so in s\thing
in enmesh so\thing in so\thing
in enroll (so) in s\thing
in ensconce oneself in s\thing
in ensnare so\thing in s\thing
in ensnare so\thing in s\thing
in entangle so\thing in s\thing
in entangle so\thing in
in enter in s\thing
in entomb so or an animal in s\thing
in entrap so (in s\thing) (with s\thing)
in envelop so\thing in so\thing
in equal so\thing in s\thing
in establish so\thing in s\thing
in even in the best of times
in examine so in s\thing
in exceed so\thing in s\thing
in excel in s\thing
in excite s\thing in so
in exercise so or an animal in s\thing
in expend so\thing in s\thing
in experiment in s\thing
in express so\thing in round figures
in express so\thing in round numbers
in exult in s\thing
in eyes like two burnt holes in a blanket
in fade s\thing in
in fail in s\thing
in fall behind (in s\thing)
in fall head over heels in love (with so)
in fall in
in falter in s\thing
in fat is in the fire.
in feather in one's cap
in feature so in s\thing
in feel s\thing in one's bones
in fence an animal in
in fence so in
in fence s\thing in
in fetch s\thing in
in field s\thing in
in fetch s\thing in
in fill s\thing in
in fill so in (on so\thing)
in fill s\thing in
in find it in one's heart (to do s\thing)
in find it in oneself (to do s\thing)
in find oneself in a bind
in find oneself in a jam
in find oneself in the doghouse
in find oneself in the market (for s\thing)
in find oneself in the public eye
in find so in
in find sth in mint condition
in first thing (in the morning)
in fish in troubled waters
in fit in (somehow) (with s\thing)
in fit in (with so\thing)
in flash in the pan
in fling s\thing up in so's face
in fling s\thing up (in s\thing)
in fly in
in fly in the ointment
in follow in so\thing
in Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
in foot in both camps
in foot-in-mouth disease
in For crying in a bucket!
in four sheets in the wind
in frame s\thing in s\thing
in freeze so\thing in one's memory
in friend in need is a friend indeed.
in frighten so or an animal in
in frog in one's throat
in from here on (in)
in gain in s\thing
in garb so in s\thing
in Garbage in, garbage out.
in garner s\thing in
in gather s\thing in
in get a say (in s\thing)
in get a word in edgewise
in get ahead (in s\thing)
in get a word in edgewise
in get in deeper
in get it in the neck
in get on (in years)
in get one's ass in gear
in get one's bowels in an uproar
in get one's ducks in a row
in get one's foot in the door
in get one's tail in gear
in get so across (in a good way)
in get so in a family way
in get so down (in black and white)
in give in
in glass s\thing in
in glory in s\thing
in go arm in arm
in go (a)round in circles
in go down in defeat
in go down in flames
in go down (in history) (as so\thing)
in go hand in hand
in go home in a box
in go in
in Go jump in the lake!
in go out in force
in go out in search of so\thing
in Go play in the traffic.
in go to hell in a bucket
in go up in flames
in go up in smoke

Phrase-Finder Index

903
in put one's own house in order  
in put one's trust in so/sth  
in put one's two cents' worth in  
in put oneself in so else's place  
in put across (in a good way) in  
in put so in  
in put so or some creature out in the cold  
in put so/sth in  
in put so/sth back in play  
in put so/sth down in black and white  
in put so/sth in  
in put that in your pipe and smoke it!  
in put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.  
in putty in so's hands  
in quake in one's boots  
in rain in on so/sth  
in raised in a barn  
in rake sth in  
in rattle around in sth  
in reach some place in a body  
in reach sth in the (very) nick of time  
in read sth in  
in recast sth in sth  
in record sth in sth  
in red in the face  
in reef a sail in  
in reel sth in  
in reflected in sth  
in register in sth  
in register so in sth  
in rein so/sth in  
in reinstate so in sth  
in rejoice in so/sth  
in relocate so/sth in sth  
in remain in limbo  
in remain in the back of so's mind  
in remain in touch (with so/sth)  
in remember so in one's will  
in report in  
in repose in sth  
in represent so in sth  
in resemble so/sth in sth  
in reside in some place  
in reside in so/sth  
in rest in peace  
in rest in sth  
in rest sth in so/sth  
in restore so's trust in sth  
in result so/sth in sth  
in revile in sth  
in rich in sth  
in ride off in all directions  
in rig so/sth out (in sth)  
in right in the kisser  
in ring in so's ears  
in ring in so's mind  
in ring in the new year  
in rip sth in half  
in rip sth in two  
in rise in sth  
in rival so in sth  
in roll in  
in roll (oneself) up in sth  
in roll (over) in one's grave  
in roll so/sth (up) in sth  
in roll sth in  
in rolling in it  
in rolling in money  
in rolling in sth  
in rolling in the aisles  
in Rome was not built in a day.

in root sth in sth  
in rooted sth in sth  
in rope so in  
in rough sth in  
in rub salt in a wound  
in rub so's nose in it  
in rub sth in  
in rule in favor of so/sth  
in run in circles  
in run in sth  
in run in the family  
in run off in all directions  
in run so in  
in run sth in  
in safety in numbers  
in save so in the (very) nick of time  
in say (in sth)  
in say sth in a roundabout way  
in say sth in plain English  
in school so in sth  
in see so/sth in a new light  
in see sth in so/sth  
in see sth in the cards  
in seem like putty in so's hands  
in send in for sth  
in send so in  
in serve sth in sth  
in set foot in some place  
in set in  
in set one's house in order  
in set so up (in business)  
in set sth down in black and white  
in set sth in  
in settle in  
in shake in one's boots  
in ships that pass in the night  
in shoot oneself in the foot  
in shoot so down in flames  
in shoot in the arm  
in shot in the dark  
in should have stood in bed  
in shroud so/sth in sth  
in sick in bed  
in sign in  
in sign so in  
in sign sth in  
in sink in  
in sit hand in hand  
in sit in (for so)  
in sit in judgment (upon) so/sth  
in sit in (on sth)  
in skeleton(s) in the closet  
in sketch sth in  
in slam the door in so's face  
in slap in the face  
in slap so in sth  
in sleep in  
in slip in (some place)  
in sloop around (in sth)  
in slouch down (in sth)  
in slow as molasses in January  
in slower than molasses in January  
in smash (dab) in the middle  
in smash in the face  
in smash so's face in  
in smash sth in  
in snake in the grass  
in snow so/sth in  
in snowed in  
in snub as a bug in a rug  
in soak sth in sth  
in sock so/sth in  
in socked in  
in soft in the head  
in so's ace in the hole  
in so will be with you in a minute.  
in something is rotten in (the state of) Denmark.  
in (somewhere) in the neighborhood of sth  
in speak in earnest  
in speak of the devil (and in he walks).  
in specialize in sth  
in speculate in sth  
in spend time in sth  
in split in sth  
in split second  
in square peg in a round hole  
in squash sth in  
in stab so in sth  
in stab so in the back  
in stand in awe (of so/sth)  
in stand (in) back of so/sth  
in stand in (for so)  
in stand in so's way  
in stand knee-deep in sth  
in stand so in good stead  
in stand up in court  
in star in sth  
in stare so in the face  
in stars in one's eyes  
in start in on so/sth  
in start so (as sth)  
in start so up (in sth)  
in stash sth in sth  
in stave sth in  
in stay in limbo  
in stay in (cell)  
in stay in the back of so's mind  
in stay in the boondocks  
in stay in the dark (about so/sth)  
in stay in the fast lane  
in stay in touch (with so/sth)  
in steep so in sth  
in steep sth in sth  
in step in sth  
in stew in one's own juice  
in stick in so's mind  
in stick in sth  
in stick one's foot in one's mouth  
in stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted)  
in stick one's nose up in the air  
in stick one's oar in  
in stick-in-the-mud  
in stir sth in  
in stitch in time saves nine.  
in stock in trade  
in stop dead in one's tracks  
in stop in (some place)  
in stop one or sth dead in one's or sth's tracks  
in store sth in sth  
in strip sth in  
in stroll arm in arm  
in (stuck) in a rut  
in stuck in traffic  
in stuff a sock in it!  
in submerge so/sth in sth  
in succeed in sth  
in suck so in  
in suck sth in  
in surpass so/sth in sth  
in sustain so in sth  
in swathe so/sth in sth  
in swear so in (as sth)
into fly so/sh into (some place) (from some place)
into fold sh into sh
into fool so into sh
into force so/sh in(to) sh
into form so/sh into sh
into form (up) into sh
into freeze sh into sh
into frighten so or an animal into doing sh
into frighten so or an animal into sh
into galvanize so into action
into gather so into sh
into get into a mess
into get into an argument (with so) (about so/sh)
into get into bed with so
into get into one's stride
into get into sh
into get in(to) the act
into get in(to) the swing of things
into get one's hooks in(to) so/sh
into get one's teeth into sh
into get oneself into a stew (over so/sh)
into get so in(to) sh
into get so/sh in(to) sh
into get sh into a mess
into get sh in(to) so
into get sh into so or an animal's thick head
into get sh in(to) sh
into get into a huddle
into get into a nosedive
into get into a song and dance (about sh)
into go into a tailspin
into go into action
into go into detail(s)
into go into effect
into go into heat
into go into hiding
into go into hock
into go into one's act
into go into orbit
into go into service
into go into the bull pen
into go into the red
into go into the same old song and dance about sh
into go into the service
into go off (into sh)
into go out of the frying pan into the fire
into goad so into sh
into grind sh into sh
into grow down (into sh)
into grow into sh
into grow up into so/sh
into hammer sh into sh
into head in(to) sh
into head so/sh into so/sh
into head so/sh into so/sh
into head so into sh
into heave in(to) sight
into heavy into so/sh
into help so in(to) sh
into high-pressure so into sh
into hoodwink so into sh
into hook in(to) sh
into hook sh into sh
into hop in(to) sh
into hurl so/sh into sh
into hurry so/sh into sh
into immigrate (in)to so some place (from some place)
into implant sh in(to) so/sh
into import sh (from sh) ((in)to sh)
into impress sh into sh
into imprint sh into sh
into incorporate so/sh in(to) sh
into inculcate sh in(to) so
into indoctrinate so into sh
into induct so into sh
into infrillate into sh
into infuse sh into sh
into infuse so into sh
into infuriate oneself into sh
into ingratiate oneself into sh
into initiate so into sh
into inject sh into so/sh or some creature
into inject sh into sh
into inquire into sh
into inscribe sh into sh
into insert sh in(to) so
into insinuate oneself into sh
into instill sh in(to) so
into instill sh in(to) sh
into integrate so/sh into sh
into interject so into sh
into interject sh into sh
into interpose sh in(to) sh
into interpose sh into sh
into intimate so into sh
into in(to) a jam
into into being
into in(to) so's clutches
into introduce so into sh
into introduce sh into sh
into intrude into sh
into intrude oneself into sh
into inveigle so/sh into sh
into invite so into some place
into jab sh into sh
into jam so/sh in(to) sh
into jostle so/sh into position
into jump in(to) so
into jump into the fray
into jump out of the frying pan into the fire
into jut out (into sh)
into knock some sense into so
into knock so into sh
into knock sh into a cocked hat
into lace into so/sh
into lace so into sh
into lam into so or an animal
into lapse into sh
into lash into so or an animal
into lash sh into sh
into launch into sh
into lay into so/sh
into lay so/sh in(to) sh
into leach in(to) sh
into lead in(to) sh
into lead so into sh
into lead so into so
into lean in(to) sh
into lean into sh
into let so/sh into sh
into lick so/sh into shape
into lick sh into shape
into light into so/sh
into line up in(to) sh
into load into sh
into load so/sh into sh
into load so into sh
into look into sh
into luck into sh
into full so into a false sense of security
into make irroads into sh
into make so/sh into sh
into maneuver so into sh
into marry into sh
into melt sh into sh
into melt so into sh
into merge in(to) sh
into merge so/sh into sh
into metamorphose into sh
into mix so/sh into sh
into move into full swing
into move into high gear
into move in(to) sh
into move so/sh into sh
into move up into sh
into mushroom into sh
into nail sh into sh
into nose in(to) sh
into open into sh
into opt in(to) sh
into order so into sh
into out of the frying pan (and) into the fire
into overweight into sh
into pack so/sh into sh
into panlay sh into sh
into partition sh into sh
into pass into sh
into pay into sh
into pay sh into sh
into peek in(to) sh
into peek in(to) sh
into peer in(to) sh
into penetrate into so/sh
into permit so into sh
into pester so into sh
into phase so/sh into sh
into pile in(to) sh
into pile so into sh
into pilot sh into sh
into pipe sh into some place
into pitch sh into sh
into place so/sh into the care of so
into play into so's hands
into plow into so/sh
into plow sh back into sh
into plug (oneself) into sh
into plug sh into sh
into plunge in(to) sh
into plunge sh into so/sh
into poke one's nose into sh
into poke sh into sh
into polarize sh into sh
into pop in(to) sh
into pop sh into sh
into pound sh into sh
into pour in(to) sh
into pour oneself into sh
into pour sh back (in(to) sh))
into pour sh into sh
into precipitate sh into sh
into precipitate sh into sh
into press so/sh into service
into press sh into sh
into pressure so into sh
into probe into sh
into prod so into sh
into project into sh
into provoke so into sh
into pry into sh
into puff up (into sh)
into pull in(to some place)
into pull so into a place
into pull so into sh
into pull so/sh into sh
into pump sh into so/sh
into punch sh into sh
into push so into sth
into push so/sth into so/sth
into push so/sth or an animal into sth
into put ideas into so's head
into put one's back (in)to sth
into put one's heart (and soul) into sth
into put some teeth into sth
into put so into power
into put so into the doghouse
into put so into the doldrums
into put so into the gutter
into put so/sth in(to) jeopardy
into put so/sth into order
into put so/sth into sth
into put so/sth into the middle of nowhere
into put sh into effect
into put sh into orbit
into put sh in(to) order
into put sh into perspective
into put sh into place
into put sh into practice
into put sh in(to) service
into put sh in(to) so's head
into put sh into use
into put sh into words
into put teeth in(to) sth
into put the fear of God in(to) so
into put words in(to) so's mouth
into race into so/sth
into race into sth
into railroad so into sth
into ram into so/sth
into ram sth into so/sth
into reach back (in)to sth
into reach in(to) sth
into reach out into sth
into read sth into sth
into receive so into sth
into reckon so/sth into sth
into recruit so into sth
into relax into sth
into remodel so into sth
into remand so (in)to the custody of so
into rend sth into sth
into render sth in(to) sth
into research into so/sth
into rent (in)to sth
into rip into so/sth
into ripen into sth
into rocket (in)to sth
into rocket sth into sth
into roll in(to some place)
into roll sth up (into sth)
into rope so into doing sth
into rope so into sth
into rush sth into sth
into run into a stone wall
into run into so
into run in(to sth)
into run so/sth into sth
into run sh into sth
into run sth into the ground
into rush in(to sth)
into rush so into sth
into rush so/sth into sth
into rush sth into print
into sail into so
into sail in(to sth)
into saw into sth
into saw sth (up) (in(to) sth)
into screw sth into sth
into scrunch down into sth
into scrunch sth down (into sth)
into see so into sth
into seep in(to sth)
into segregate so/sth or an animal into sth
into segue into sth
into send so into a state or condition
into send so into sth
into send sth into sth
into separate so/sth into sth
into set sth into sth
into show so into somewhere
into sink back (into sth)
into sink into despair
into sink into oblivion
into sink one's teeth into sth
into sink sth in(to) so/sth
into skid so into sth
into slap into so/sth
into slice in(to sth)
into slide into sth
into slide sth into sth
into slip in(to sth)
into slip sth in(to) sth
into slump down in(to) sth
into smash into sth
into smuggle so/sth into some place
into snap into sth
into snap sth into sth
into sneak in(to some place)
into sneeze into sth
into snore into sth
into snowball into sth
into snuggle down in(to sth)
into soak in(to sth)
into spell (in)to sth
into spell (over) into sth
into spit sth in(to) sth
into split sth up into sth
into split sth into sth
into spring into action
into squash sth into sth
into squeeze so/sth into sth
into squirm in(to sth)
into stagger in(to some place)
into stalk in(to some place)
into stampede in(to some place)
into stampede so/sth into sth
into stare into sth
into stare or an animal into sth
into steam in(to) sth
into steer into sth
into step in(to some place)
into step into so's shoes
into step into sth
into step in(to the breach)
into step out into sth
into stick one's nose in(to sth)
into stick sh into so/sth
into stimulate so or an animal into sth
into stir so (in)to sth
into stir sth into sth
into storm in(to some place)
into straggle so/sth in(to) sth
into strain in(to sth)
into stream in(to sth)
into stride in(to some place)
into strike sth into sth
into strat in(to some place)
into stuff so/sth into so/sth
into stumble into so/sth
into subdivide sth into sth
into suck so/sth into sth
into sucker so into sth
into surge in(to sth)
into swarm in(to sth)
into sweep in(to some place)
into sweep so into sth
into sweep sth into sth
into swerve so/sth
into swim into sth
into swing into action
into swing into high gear
into swing into sth
into switch into sth
into switch sth (from sth) (in)to sth
into take into account so/sth
into take so into one's confidence
into take so or an animal into one's heart
into take so/sth into account
into take sth into account
into take sth into one's head
into take sth into some place
into take the law into one's own hands
into talk so or an animal
into tap sth into sth
into taunt so into sth
into tear into some place
into tear into so
into tear into sth
into tease so into doing sth
into telescope into sth
into tempt so into sth
into terror so into sth
into terrorize so into sth
into throng in(to sth)
into throw oneself into sth
into throw so/sth into confusion
into throw sth into so/sth
into throw sth into sharp relief
into throw sth in(to) so's face
into throw sth into the bargain
into thrust sth into so/sth
into thud into so/sth
into tie in(to sth)
into tie so/sth into sth
into torment so into doing sth
into torture so into sth
into toss one's hat into the ring
into toss sth into sth
into tow so/sth into sth
into track sth into some place
into translate sth into sth ((in)to sth)
into transmigrate sth (from sth) ((in)to sth)
into transmute sth (from sth) ((in)to sth)
into transpose sth (from sth) ((in)to sth)
into trap so into sth
into trap so into sth
into trick so into (doing) sth
into trickle in(sto) sth
into troop in(to sth)
into tuck into sth
into tuck so in(to) sth
into tuck sth in(to) sth
into tumble into bed
into tumble into so/sth
into turn in(to) some place
into turn into so/sth
into turn so/sth into so/sth
into untie so/sth into sth
into untie so/sth into sth
into unroll so/sth into so/sth
into unfold into sth
into unfold sth into sth
into unify so/sth into sth
into unite so/sth into sth
inventory take inventory
invest invest in
invest invest so's time in
invest invest so with
invest invest sth in
invite invite so into
invite invite so into some place
invite invite so out
invite invite so over (for sth)
invite invite so to
invite Thank you for inviting me.
involve involve so
involve involve so with
involve involve with
iota not one iota
Irish get so's Irish up
Irish the luck of the Irish
iron all oak and iron bound
iron cast-iron stomach
iron get the kinks (ironed) out
iron have too many iron in the fire
iron iron (some) iron
iron rule with an iron fist
iron Strike while the iron is hot.
is after is said and done
is age of miracles is past.
is All that glisters is not gold.
is All that glitters is not gold.
is Any friend of so's (is a friend of mine).
is Art is long and life is short.
is as far as so is concerned
is as far as sth is concerned
is as it is
is As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.
is bad excuse is better than none.
is ball is so's court.
is Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
is Beauty is only skin-deep.
is best defense is a good offense.
is best is the enemy of the good.
is bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
is black as one is painted
is Blessed is he who expects nothing,
for he shall never be disappointed.
is Blood is thicker than water.
is Bread is the staff of life.
is Brevity is the soul of wit.
is bully is always a coward.
is Cash is king.
is Cash is trash.
is cat is out of the bag
is chain is no stronger than its weakest link.
is child is father of the man.
is Cleanliness is next to godliness.
is coast is clear.
is contented mind is a perpetual feast.
is Cross the stream where it is shallowest.
is cry before one is hurt
is customer is always right.
is darkest hour is just before the dawn.
is Death is the great leveler.
is devil is not so black as he is painted.
is die is cast.
is difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer.
is Diligence is the mother of good luck.
is Dinner is served.
is Discretion is the better part of valor.
is East is East and West is West (and
never the twain shall meet).
is Enough is as good as a feast.
is Enough is enough.
is Every man is the architect of his own
fortune.
is Example is better than precept.
is Expense is no object.
is Experience is the best teacher.
is Experience is the father of wisdom.
is Experience is the mother of wisdom.
is Experience is the teacher of fools.
is Fact is stranger than fiction.
is fat is in the fire.
is feeling (that sth is the case)
is female of the species is more deadly
than the male.
is Fire is a good servant but a bad
master.
is first step is always the hardest.
is Forewarned is forearmed.
is friend in need is a friend indeed.
is From the sublime to the ridiculous is
only a step.
is game is up.
is Genius is an infinite capacity for
taking pains.
is Genius is ten percent inspiration and
ninety percent perspiration.
is Give credit where credit is due.
is good is the enemy of the best.
is good man is hard to find.
is grass is always greener on the other
side (of the fence).
is Half a loaf is better than none.
is Half the truth is often a whole lie.
is Handsome is as handsome does.
is Happy is the bride that the sun
shines on.
is Happy is the country which has no
history.
is have a hunch (that sth is the case)
is He that is down need fear no fall.
is He who hesitates is lost.
is He who rides a tiger is afraid to
dismount.
is Hoist your sail when the wind is fair.
is Home is where the heart is.
is Honesty is the best policy.
is honeymoon is over.
is Hope is a good breakfast but a bad
supper.
is How is so fixed for sth?
is How is so getting along?
is How is so making out?
is Hunger is the best sauce.
is idle brain is the devil's workshop.
is Idleness is the root of all evil.
is If a thing is worth doing, it's worth
doing well.
is Ignorance is bliss.
is ignorance (of the law) is no excuse
(for breaking it).
is imitation is the sincerest form of
flattery.
is In the country of the blind, the one-
eyed man is king.
is is all
(is) anything going on?
is (is) everything okay?
is (Is it) cold enough for you?
Money is power.
Money is no object.
Monday's child is fair of face.
Miss is as good as a mile.
Merry as the day is long
Many a true word is spoken in jest.
Man's home is his castle.
Love of money is the root of all evil.
The longest way round is the shortest way home.
Life isn't all beer and skittles.
Life is too short.
Liar is not believed (even) when he tells the truth.
Less is more.
L الأوروبي is known by the company he keeps.
It is a wise child that knows its own father.
It is all over with so.
It is better to be born lucky than rich.
It is better to give than to receive.
It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.
It is better to wear out than to rust out.
It is easier to tear down than to build up.
It is easy to be wise after the event.
It is more blessed to receive than to receive.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is never too late to learn.
It is never too late to mend.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
It is the pace that kills.
It is not work that kills, but worry.
### Phrase-Finder Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>it Bag it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it ba(t)ch (it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it be that as it may</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Beat it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it before you know it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it believe it or not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Better keep still about it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Blow it out your ear!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Blow on it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it booze it up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Break it up!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it buy it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it call it a day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it call it a night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it call it quits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it camp it up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Can it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it can take it to the bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it can’t hack it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it catch it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it catch to it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Charge it to the dust and let the rain settle it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it chuck it in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Come and get it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Come ‘n’ get it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Come off it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it come to think of it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Consam!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Cool it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it could fight a circle-saw (and it a-runnin’)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it cross a bridge before one comes to it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it cross that bridge when one comes to it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Cross the stream where it is shallowest.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Cut it out!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Damn it to blue blazes!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it deem it (to be) necessary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Do I have to spell it out (for you)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it do it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (Do you) want to make something of it?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Does it work for you?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it doesn’t care who knows it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t even think about (doing) it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t even think about (happening).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t give it a (second) thought.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t give it another thought.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it don’t have a pot to piss in (or a window to throw it out of)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t I know it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t knock it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it don’t know whether to eat it or rub it on /it Don’t let it go any further.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t let it go out of this room.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t let me make it say it again!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t mention it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t say it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t spend it all in one place.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t sweat it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t worry your (pretty little) head about it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Don’t you know it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Drop it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it duke it out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Easy does it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it eat one’s cake and have it too</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it end it (all)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it even if it kills me</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it fake it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it far be it from me to do sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it far from it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it feel it beneath one (to do sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it find it in one’s heart (to do sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it find it in oneself (to do sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it floor it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it for all it’s worth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it for the devil of it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it for the fun of it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it for the heck of it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it for the hell of it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it for what(ever) it’s worth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Forget (about) it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it get it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Get off it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Get out with it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Get over it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it get with it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Give it a rest!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Give it all you’ve got!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Give it the gun.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Give it time!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it give it to so (straight)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Give it up!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it go at hammer and tongs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it go at it tooth and nail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Go for it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it go it alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it go to it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it go with it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it grin and bear it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (had) known it was coming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Hand it over.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Hang it all!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it hang it up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have a familiar ring (to it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have a kick to it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have a rough time (of it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have an easy time of it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Have at it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have had it (up to here)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have it (all) over so/sth (in sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have it both ways</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have it in for so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have it in one to do sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have it made</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Have it your way.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (have) never had it so good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have one’s cake and eat it too</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have to do sth so bad one can taste it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have to hand it to so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it have what it takes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Here (it) goes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it hightail it out of somewhere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it hit it off (with so)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Hold it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it hoof it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it Hop to it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it hotfoot it (off to)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it hotfoot it out of somewhere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it How does it?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it How does it (with you)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it How’s it going?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it How’s (it) with you?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (I) can’t help it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (I) couldn’t help it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (I) don’t believe it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (I) don’t understand (it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it I doubt it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it (I) love it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it I need it yesterday.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
think nothing of it.

There's nothing to it!

There ain't nothin' to it.

The way I see it.

The butler did it.

That tears it!

That's (just) the way it goes.

That's more like it.

That tears it!

The way I see it.

There ain't nothin' to it.

There's nothing to it!

Think nothing of it.

It's This is it.

It's time it on.

It's time to call it a day.

It's time to call it a night.

It's tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

It's to put it another way.

It's to put it mildly.

It's to whom it may concern.

It's wanna make sumpin' of it?

It's want so bad one can taste it.

It's want to make something of it?

It's watch it!

It's way it plays.

It's what about it?

It's what difference does it make?

It's what is it?

It's what of it?

It's what's in it for me?

It's what's it to you?

It's what'll it be?

It's when it comes right down to it.

It's when it comes to it.

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

Where it's at.

Who was it?

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

When it comes to it.

When it comes right down to it.

What'll it be?

What difference does it make?

What about it?

What is it?

What of it?

What's in it for me?

What's it to you?

What'll it be?

When it comes right down to it.

When it comes to it.

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

Where it's at.

Who is it?

Who was it?

Whoop it up.

Whip it off!

Wipe it off!

Whoop it up.

Wipe it off!

Whip it off!

Wipe it off!

Whoop it up.

Wipe it off!

Whoop it up.

Wipe it off!

Whip it off!

Wipe it off!

Whoop it up.

Wipe it off!

Whoop it up.

Wipe it off!

Whoop it up.
just I'd (just) as leave do sth
just I'd (just) as soon (as) do sth
just (I'm) just getting by.
just I'm just looking.
just (I'm) just minding my own business.
just (I'm) just plugging along.
just I'm just thinking out loud.
just in (just) a minute
just in (just) a second
just (It) just goes to show (you) (st)
just (It) just goes without saying.
just It's always darkest just before the dawn.
just It's just one of those things.
just (It's) just what you need.
just a minute
just (just) a stone's throw away (from sth)
just (just) a stone's throw (from sth)
just (as) I expected
just fell off the turnip truck
just in case
just in time
just let me say
just just like that
just off the boat
just one's cup of tea
just passing through
just just
just just
just just
just (just) taking care of business
just just the same
just the ticket
just just what the doctor ordered
Just (you) wait (and see)!
just just
just (just) say
just Life is just a bowl of cherries.
just not just whistling Dixie
just Some people (just) don't know when to quit.
just That's (just) the way it goes.
just That's (just) too much!
just That's just what you need.
just We're (just) just talking about you.
just would (just) as soon do sth
just You ain't just whistlin' Dixie.
just You just don't get it!
just You (just) (and see)!
just (You) (just) watch!
just You're (just) wasting my time.
just just bring to justice
just do justice to sth
justice do justice to
justice miscarriage of justice
justice poetic justice
justice travesty of justice
justify end justifies the means.
justify justly st by st
justific justly st to st
just just out (from sth)
just just out (into sth)
just just out (over so/sth)
juxtapose juxtapose so/sth to so/sth
kangaroo kangaroo court
Katie Katie bar the door
keel keel over
keel keel st over
keel keep on an even keel
keel keep st on an even keel
keen have a keen interest in sth
keen keen about so/sth
keen keen on doing sth
keen keen on so/sth
keep Am I my brother's keeper?
keep apple a day keeps the doctor away.
keep be one's brother's keeper
keep Better keep still about it.
keep Can you keep a secret?
keep Could you keep a secret?
keep Desert and reward seldom keep company.
keep earn one's keep
keep enough to keep body and soul together
keep Finders keepers (losers weepers).
keep for keeps
keep for safekeeping
keep (Have you) been keeping busy?
keep (Have you) been keeping cool?
keep (Have you) been keeping out of trouble?
keep hedge between keeps friendship green.
keep I am not my brother's keeper.
keep I'd (just) as soon (as) do sth
keep I'm (just) plugging along.
keep I'm just looking.
keep I'd (just) as soon (as) do sth
keep I am not my brother's keeper.
keep I am not my brother's keeper.
keep I'm just looking.
keep I'd (just) as soon (as) do sth
keep (I've) been keeping myself busy.
keep (I've) been keeping cool.
keep (I've) been keeping myself busy.
keep (I've) been keeping myself busy.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep (It) (just) goes without saying.
keep Keep out of my way.
keep keep out of sight
keep keep out of (of sth)
keep Keep out of this!
keep keep pace (with so/sth)
keep keep people straight (in one's mind)
keep keep quiet (about so/sth)
keep keep sight of so/sth
keep Keep smiling.
keep keep so at sth
keep keep so back
keep keep so company
keep keep so down
keep keep so from doing sth
keep keep so from so/sth
keep keep so honest
keep keep so in (a state of) suspense
keep keep so in ignorance (about so/sth)
keep keep so in sight
keep keep so in stitches
keep keep so in the dark (about so/sth)
keep keep so in the picture
keep keep so on
keep keep so on a string
keep keep so on (sth)
keep keep so on tenterhooks
keep keep so or an animal in
keep keep so or some creature out in the cold
keep keep so's about
keep keep so's apart
keep keep so's around
keep keep so's at a distance
keep keep so's at arm's length
keep keep so's at bay
keep keep so's away (from so/sth)
keep keep so's back
keep keep so's by so
keep keep so's down
keep keep so's for so
keep keep so's from doing sth
keep keep so's going
keep keep so's hanging (in midair)
keep keep so's in check
keep keep so's in mind
keep keep so's in order
keep keep so's in reserve
keep keep so's in some place
keep keep so's in with so/sth
keep keep so's off
keep keep so's on (the) (right) track
keep keep so's on track
keep keep so's out (of sth)
keep keep so's out of the way
keep keep so's quiet
keep keep so's still
keep keep so's together
keep keep so's under (close) scrutiny
keep keep so's under control
keep keep so's under sth
keep keep (so/sth) within bounds
keep keep so posted
keep keep so's or an animal back (from so/sth)
keep keep so under so's thumb
keep keep so up
keep keep so young at heart
keep keep sth by
keep keep sth down
keep keep sth for a rainy day
keep keep sth for another occasion
keep keep sth from so
keep keep sth in
keep keep sth inside ((of) one(self))
keep keep sth of so's or sth's
keep keep sth on
keep keep sth quiet
keep keep sth still
keep keep sth to a minimum
keep keep sth to oneself
keep keep sth under one's hat
keep keep sth under wraps
keep keep sth until some time
keep keep sth up
keep keep sth with so
keep Keep still.
keep keep tab(s) (on so/sth)
keep keep the ball rolling
keep keep the home fires burning
keep keep the stork busy
keep keep the stork flying
keep keep the wolf from the door
keep keep things straight (in one's mind)
keep Keep this to yourself.
keep keep time
keep keep to oneself
keep keep to sth
keep keep to the straight and narrow
keep keep together
keep keep track (of so/sth)
keep keep under sth
keep keep under wraps
keep keep up an act
keep keep up appearances
keep keep up one's act
keep Keep up the good work.
keep keep up with (so/sth)
keep keep up with the Joneses
keep keep up with the times
keep keep watch on so/sth
keep keep watch over so/sth
keep keep within sth
keep Keep your chin up.
keep Keep your head down.
keep Keep your mouth shut (about so/sth).
keep Keep your nose out of my business.
keep Keep your opinions to yourself!
keep Keep your pants on!
keep Keep your powder dry.
keep Keep your shirt on!
keep Keep your shop and your shop will keep you.
keep *low profile
keep man is known by the company he keeps.
keep old poacher makes the best gamekeeper.
keep *on one's toes
keep *open mind
keep *out in the cold
keep out of keeping (with sth)
keep *out of sight
keep play for keeps
keep Put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.
keep So had better keep still about it.
keep *straight face
keep *under (close) scrutiny
keep *under control
keep *under so's thumb
keep *under wraps
keep use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart
keep What's keeping so?
keep Where (have) you been keeping yourself?
keep Why keep a dog and bark yourself?
keep You been keeping busy?  
keep You been keeping cool?  
keep You been keeping out of trouble?  
keep Am I your brother's keeper?  
keep be one's brother's keeper
keep Finders keepers (losers
keep weepers).
keep I am not your brother's keeper.
keep sitting on a powder keg
keep beyond one's ken
keep kernel He that would eat the kernel must crack the nut.
keep kettle fine kettle of fish
keep kettle pot is calling the kettle black.
keep Kettle That's the pot calling the kettle black.
keep key church key
keep key golden key can open any door.
keep key to success
keep key eyed up (about sth)
keep key module to a (different) key
keep off-key
keep kibosh put the kibosh on so/sth
keep kick alive and kicking
keep kick for kicks
keep kick get a kick out of so/sth
keep kick get one's kicks (from so/sth)
keep kick give a kick
keep kick have a kick to it
keep kick kick a habit
keep kick kick about so/sth
keep kick kick against so/sth
keep kick kick around
keep kick kick ass
keep kick kick at so/sth
keep kick kick back
keep kick kick butt
keep kick kick in (on sth) (for so/sth)
keep kick kick in the ass
keep kick kick in the butt
keep kick kick in the guts
keep kick kick in the (seat of the) pants
keep kick kick in the teeth
keep kick kick like a mule
keep kick kick like a steer
keep kick kick off
keep kick kick one's heels up
keep kick kick oneself (for doing sth)
keep kick kick out (at so/sth)
keep kick kick over
keep kick kick some ass (around)
keep kick kick so or an animal out
keep kick kick so/sth around
keep kick kick so/sth aside
keep kick kick so/sth away
keep kick kick sth around
keep kick kick sth back (to so/sth)
keep kick kick sth down
keep kick kick sth in
keep kick kick sth off
keep kick kick sth out of sth
keep kick kick the bucket
keep kick kick the habit
keep kick kick the (natural) stuffing out of so
keep kick kick up
keep kick mad enough to kick a cat
keep *up a storm
keep kid (all) kidding aside

Phrase-Finder Index
let let down 
let Let every man skin his own skunk. 
let Let every tub stand on its own bottom. 
let let fly with s
let let George do it. 
let let go of s
let let go (with s) 
let let grass grow under one's feet 
let Let her rip! 
let let it all hang out 
let let it be. 
let Let it go. 
let Let it roll! 
let let loose of s
let let lose (with s) 
let Let me get back to you (on that). 
let Let me have it! 
let Let me (just) say 
let let out
let let off (some) steam 
let let on (about s)
let let on s
let let on (to s) (about s) 
let let one's emotions show 
let let one's guard down 
let let one's hair down 
let let oneself go 
let let oneself in for s 
let let out 
let Let's bump this place! 
let Let's call it a day. 
let Let's do lunch (sometime). 
let Let's do this again (sometime). 
let Let's dump. 
let Let's get down to business. 
let Let's get out of here. 
let Let's get together (sometime). 
let Let's go somewhere where it's (more) quiet. 
let Let's have it! 
let Let's not go through all that again. 
let Let's rock and roll! 
let Let's not go through all that again. 
let Let the dead bury the dead. 
let Let the buyer beware. 
let Let the cobbler stick to his last. 
let Let the dead bury the dead. 
let Let them eat cake. 
let Let them eat cake. 
let let things slide 
let let up 
let Let us do s. 
let let well enough alone 
let let live and let live 
let let not s catch so doing s 
let Let's call it a day. 
let Let's go somewhere where it's (more) quiet. 
let Let's have it! 
let Let's not go through all that again. 
let Let's rock and roll! 
let Let's not go through all that again. 
let Let the dead bury the dead.
like like gangbusters
like like greased lightning
like like hell
like like herding frogs
like like I was saying
like Like it or lump it!
like like it's such a big deal!
like like it was going out of style
like like lambs to the slaughter
like like looking for a needle in a haystack
like like mad
like Like mother, like daughter.
like like nobody's business
like like nothing on earth
like like one of the family
like like pigs to the slaughter
like like rats abandoning a sinking ship
like like shooting fish in a barrel
like like stealing acorns from a blind pig
like like stink
like like taking candy from a baby
like like the devil
like like the dickens
like like the wind
like like there ain't no tomorrow
like like there's no tomorrow
like like to
like like tryin' to scratch your ear with your elbow
like like (two) peas in a pod
like like water off a duck's back
like like, you know
like likely as not
like liken so/sth to so/sth
like likes of so/sth
like live like a marked man
like look like a candidate for a pair of wings
like look like a case of sth
like look like a (dead) ringer (for so)
like look like a million dollars
like look like one's saddle on a sow
like look like death warmed over
like look like so/sth
like look like sth
like like the cat dragged in
like look like the cat that swallowed the canary
like looking like a sitting duck
like make like a tree and leave
like make like so/sth
like make out like a bandit
like make (out) like sth
like March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb.
like move like stink
like move like the wind
like need sth like a hole in the head
like not feel like oneself
like Not likely.
like Nothing succeeds like success.
like off like a shot
like out like a light
like pack so/sth (in) like sardines
like packed (in) like sardines
like play like so/sth
like Promises are like piecrust, made to be broken.
like purr like a cat
like purr like a kitten
like quick like a bunny
like read so like a book
like read around like a chicken with its head cut off
like run like clockwork
like run like stink
like run like the wind
like seem like a long shot
like seem like oneself again
like seem like putty in so/sth's hands
like seem like so/sth
like seem like the last person
like sell like hotcakes
like sleep like a log
like smell like a rose
like smiling like a Cheshire cat
like smoke like a chimney
like sound like
like spend money like it's going out of style
like spend money like there's no tomorrow
like spread like wildfire
like stick out like a sore thumb
like swear like a trooper
like swim like stink
like take a liking to so/sth
like take it like a man
like talk like a nut
like tap-dance like mad
like taste like more
like taste like sth
like Tell it like it is.
like That's more like it.
like There's no fool like an old fool.
like There's no place like home.
like (There's) no time like the present.
like They don't make them like they used to.
like to so/sth's liking
like treat so/sth like so/sth
like watch so/sth like a hawk
like What would you like to drink?
like work like a beaver
like would one (to have) so/sth
likely in the unlikely event of sth
likely likely as not
likely Not likely.
likely liken so/sth to so/sth
likewise Likewise, I'm sure.
likely gild the lily
limb go out on a limb
limb out on a limb
limb put so out on a limb
limb tear so or some animal limb from limb
limbier limber so/sth up
limbo in limbo
limbo leave sth in limbo
limbo put sth in limbo
limbo remain in limbo
limbo stay in limbo
limelight in the limelight
limit go the limit
limit go to the limit
limit limit to so sth
limit limit to sth
limit off-limits
limit sky's the limit.
limit within limits
line along similar lines
line along these lines
line along those lines
line blow one's lines
line bottom line
line bring so/sth into line (with so/sth)
line cash on the line
line dead cat on the line
line Don't give me that line!
line Don't hand me that (line)!
line draw a line between sth and sth else
line draw a line in the sand
line draw the line (at sth)
line draw the line between sth and sth else
line drop so a few lines
line drop so a line
line end of the line
line Every cloud has a silver lining.
line fall in(to) line
line feed so a line
line fluff one's lines
line give so a line
line go down the line
line hold the line (at so/sth)
line hook, line, and sinker
line in line
line in the line of duty
line keep so or an animal in line
line lay it on the line
line lay some sweet lines on so
line line of least resistance
line line on so/sth
line line one's own pocket(s)
line line so/sth up
line line so/sth up behind so/sth
line line so/sth up (for sth)
line line so/sth up (with so)
line line sth with sth
line line up
line line muf sth one's lines
line line off-line
line One has to draw the line somewhere.
line online
line out of line (with sth)
line party line
line put it on the line
line put one's nose on the line
line put some sweet lines on so
line read between the lines
line run down some lines
line sign on the dotted line
line step out of line
line swallow sth hook, line, and sinker
line take a hard line (with sth)
line There is a fine line between so/sth
line There is a fine line between sth
line There is a fine line between so or an animal
line There is a fine line between so and so/sth
line There is a fine line between sth and sth else.
line toe the line
line under a deadline
line Who's on the line?
line work down (the line) (to so/sth)
line air one's dirty linen in public
line Do not wash your dirty linen in public.
line wash one's dirty linen in public
line linger linger around
line linger linger on
line linger linger over sth
line lining Every cloud has a silver lining.
link chain is no stronger than its weakest link.
link link so/sth to so/sth
link link so/sth up (to sth)
link link so/sth with so/sth
link link up to so/sth
link link weak link in the chain
link lion bear the lion in his den
little (hard) work never hurt
little bit (of)
little bird told me.
little
little (short) on one end
little steep

Great oaks from little acorns

Don't worry your (pretty little)

Little oaks from little acorns grow.

Little not trouble one's (pretty) (little)

head about it

Little Oh, ye of little faith.

Little little bit

Little Perhaps a little later.

Little precious little

Little sure as God made little green

apples

little think of SQ/STH

little too little, too late

little twist so around one's little finger

little wind so around one's little finger

little Ye gods (and little fishes)!

live all the way live

live As I live and breathe!

live cat has nine lives.

live Eat to live, not live to eat.

live every living soul

live for a living

live Half the world knows not how the

other half lives.

live have to live with

live He lives long who lives well.

live He who fights and runs away, may

live to return another day.

live hit one where one lives

live how the other half lives

live I can live with that.

live *in a world of one's own

live *in an ivory tower

live *in the fast lane

live knock the (living) daylights out of

so

live learn to live with

live live a dog's life

live live a life of

live live above SQ/STH

live live among

live live and learn

live live and let live

live live apart (from so)

live live around SQ/STH

live live beyond one's means

live live by one's wits

live live by

live Live by the sword, die by the

sword.

live live for SQ/STH

live live for the moment

live live from day to day

live live from hand to mouth

live live happily ever after

live live high off the hog

live live in

live live it up

live live large

live live like a marked man

live live next door (to so)

live live off campus

live live off (of) SQ/STH

live live off the fat of the land

live live off the land

live live on (after so)

live live on (after so/so)

live live on an amount of money

live live on borrowed time

live live on one's own

live live on sth

live live on the edge

live live out of a suitcase

live live out of cans

live live out one's days

live live over SQ/STH

live live sth down

live live sth out

live live sth over

live live the life of Riley

live live through sth

live live to do sth

live live to the (ripe old) age of sth

live live together

live live (together) with so

live live under SQ/STH

live live under sth (negative)

live live under the same roof (with so)

live live up to one's end of the bargain

live live up to sth

live live with so

live live with sth

live live within one's means

live live within sth

live live without sth

live live worlds apart

live liven sth up

live living end

live make a living by doing sth

live make a living from sth

live Man does not live by bread alone.

live not a living soul

live not tell a (living) soul

live *off campus

live Pardon me for living!

live People who live in glass houses

shouldn't throw stones.

live reed before the wind lives on,

while mighty oaks do fall.

live scare the living daylights out of so

live sure as you live

live thoughts to live by

live where so lives

live words to live by

livealong all the livelong day

liven sth up

liver more sth than Carter has (liver)

pills

Livingstone Doctor Livingstone, I

presume?

Io Lo and behold!

load dump a load

load dump one's load

load few bricks short of a load

load get a load of SQ/STH

load have a load on

load load into sth

load load off one's feet

load load off one's mind

load load SQ/STH down (with SQ/STH)
load load sq/sth into sq/sth
load load sq/sth on(to) sq/sth
load load sq/sth onto sq/sth
load load sq/sth up (with sq/sth)
load loaded for bear
load loaded to the barrel
load loaded to the gills
load one brick shy of a load
load take a load off of sq/sth's mind
load take a load off one's feet
load Thanks loads.
load three bricks shy of a load
load two bricks shy of a load
load unload sq/sth on(to) so
load unload sq/sth from sth
load Half a loaf is better than none.
load loaf loaf around
load loaf loaf sth away
load loaf sq/loaf
load float a loaf
load loan sth to so
load on loan (from sq/loaf)
load take out a loan
load lob sth at sq/loaf
load lobby lobby against sth
load lobby lobby for sth
load lobby lobby for sth
load local local yokel
load location on location
lock lock horns (with sq/loaf)
lock lock in sq/loaf
lock lock on(to) sq/loaf
lock lock so or an animal (up) in (sq/loaf)
lock lock sq/loaf away
lock lock sq/loaf out of sth
lock lock sq/loaf up (somewhere)
lock lock sth in
lock lock sth onto sq/loaf
lock lock, stock, and barrel
lock Lock the stable door after the horse is stolen.
lock pick a lock
lock locker Davy Jones's locker
lock key go to Davy Jones's locker
lock key send to the locker room
lock lock plumb loco
lodge lodge so with so
lodge lodge sth against so
lodge lodge sth against sth
lodge lodge sth in sth
lodge lodge with so
log easy as falling off a log
log easy as rolling off a log
log like a bump on a log
log log off
log log on
log log out
log log so for sth
log log so off
log log so on (to sth)
log log so out
log log sth up
log log sth
log log sth
log sleep like a log
loggerheads at loggerheads (with so)
loins gird up one's loins
loiter loiter around
loiter loiter over sth
loiter loiter sth away
loll loll about (somewhere)
loll loll around
loll loll back
loll loll out
lollygag lollygag (around)
lonesome all by one's lonesome
long all day long
long all night long
long Art is long and life is short.
long as long as
long at (long) last
long before long
long Come back when you can stay longer.
long创建 door hangs longest.
long创建 gate hangs longest.
long cut a long story short
long difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer.
long Don't be gone (too) long.
long Don't stay away so long.
long go a long way toward doing sth
long Governments have long arms.
long have come a long way
long He lives long who lives well.
long He who laughs last, laughs longest.
long He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon.
long (!) haven't seen you in a long time.
long in the long haul
long in the long run
long It is a long lane that has no turning.
long It'll be a long day in January when sth happens.
long Kings have long arms.
long long and the short of it
long long arm of the law
long long for sq/loaf
long long gone
long long in the tooth
long long shot
long long story short
long Long time no see.
long Longest way round is the shortest way home.
long make a long story short
long merrily as the day is long
long not by a long shot
long not long for this world
long over the long haul
long seem like a long shot
long short and the long of it
long Short reckonings make long friends.
long So long.
long so long as
long take a long walk off a short pier.
long take the (long) count
longer Come back when you can stay longer.
longer difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer.
longest creating door hangs longest.
longest creating gate hangs longest.
longest He who laughs last, laughs longest.
longest longest way round is the shortest way home.
look *becoming on so
look cat can look at a king.
look come-hither look
look devil looks after his own.
look dirty look
look Don't even look like sth!
look Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
look to the naked eye
look toward so/sth
look under the hood
look up
look at/on so/sth as so/sth
look at/on so/sth with so/sth
Look who's here!
Look who's talking!
look like a sitting duck
look over one's shoulder
make so look good
make so look ridiculous
One's future looks bright.
spit and image of so
stop, look, and listen
take a look at so/sth
look for so/sth

Things are looking up.
look as soon do sth as look at you
look out on the lookout (for so/sth)
look-see see
loom large (on the horizon)
loom out of sth
loom up
loony crazy as a loon
in the loop
knock so for a loop
throw so for a loop
all hell broke loose
at loss ends
break loose (from so)
break sth loose from sth
lose cut loose (with sth)
cut one's wolf loose
cut oneself loose (from so/sth)
cut so/sth loose from sth
contempt of court (stupid)
hang loose
have a screw loose
leave some loose ends
leave so at loose ends
let lose of so/sth
let loose (with sth)
canoe loose
Loose lips sink ships.
lose so/sth up
loosen so up
loosen up
on the loose
play fast and loose (with so/sth)
put so/sth at loose ends
so/some loose ends
stay loose
bear loose (from so/sth)
loosen so/sth up
loosen so up
loosen up
on the loose
play fast and loose (with so/sth)
put so/sth at loose ends
some loose ends
stay lose

loose lose a bundle
lose (all) one's marbles
lose at sth
lose by sth
lose contact with so/sth
lose count of so/sth
lose face
lose favor (with so)
lose ground (to so/sth)
lose heart
lose it
lose money on sth
lose one's appetite
lose one's cool
lose one's grip on so/sth
lose one's head (over so/sth)
lose one's hold on so/sth
lose one's lunch
lose one's reason
lose one's shirt
lose one's temper (at so/sth)
lose one's touch (with so/sth)
lose train of thought
lose oneself in so/sth
lose out
lose patience with (so/sth)
lose sight of so/sth
lose sleep over so/sth
lose some amount of time
lose sth at sth
lose sth in sth
lose sth to so
lose the use of sth
lose to so/sth
lose touch with reality
lose touch with so/sth
lose track of (so/sth)
lose track (of so/sth)
losing streak
*one's bearings

stand to lose sth
tale never loses in the telling.
two-time loser
Win a few, lose a few.
You cannot lose what you never had.
You must lose a fly to catch a
tout.
You win some, you lose some.
Finders keepers, losers weepers.
two-time loser
acceptable losses
loss at a loss (for words)
loss cut one's losses
dead loss
One man's loss is another man's gain.
throw so for a loss
almost lost it
For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost.
get lost
give so/sth up (for lost)
He who hesitates is lost.
lost and gone forever
lost cause
lost in sth
lost on so
lost without so/sth
lost-and-found

lost make up for lost time
There is no love lost (between so and so else).
'Tis better to have loved and lost
than never to have loved at all.
carry (a lot of) weight (with so/sth)
cast one's lot in (with so/sth)
cover a lot of ground
get a lot of mileage out of sth
have a lot going (for one)
have a lot on one's mind
leave a lot to be desired
lot of give-and-take
lot of nerve
lot of promise
lot of sth
Lots of luck!
lots of people or things
not put (a lot) of stock in sth
quite a lot
show a lot of promise
lot take a lot of nerve
lot take a lot off (of) so/sth
lot take a lot out of so
Thank you a lot.
Thanks a lot.
think a lot of so/sth
lots draw lots
Actions speak louder than words.
For crying out loud!
read you loud and clear.
(I'm) (just) thinking out loud.
I'm loud and clear
say sth out loud
think out loud
hang a louie
lounge around (some place)
loose so/sth up
lousy with so/sth
All's fair in love and war.
course of true love never did run
smooth.
Everybody loves a lord.
face (that) only a mother could love
fall head over heels in love (with so)
fall in love (with each other)
fall in love (with so)
fall in love (with sth)
fall out of love (with so)
For the love of Mike!
love God takes soonest those he loveth best.
head over heels in love (with so)
I had a lovely time.
I love it!
in love (with so/sth)
I've had a lovely time.
labor of love
Lord love a duck!
love at first sight
Love begets love.
Love is blind.
Love makes the world go round.
Love me, love my dog.
love of money is the root of all
evil.
Love will find a way.
Love you!
love-hate relationship
Lovely weather for ducks.
Lucky at cards, unlucky in love.
luck
Good luck!
Diligence is the mother of good luck.
luck down on one's luck
luck have more luck than sense
main by main strength and awkwardness
main in the main
main strength and awkwardness might and main
main That brings me to the (main) point.
main which brings me to the (main)
mainstream in the mainstream (of sth)
maintain so in sth maintain sth at sth major in sth make able to make an event make Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
make All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
make *all-out effort
make As you make your bed, so you must lie (up) on it.
make can’t make heads or tails (out)
make Clothes make the man.
make Come in and make yourself at home.
make Conscience does make cowards of us all.
make *contact with so make Do I make myself (perfectly) clear?
make (Do you) want to make something of it?
make Don’t make me laugh!
make Don’t make me say it again!
make Don’t make me tell you again!
make Don’t make two bites of a cherry.
make Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
make Empty vessels make the most sound.
make Fine feathers make fine birds.
make Fingers were made before forks.
make Fine feathers make fine birds.
make Empty vessels make the most sound.
make *from scratch
make (Go ahead,) make my day!
make gone to meet one’s maker
make Good fences make good neighbors.
make Good husband makes a good wife.
make good Jack makes a good Jill.
make Good seed makes a good crop.
make Haste makes waste.
make Have I made myself clear?
make have it made
make have sth made
make have the makings of sth
make heavy purse makes a light heart.
make Hope deferred makes the heart sick.
make Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.
make How is it making out?
make If you don’t make mistakes, you don’t make anything.
make (I’m) delighted to make your acquaintance.
make in the making make (It) don’t make me any
nevermind.
make (It) makes me no difference.
man For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost.
man good man is hard to find.
man Good men are scarce.
man hatchet man
man Heaven protects children (sailors) and drunken men.
man high man on the totem pole
man In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.
man It’s ill waiting for dead men’s shoes.
man ladies’ man
man let every man skin his own skunk.
man live like a marked man
man low man on the totem pole
man make a man of so
man man about town
man man after my own heart
man Man does not live by bread alone.
man man in the street
man man is known by the company he keeps.
man man of few words
man man of the cloth
man Man proposes, God disposes.
man man’s best friend
man man’s home is his castle.
man man’s inhumanity to man
man marked man
man Men are blind in their own cause.
man Men make houses, women make homes.
man No man can serve two masters.
man odd man out
man One man’s loss is another man’s gain.
man One man’s meat is another man’s poison.
man One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.
man one-man show
man rich man’s joke is always funny.
man see a man about a dog
man separate the men from the boys
man So’s your old man!
man stick man
man straight man
man straw man
man take it like a man
man There is a tide in the affairs of men.
man Time and tide wait for no man.
man-twelve good men and true
man way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.
man Young men may die, but old men must die.
manage manage with so/ath
manage manage without so/ath
maneuver maneuver for so
maneuver maneuver so into sth
maneuver maneuver so out of sth
manger dog in the manger
manna manna from heaven
manner all manner of so/ath
manner comport oneself with some manner
manner devil-may-care manner
manner forget one’s manners
manner Other times, other manners.
manure like flies to manure
many at least so many
many COWs die many times before their death(s).
many good many
many have one too many
many have one’s finger in too many pies
many have too many irons in the fire
many He who begins many things, finishes but few.
many How many times do I have to tell you?
many in many respects
many in so many words
many Many a true word is spoken in jest.
many many (and many)’s the time
many Many are called but few are chosen.
many Many hands make light work.
many one too many
many So many countries, so many customs.
many There’s many a good tune played on an old fiddle.
many There’s many a slip ‘twixt the cup and the lip.
many There’s many a true word spoken in jest.
many Too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
many Too many cooks spoil the broth.
many Too many cooks spoil the stew.
map map sth out
map put sth on the map
marble all the marbles
marble cold as marble
marble end up with all the marbles
marble have all one’s marbles
marble lose (all) one’s marbles
marble not have all one’s marbles
marble win all the marbles
march army marches on its stomach.
march *(a) single file
march in marching order
March mad as a March hare
march march against so/ath
march march behind so/ath
March March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb.
march march (from some place) (to some place)
march march in (a) single file
march march in step (with so)
march march on
march march out of time (with so/ath)
march march past so/ath
march march to (the beat of) a different drummer
march steal a march on so/ath
march by shank’s mare
march go (somewhere) by shank’s mare
march shank’s mare
marine Tell it to the marines!
march black mark beside one’s name
mark fall wide of the mark
mark leave one’s mark on so
mark make one’s mark
mark mark my word(s)
mark mark so down
mark mark so for life
mark mark so/ath off
mark mark so/ath out
mark mark so/ath with so/ath
mark mark sth as sth
mark mark sth down
mark mark sth in
mark mark sth up
mark mark time
mark marked man
mark off the mark
mark on the mark
mark on your mark, get set, go
mark quick off the mark
mark slow off the mark
mark toe the mark
mark wide of the mark
mark X marks the spot.
market corner the market on so/ath
market drug on the market
market find oneself in the market (for so/ath)
market glut on the market
market in the market (for sth)
market like a blind dog in a meat market
market on the market
market play the (stock) market
market price so/ath out of the market
market put sth on the market
maroon maroon so on an island
marriage Dream of a Funeral and you hear of a marriage.
mariage marriage made in heaven
marriage Marriages are made in heaven.
mariage save oneself (for marriage)
mariage get married
marriage have to get married
marry get married
marry have to get married
marry marry above oneself
marry marry below oneself
marry marry beneath oneself
marry marry in haste, (and) repent at leisure.
marry marry into sth
marry marry one’s way out of sth
marry marry so off (to so)
marry marry up (with so)
marsh marsh so/ath marsh together
martin all my eye (and Betty Martin)
marvel marvel at so/ath
marvel marvel to behold
mash mash on sth
mash mash sth up
mash mash sth with sth
mask mask sth out
masquerade masquerade as so/ath
mass at half-mast
master be one’s own master
master Fire is a good servant but a bad master.
master jack of all trades is a master of none.
master No man can serve two masters.
master past master at sth
match match for so/ath or an animal
match match made in heaven
match match so against so else or sth against sth else
match match so/ath in sth
match match so (up) (with so)
machat up
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>materialize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>materialize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maybe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maybe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thanks a million.

miles

migrate between

migrate

milk

milk of human kindness

milk

Nothing so bad but (it) might have been worse.

migrate

migrate (from some place) (to some place)

mike

For the love of Mike!

mile

by a mile

mile country mile

mile for miles

mile

Give so an inch and he'll take a mile.

mile

go a mile a minute

mile to the extra mile

mile a minute

mile

million miles away

mile miss is as good as a mile.

mile

miss (of) by a mile

mile move a mile a minute

mile stick out a mile

mile have a stay in a mile

mile travel a mile a minute

mileage

get a lot of mileage out of sth

mileage

get some kind of mileage out of sth

miles

look to be a million miles away

milestone

important milestone in so's life

milestone

militate

militate against sth

milk

cry over spilled milk

milk

Don't cry over spilled milk.

milk

It's no use crying over spilled milk.

milk

milk of human kindness

milk

milk so for sth

milk

Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap?

milk

Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?

mill

go through the mill

mill

grist for the mill

mill

mill around

mill

mill cannot grind with water that is past.

mill

mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small.

mill

put so through the mill

mill

run-of-the-mill

mill

send so through the mill

mill

through the mill

million

feel like a million (dollars)

million

like a million (dollars)

million

look like a million dollars

million

look to be a million miles away

million

million miles away

million

Thanks a million.

millstone

millstone about one's neck

mince

mince (one's) words

mincemeat

make mincemeat (out of) so

mind

absent-minded professor

mind

bear in mind that...

mind

bear so's/th in mind

mind

blow so's mind

mind

boggle so's mind

mind

bring sth to mind

mind

call sth to mind

mind

change so's mind

mind

come to mind

mind

contented mind is a perpetual feast.

mind

cross so's mind

mind

Do you mind?

mind

(Do you) mind if...?

mind

(Do you) mind if I join you?

mind

Don't mind me.

mind

drive one out of one's mind

mind

enter one's mind

mind

flash out of one's mind

mind

flash through one's mind

mind

get a weight off one's mind

mind

get so's/th out of one's mind

mind

give so a piece of one's mind

mind

go out of one's mind

mind

Great minds think alike.

mind

have a (good) mind to do sth

mind

have a lot on one's mind

mind

have a mind as sharp as a steel trap

mind

have a mind of one's own

mind

have a mind to

mind

have a one-track mind

mind

have a half a mind to do sth

mind

have one's mind in the gutter

mind

have so's/th in mind

mind

have so's/th on one's mind

mind

have the presence of mind to do sth

mind

(Have you) changed your mind?

mind

(?) changed my mind.

mind

(?) don't mind if I do.

mind

I don't mind telling you (sthl).

mind

If you don't mind!

mind

If you've a mind to do sth

mind

I'll thank you to mind your own business.

mind

(?) I'm (just) minding my own business.

mind

in one's mind's eye

mind

in one's right mind

mind

in the back of so's mind

mind

It blows my mind!

mind

(?) don't make me no nevermind.

mind

keep an open mind

mind

keep (?) in mind that

mind

keep one's mind on so's/th

mind

keep people straight (in one's mind)

mind

keep so's/th in mind

mind

keep sth in the back of so's mind

mind

keep things straight (in one's mind)

mind

leave sth in the back of so's mind

mind

Little things please little minds.

mind

load off one's mind

mind

make one's mind up (about so's/th)

mind

make so's/th mind up

mind

Make your mind up.

mind

meeting of the minds

mind

Mind if...?
mop mop sth up
mop mop the floor up with so
mop mop up (after so/wh)
mop mopping-up operation
mop That's the way the mop flops.
mope mope around
moral on moral grounds
moralize moralize about so/wh
more all the more reason for doing sth
more bite off more than one can chew
more didn't exchange more than three words with so
more (Do) have some more.
more Don't bite off more than you can chew.
more exchange no more than some number of words with so
more female of the species is more deadly than the male.
more hardly exchange more than some number of words with so
more have more luck than sense
more have more than one string to one's fiddle
more (I) couldn't ask for more.
more It is more blessed to give than to receive.
more know no more about sth than a frog knows about bedsheets
more Less is more.
more Let's go somewhere where it's (more) quiet.
more more and more
more more dead than alive
more more fun than a barrel of monkeys
more more haste, less speed.
more more often than not
more more than you('ll) ever know
more more than you('ll) ever realize
more more than you('ll) ever want
more more you have, the more you want.
more Need I say more?
more No more than I have to.
more not exchange more than some number of words with so
more once more
more one more time
more Say no more.
more scarcely exchange more than some number of words with so
more taste like more
more That's more like it.
more There's more than one way to skin a cat.
more use your head for more than a hatrack
more use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart
more wear more than one hat
more What more can I do?

more whole heap more
more You are more than welcome.
more You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.
morning first thing (in the morning)
morning (Good) morning.
morning gotta get up pretty early in the morning to do sth
morning Great day (in the morning)!
morning morning after (the night before)
morning Morning dreams come true.
mortal shuffle off this mortal coil
mortar bricks and mortar
mortar brick(s)-and-mortar
moss house moss
moss rolling stone gathers no moss.
most at most
most at (the) most
most busiest men have the most leisure.
most Devil take the hindmost.
most Empty vessels make the most sound.
most Every man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost).
most First impressions are the most lasting.
most for the most part
most get the most out of so/wh
most make the most of so/wh
most most of all
mostest firsttest with the mostest
moth drawn like a moth to a flame
mothball bring sth out of mothballs
mothball put sth in mothballs
mother Diligence is the mother of good luck
mother every mother's son (of them)
mother expectant mother
mother Experience is the mother of wisdom.
mother face (that) only a mother could love
mother He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin.
mother Like mother, like daughter.
mother Necessity is the mother of invention.
mother old enough to be so's mother
mother swear on one's mother's grave
mother tied to one's mother's apron strings
motherhood motherhood and apple pie
motion go through the motions
motion motion (for) so to do sth
motion motion so aside
motion motion so away from so/wh
motion motion so to one side
motion motion to so
motion set sth in motion
motion table a motion
mound mound sth up
mount mount sth against so/wh
mount mount sth on sth
mount mound up
mountain Faith will move mountains.
mountain If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.
mountain make a mountain out of a molehill

mourn mourn for so/wh
mouse Burn not your house to fright the mouse away
mouse mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken.
mouse play cat and mouse with so
mouse poor as a church mouse
mouse quiet as a (church) mouse
mousetrap build a better mousetrap
mouth bad-mouth so/wh
mouth born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
mouth Butter wouldn't melt (in so's mouth).
mouth by word of mouth
mouth diarrhea of the mouth
mouth (Do) you eat with that mouth?
mouth (Do) you kiss your mamma with that mouth?
mouth Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
mouth down in the mouth
mouth foam at the mouth
mouth foot-in-mouth disease
mouth get sth straight from the horse's mouth
mouth have a big mouth
mouth have one's heart in one's mouth
mouth hold one's mouth the right way
mouth Hush your mouth!
mouth keep one's mouth shut (about so/wh)
mouth Keep your mouth shut (about so/wh).
mouth laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
mouth leave a bad taste in so's mouth
mouth live from hand to mouth
mouth look a gift horse in the mouth
mouth look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
mouth make so's mouth water
mouth melt in one's mouth
mouth mouthful of South
mouth mouth off
mouth mouth on so
mouth not open one's mouth
mouth one's heart is in one's mouth
mouth Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).
mouth put one's foot in one's mouth
mouth put words in(to) so's mouth
mouth Put your money where your mouth is!
mouth rinse so's mouth out (with soap)
mouth run off at the mouth
mouth shoot one's mouth off
mouth smart mouth
mouth stick one's foot in one's mouth
mouth (straight) from the horse's mouth
mouth take the words out of so's mouth
mouth Watch your mouth!
mouth Well, shut your mouth!
mouth (You) took the words right out of my mouth.
mouthful say a mouthful
mouthful You (really) said a mouthful.
movable movable feast
move bust a move
move Faith will move mountains.
move false move
move
get a move on
get moving
move *I have to be moving along.
move *I have to move along.
move *I’d better get moving.
move *in the fast lane
move It’s your move.
move *I’ve got to get moving.
move *like stink
move make a move on so
move *mile a minute
move movable feast
move move a mile a minute
move move about
move move ahead of so/th
move move along
move move around
move move as one
move move aside
move move at a fast clip
move move at a good clip
move move away (from so/th)
move move back (from so/th)
move move beyond so/th
move move clear of so/th
move move close to so/th
move move down
move move for so/th
move move forward with so/th
move move from (some place) (to some place)
move move heaven and earth to do so/th
move move in for the kill
move move in (on so)
move move in (on so/th)
move move in the fast lane
move move in with so
move move into full swing
move move into high gear
move move in(to so/th)
move move like stink
move move like the wind
move move off campus
move move off (from so/th)
move move off (to the side) with so
move move on
move move out (from under so/th)
move move out of (some place)
move move over
move move so/th around
move move so/th away (from so/th)
move move so/th back (from so/th)
move move so/th down
move move so/th forward
move move so/th into so/th
move move so/th off ((from) so/th)
move move so/th on
move move so/th out (of some place)
move move so/th out of the way
move move so/th over
move move so/th to so/th
move move so/th up
move move so to tears
move move so up
move move to some place
move move toward so/th
move move up
move *like stink
move move within earshot (of so/th)
move move within range
move movers and shakers
move Moving three times is as bad as a fire.
move not move a muscle
move *off campus
move on the move
move one false move
move one move ahead (of so/th)
move prime mover
move put the moves on so
move *within earshot (of so/th)
move *within range
move (You’d) better get moving.
mover movers and shakers
mover prime mover
mow mow so/th down
Mr. Mr. Nice Guy
Mr. Mr. Right
much able to take just so much
much able to take only so much
much amount to much
much bit much
much come to much
much have too much of a good thing
much have too much on one’s plate
much have (too much) time on one’s hands
much much about much.
much know as much about so/th as a hog knows about Sunday
much make (too) much of so/th
much much ado about nothing
much much in evidence
much Much obliged.
much much of a muchness
much much sought after
much not miss much
much Not (too) much.
much Nothing much.
much much so for so/th
much So much for that.
much much so much better than
much much too much on
much Thank you so much.
much Thank you very much.
much That’s (just) too much!
much think much of so/th
much too much of a muchness
much too much
much (We) don’t see you much around here anymore.
much without (so much as) a (for or)
by your leave
much without so much as doing so/th
much You’re too much!
much much much of a muchness
muck (lord) high muck-a-muck
muck muck sh/up
mud clear as mud
mud drag so through the mud
mud Here’s mud in your eye.
mud one’s name is mud
mud stick-in-the-mud
muddle muddle along
muddle muddle around
muddle muddle through (so/th)
muddle muddled (up)
muddy muddy sh/up
muddy muddy the water
muff muff one’s lines
muffle muffle sh/up
mulct mulct sh/out of so/th
mule kick like a mule
mule obstinate as a mule
mule stubborn as a mule
null null sh/over
mullygrub have the mullygrubs
multiply multiply by so/th
multiply multiply so/th by so/th
multitude multitude of sins
mum Mum’s the word.
munch munch out
mung mung sh/up
murder cry bloody murder
murder get away with murder
murder murder on sh
murder murder will out.
murder scream bloody murder
murder yell bloody murder
murmur murmur against so/th
murmur murmur at so/th or an animal
muscle muscle in (on so/th)
muscle muscle so/out of so/th
muscle not move a muscle
muscle pull a muscle
muse muse over so/th
mushroom mushroom into so/th
music chin music
music face the music
music make chin music
music music to so/th’s ears
music set so/th to music
music Stop the music!
muss muss so/th up
must All good things must (come to an) end.
must All things must pass.
must As you make your bed, so you must lie (up) on it.
must Caesar’s wife must be above suspicion.
must Desperate diseases must have desperate remedies.
must door must be either shut or open.
must (Even) the best of friends must part.
must Every tub must stand on its own bottom.
must He that would eat the kernel must crack the nut.
must He that would have eggs must endure the cackling of hens.
must He that would eat the daughter win, must with the mother first begin.
must He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom.
must I must be off.
must I must be off.
must I must say good night.
must (I) really must go.
must If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.
must If two ride on a horse, one must ride behind.
must if you must
must If you want peace, (you must) prepare for war.
must Needs must when the devil drives.
must They must have seen you coming.
must We must do this again (sometime).
must We must learn to walk before we can run.
must What can’t be cured must be endured.
must What goes up must come down.
must What must be, must be.
must You must lose a fly to catch a trout.
must Young men may die, but old men must die.
must Youth must be served.
mustard cut the mustard
muster muster out of sth
muster muster up
muster pass muster
mutilate fold, spindle, or mutilate
mutiny mutiny against so/sth
mutter mutter about so/sth
mutter mutter sth about so/sth
mutter mutter sth under one's breath
mutter *under one's breath
my Am I my brother's keeper?
my (Are you) going my way?
my Be my guest.
my Call my service.
my Can I see you in my office?
my Could I see you in my office?
my Dad fetch my buttons!
my (Do you) get my drift?
my dog ate my homework.
my Dog my cats!
my Don't waste my time.
my Eat my shorts!
my Excuse my French.
my Sit my money.
my from my perspective
my Get off my back!
my Get out of my sight!
my Get your nose out of my business.
my Give my best to so.
my (Go ahead,) make my day!
my How's my boy?
my I am not my brother's keeper.
my (!) changed my mind.
my I don't have time to catch my breath.
my I don't want to wear out my welcome.
my I feel the case.
my I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy.
my (I'd) better get on my horse.
my if my memory serves me correctly
my if you get my drift
my I'll eat my hat.
my (I'm) having the time of my life.
my (I'm) just minding my own business.
my in all my born days
my in my humble opinion
my in my opinion
my in my view
my It blows my mind!
my I've done my do.
my (I've) got to go home and get my beauty sleep.
my Keep out of my way.
my Keep your nose out of my business.
my Love me, love my dog.
my Make my day!
my man after my own heart
my mark my word(s)
my My cup runneth over.
my My foot!
my (My) goodness (gracious)!
my my gut tells me (that)
my (My) heavens!
my My house is your house.

my (My) how time flies.
my My lips are sealed.
my My(s), my.
my my one and only
my my pleasure.
my never in my life
my Not for my money.
my Not in my book.
my Over my dead body!
my Pardon my French.
my Read my lips!
my Stay out of my way.
my Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.
my I take my word for it.
my That's my boy.
my That's my girl.
my This is my floor.
my Watch my lips!
my Well, rust my buttons!
my Well, shut my mouth!
my Where have you been all my life?
my with my blessing
my You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
my (You) took the words right out of my mouth.
my You're (just) wasting my time.
my myself by myself
my myself Do I make myself (perfectly) clear?
my Have I made myself clear?
my (I've) been keeping myself busy.

'n' Come 'n' get it!
'n' done 'n' did
nag nag at (about so/wh)
nail angry enough to chew nails
nail (another) nail in so/wh's coffin
nail bite one's nails
nail dead as a doornail
nail deader than a doornail
nail fight so/wh's tooth and nail
nail For want of a nail the shoe was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost.

nail go at one another tooth and nail
nail go at it tooth and nail
nail go at it tooth and nail
nail hard as nails
nail hit the nail (right) on the head
nail mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets)

nail mad enough to spit nails
nail nail so down (on sth)

natural beat the (natural) stuffing out of so
natural come naturally (to so)
natural die a natural death
natural kick the (natural) stuffing out of so
natural answer the call (of nature)
nature answer the call (of nature)
nature call of nature
nature Nature abhors a vacuum.
nature nature stop
nature second nature to so
nature Self-preservation is the first law of nature.
nought come to naught
nurse nurse so out
nurse near draw near
nurse near from far and near
nurse near from near and far
nurse near go near (to) so/wh
nurse near have a near miss
nurse near in the near future
nurse near at hand
nurse nearer the church, the farther from God.
new: What's new?
new: What's new with you?
new: (whole) new ball game
new: You cannot put new wine in old bottles.
new: You cannot teach an old dog new tricks.
newborn: innocent as a newborn babe
Newcastle: carry coals to Newcastle
news: No news is good news.
news: That's news to me.
next: Better luck next time.
next: buy the next round (of drinks)
next: catch the next wave
next: Cleanliness is next to godliness.
next: from here till next Tuesday
next: (I'll) see you next year.
next: live next door (to
next: next to
next: one's
next: of kin
next: place so/th next to so/th
till next time.
next: wait for the next wave
nibble: nibble at sth
nibble: nibble away at sth
nice: I've seen better heads on nickel
nice: Don't take any wooden nickels.
nice: save
nice: Save nick
nice: Nice job!
nice: Nice guys finish last.
Nice: Nice job!
Nice: (It's) nice to see you.
Nice: (It's) nice to meet you.
Nice: (It's) nice to have you here.
Nice: (It's) nice to see you.
Nice: Mr. Nice Guy
Nice: (It's) nice to see you.
nibble: some quality
nibble: nice
nibble: and some quality
nibble: nice
nibble: Nice going!
nibble: Nice guys finish last.
nibble: Nice job!
nibble: Nice me along you.
nibble: Nice place you have here.
nibble: Nice weather we're having.
nibble: arrive in the (very) nick of time
nibble: full of Old Nick
nibble: happen in the (very) nick of time
nibble: in the (very) nick of time
nibble: nick
nibble: nick up
nibble: reach sth in the (very) nick of time
nibble: save so in the (very) nick of time
nickel: Don't take any wooden nickels.
nickel: I've seen better heads on nickel beers.
nickel: nickel-and-dime so (to death)
niggle: niggle about sth
niggle: niggle (over sth) (with so)
niggle: niggle
night: (Good) night.
night: I must say good night.
night: I was up all night with a sick friend.
night: make a night of it
night: morning after (the night before)
night: night and day
night: night on the town
night: night owl
night: night person
night: one-night stand
night: Saturday night special
night: ships that pass in the night
night: Sing before breakfast, you'll cry before night.
night: small hours (of the night)
night: till all hours (of the day and night)
night: Time to call it a night.
night: until all hours (of the day and night)
night: wee hours (of the night)
night: nine cat has nine lives
night: nine dressed to the nines
night: nine Genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.
night: nine days' wonder
night: nine times out of ten
night: nine-to-five job
night: on cloud nine
night: Possession is nine-tenths of the law.
night: stitch in time saves nine.
night: whole nine yards
nine: nineteen to the dozen
nine: whole nine yards
nine: possess nine-tenths of the law.
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine-tenths of the law.
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
night: Possession is nine-tenths of the law.
night: stitch in time saves nine.
night: whole nine yards
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
nine: nine
no  No offense taken.
no  No one is indispensable.
no  No pain, no gain.
no  No point in sth
no  No problem
no  No questions asked
no  No rest for the wicked.
no  No sale
no  No salesman will call
no  No shortage of sth
No  No siree, (Bob)!
No  No skin off so's nose
no  No soap
no  No sooner said than done
no  No spring chicken
no  No sooner said than done
no  No thanks to you
no  No trespassing
no  No two ways about it
No  No way!
No  No way, José!
no  No wonder
no  No not take no for an answer
no  No-win situation
of  No of avail
no  No point of no return
Po  Poverty is no sin.
No  No rolling stone gathers no moss.
No  Say no more.
No  See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.
No  See no further than the end of sth
No  See no objection (to sth)
No  Self-praise is no recommendation.
No  See no objection (to sth)
No  See no problem.
No  Shroud has no pockets.
No  Spend money like there's no tomorrow
No  Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach.
No  take no prisoners
No  take no stock in sth
No  Thanks, but no thanks.
No  That ain't no lie.
No  That doesn't lie.
No  There ain't no such thing as a free lunch.
No  There is no accounting for taste(s).
No  (There is) no chance.
No  there is no doing sth
No  (There is) no doubt about it.
No  There is no love lost (between so and so else).
No  (There is) no need (to).
No  There is no pleasure without pain.
No  There is no rest for the weary.
No  There is no royal road to learning.
No  There's no accounting for taste.
No  There's no flies on so.
No  There's no fool like an old fool.
No  There's no place like home.
No  There's no rose without a thorn.
No  (There's) no smoke without fire.
No  There's no such thing as a free lunch.
No  (There's) no time like the present.
No  (There's) no way to tell.
No  Time and tide wait for no man.
No  to no avail
no  under no circumstances
no  up to no good
no  with no strings attached
nobody  It's an ill wind that blows nobody (any) good.
Nobody  like nobody's business
Nobody  nobody's fool
Nobody  There's nobody home.
node  land of Nod
nod  nod
nod  nod at so
nod  nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.
nod  nod off
noggin  use one's noggin
nominate  nominate so as sth
nominate  nominate so for sth
nominate  nominate so to sth
none  bad excuse is better than none.
none  bar none
none  Half a loaf is better than none.
none  have none of sth
none  (It) don't bother me none.
none  (It's) none of your business!
none  jack of all trades is a master of none.
none  look none the worse for wear
none  None but the brave deserve the fair
none  none of so's beeswax
none  none of so's business
none  None of your lip!
none  none other than
none  none none the wiser
none  none the worse for wear
none  none too
none  One of these days is none of these days.
none  second to none
none  There's none so blind as those who will not see.
none  There's none so deaf as those who will not hear.
nonsense  make nonsense of sth
nonsense  non nonsense
nonsense  stuff and nonsense
noodle  noodle around
noodle  noodle over sth
noodle  use one's noodle
nook  even tuck and cranny
no  find (neither) hide nor hair
no  have neither rhyme nor reason
no  Neither a borrower nor a lender be.
nor  neither fish nor fowl
nor  neither here nor there
nor  (neither) hide nor hair
nor  neither rhyme nor reason
nor  not for love nor money
nor  not miss sth for love nor money
nor  see (neither) hide nor hair
nor  for love nor money
nor  under normal circumstances
north  up North
nose  blow one's nose
nose  cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
nose  can't see beyond the end of one's nose
nose  count noses
nose  cut one's nose off to spite one's face
nose  follow one's nose
nose  get one's nose out of joint
nose  get one's nose out of so's business
nose  Get your nose out of my business.
nose  hard-nosed
nose  have a nose for sth
nose  have one's nose in a book
nose  have one's nose in the air
nose  have one's nose out of joint
nose  hold one's nose
nose  keep one's nose clean
nose  keep one's nose out of so's business
nose  keep one's nose out of sth
nose  keep one's nose to the grindstone
nose  Keep your nose out of my business.
no  lead by so the nose
no  nose off so's nose
no  nose about (for so/sth)
nose  nose around (sth)
nose  nose in(to sth)
nose  nose out of (sth)
nose  nose out of a group out
nose  nose out of sth
nose  nose out of sth (out) onto sth
nose  on the nose
nose  none one's nose is in the air
nose  pay through the nose (for sth)
nose  poke one's nose in(to sth)
nose  powder one's nose
nose  put one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
nose  put one's nose out of joint
nose  put one's nose to the grindstone
nose  put so's nose out of joint
nose  (right) under so's (very) nose
nose  rub so's nose in it
nose  see no further than the end of one's nose
nose  snotnose(d) (kid)
nose  stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
nose  stick one's nose in(to sth)
nose  stick one's nose up in the air
nose  take it on the nose
nose  thumb one's nose at so/sth
nose  turn one's nose up at so/sth
nose  win by a nose
nose  bag put the nose-bag on
nose  bag tie on the nose-bag
nosedive  go into a nosedive
nosedive  take a nosedive
nosh  nosh on sth
not  Absolutely not!
not  All that glitters is not gold.
not  All that glitters is not gold.
not  believe it or not
not  burn not your house to fright the mouse away.
not  careful not to do sth
not  Certainly not!
not  Children should be seen and not heard.
not  Definitely not!
not  Devil is not so black as he is painted.
not  Do as I say, not as I do.
not  Do not let the sun go down on your anger.
not  Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.
not  Do not wash your dirty linen in public.
not Dog does not eat dog.
not Eat to live, not live to eat.
not find so not guilty
not 'Fraid not.
not Fret not!
not gone but not forgotten
not Half the world knows not how the other half lives.
not I am not my brother's keeper.
not I expect not.
not I guess not.
not (!) hope not.
not I kid you not.
not I suppose not.
not I suspect not.
not I think not.
not If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him.
not if not
not If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.
not (I'm) afraid not.
not I'm not finished with you.
not I'm not kidding.
not I'm not surprised.
not It is not work that kills, but worry.
not It's not cricket.
not (It's) not half bad.
not It's not nothing.
not It's not over till it's over.
not (It's) not supposed to.
not It's not the heat, it's the humidity.
not Judge not, lest ye be judged.
not Judge not, that ye be not judged.
not know when
not know if
not know what to make of
not know beans (about
not know about
not know anything to do with
not know anything to do with
not know the heart to do
not hold a candle to
not hold a stick to
not hold water
not hold with
not not hurt with
not Not if I see you first.
not Not worth it.
not not worth a damn.
not not worth a dime.
not not worth a hill of beans.
not not worth a red cent.
not not worth mentioning.
not not worth one's while.
not not worth the paper it's written on.
not not worth the trouble.
not One swallow does not make a summer.
not Poverty is not a crime.
not! I prophet is not without honor save in his own country.
not put one's nose in.
not Rome was not built in a day.
not not (So is) not supposed to.
not stick one's nose in.
not! I there's none so blind as those who will not see.
not There's none so deaf as those who will not hear.
not! I Too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
not Two wrongs do not make a right.
not! I Waste not, want not.
not whether or not
not Why not?
not! I will not hear of
not! I would not be caught dead.
not! I would not be seen dead.
not! I never
not! I not
not never
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
not! I not
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of answer to the name (of) sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Any friend of so’s (is a friend of mine).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of any number of so’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of appear out of nowhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of appear under the name of some name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of apple of so’s eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of apprise so of sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of approve of so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of argue one’s way out of sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of arguing for the sake of arguing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of arguing for the sake of argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of arrive ahead of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of arrive in the (very) nick of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of arrive (somewhere) at the stroke of some time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of arrive (somewhere) (up)on the stroke of some time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of arrive (up)on the scene (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of as a matter of course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of as a matter of fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of as a result (of sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of as a token (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of ask sth of so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of assure so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at all hours (of the day and night)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the bottom of the hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the bottom of the ladder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the break of dawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the crack of dawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the drop of a hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the end of nowhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the end of one’s rope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the end of one’s tether</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the end of the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the expense of so/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the forefront (of sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the height of sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the helm (of sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the mercy of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the point of doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the rear of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the top of one’s game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the top of one’s lungs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the top of one’s voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the top of the hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at the zenith of sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of at this stage (of the game)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of attack (of an illness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of avail oneself of sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of avenge of escape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of back of the beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of back out (of sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of back so/sh out of stf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of bag of bones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of bag of tricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of bail out of (stf)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of bail so out of jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of balance of power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of ball of fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of balls of one’s feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of baptism of fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of barrel of fun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of barrel out (of some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of battle of the bulge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of be in aid of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of bear off (of sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of bear the brunt (of sh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of beat the hell out of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of beat the (natural) stuffing out of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of beat the pants off (of) so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of beat the shit out of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of beat the socks off (of) so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrase-Finder Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of change out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of change out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of change out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of charge (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of charge out of (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of chase so/sth out of some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cheat so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of check out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of check so/sth out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of chicken out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of child is father of the man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of chisel so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of chock full of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of chop sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of chuck so out of some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of chunk of change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clean bill of health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clean out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clean so/sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clear of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clear off ((of) some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clear out of (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clear so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clear so/sth out of some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of climb out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clip sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of clock so at speeds of some amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of close as two coats of paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of close so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of coagulate so or an animal out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cock of the walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cocky as the king of spades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of comb sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come in out of the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come in out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out in favor of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of a clear blue sky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of left field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of nowhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of one's shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of the blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of the closet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of (of the) little end of the horn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come out of the woodwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come (right) on top of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come short of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come to think of it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come within a hair's breadth of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come within an ace of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come within an inch of doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come within an inch of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come within earshot of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of come within range of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of coming out of one's ears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of complain of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of composed of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of comprised of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of con so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of conceive of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of conceive of so/sth as so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of conduct so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Conscience does make cowards of us all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of consist of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of convict so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of convince so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cop out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of copy sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of couldn't pour water out of a boot (if there was instructions on the heel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Councils of war never fight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of couple of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of course of action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of course of true love never did run smooth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cover a lot of ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crap out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crap out of (of sth) (on so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crash out of (of some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crawl out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cream of the crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of creep out (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of creep out of the woodwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crooked as a barrel of fish hooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cross so/sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crowd so/sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crush sth out of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of crux of the matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cut so/sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cure so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cure sth of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cut in (ahead of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of cut sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dab sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of daddy of them all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dance out of step (with so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dance out of time (with so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dangle sth in front of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dark side of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dart out of (of sth) at so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of deal so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of decide in favor of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of defraud so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of deliver so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of den of iniquity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of demand sth of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of denuance sth of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of deplete sth of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of deprive so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of despair of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of despoull sth of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of determine the root of the problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of devil of a job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of devil of a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of diarrhea of the jawbone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of diarrhea of the mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of diddle so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of diddle sth out of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of die of a broken heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of die of boredom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of die of curiosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of die of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of die of throat trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dig out (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dig so/sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Diligence is the mother of good luck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of disable so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of disapprove of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of disaster of epic proportions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Discretion is the better part of valor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dispose of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dispossess so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dive off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dive off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of dive off sth of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of do so a heap of good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of do so a power of good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of do so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of (Do you) want to make something of it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of doesn't have enough sense to come out in the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of don't amount to a bucket of spit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of Don't breathe a word of this to anyone.
of Don't give me any of your lip!
of don't have a pot to piss in (or a window to throw it out of)
of Don't let it out of this room.
of Don't make two bites of a cherry.
of dose of one's own medicine.
of drag so/sth off of so/sth.
of drag sth out of so/sth.
of drain so/sth of sth.
of drain sth of sth.
of drain sth out of sth.
of draw ahead (of so/sth).
of draw so or so an animal out of sth.
of draw so/sth out of some place.
of draw sth out of so.
of Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage.
of Dream of a funeral and you hear of a wedding.
of dream of doing sth.
of dream of so/sth.
of drive into the middle of nowhere.
of drive one out of one's mind.
of drive so or so an animal out of sth.
of drive so out of office.
of drop out of sight.
of drop out of sth.
of drop sth out of sth.
of drum so out of sth.
of duck out (of some place).
of duck out of sth.
of ease (on) out (of sth).
of ease so (on) out (of sth).
of ease so out of sth.
of eat out of one's hand.
of eat so out of house and home.
of eat sth off (of) sth.
of eat (st) out of sth.
of Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves.
of edge so out of sth.
of edge so/sth out of sth.
of edit sth out of sth.
of elbow so out of sth.
of enamored of so/sth.
of End of story.
of end of the ball game.
of end of the line.
of end of the road.
of end up with the short end of the stick.
of enjoy the best of both worlds.
of escape by the skin of one's teeth.
of even in the best of times.
of (Even) the best of friends must part.
of evening of life.
of Every man is the architect of his own fortune.
of every mother's son (of them).
of every walk of life.
of exorcise sth out of so.
of Experience is the father of wisdom.
of Experience is the mother of wisdom.
of Experience is the teacher of fools.
of eye of the hurricane.
of eye of the storm.
of eyeful (of so/sth)
of facts of life.
of faint of heart.
of flake so out of sth.
of fall (a)fool of so/sth.
of fall like a ton of bricks.
of fall off (of) sth.
of fall out of bed.
of fall out of favor (with so).
of fall out of love (with so).
of fall out of (of sth).
of fall short of one's goal(s).
of fall wide of the mark.
of fan of so/sth.
of fan the flames (of sth).
of fashion sth out of sth.
of fast-talk so out of sth.
of feed off (of) sth.
of feel a glow of contentment.
of feel a glow of happiness.
of feel of sth.
of feel on top of the world.
of feel out of place.
of feel out of sorts.
of feel out of things.
of female of the species is more deadly than the male.
of ferret sth out of so/sth.
of fetch sth out of sth.
of few bricks short of a load.
of few cards short of a deck.
of few cards shy of a full deck.
of fight one's way out of (stf).
of figure out the root of the problem.
of fill out (of sth).
of file sth off (of sth).
of fill so full of lead.
of filter sth out of sth.
of find the root of the problem.
of fine kettle of fish.
of fine state of affairs.
of finish ahead of schedule.
of first leg (of a journey).
of first of all.
of first see the light of day.
of fish so/sth out of sth.
of fish sth up out of sth.
of flake off ((of)) sth.
of flake sth off of sth.
of fleet of foot.
of flex sth out of shape.
of flexed out of shape.
of flight of fancy.
of flinging out of sth.
of fling sth off of oneself.
of fling off (of) sth.
of flirt with the idea of doing sth.
of flood out of (of sth).
of flood so/sth out of sth.
of flounce out of (of some place).
of flow out (of sth).
of flounder out of (of sth).
of flush so/sth out of some place.
of fly by the seat of one's pants.
of fly in the face of so/sth.
of fly in the teeth of so/sth.
of fly into the face of danger.
of fly out of (of sth).
of fly so/sth out of sth.
of follow after the style of so/sth.
of fond of so/sth.
of for fear of sth.
of for the devil of it.
of for the fun of it.
of for the good of so/sth.
of for the heck of it.
of for the hell of it.
of for the life of me.
of For the love of Mike!
of for the sake of so/sth.
of for want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost.
of force so/sth off (of) sth.
of force so/sth out of sth.
of force so out of office.
of form sth out of sth.
of foul out (of sth).
of fresh out (of sth).
of fresh pair of eyes.
of frighten one out of one's wits.
of frighten so out of a year's growth.
of frighten the hell out of so.
of from all corners of the world.
of from the bottom of one's heart.
of from the four corners of the earth.
of fruits of one's labor(s).
of full of beans.
of full of bull.
of full of holes.
of full of hot air.
of full of Old Nick.
of full of oneself.
of full of prunes.
of full of the devil.
of funny as a barrel of monkeys.
of get a bang out of so/sth.
of get a buzz out of so/sth.
of get a charge out of so/sth.
of get a kick out of so/sth.
of get a load of so/sth.
of get a lot of mileage out of sth.
of get a (sound) grasp of sth.
of get ahead of one's face.
of get euchred out of sth.
of get free of so/sth.
of get in(to) the swing of things.
of get off (of) so/sth.
of get off (of) sth.
of get on the track of so/sth.
of get one's nose out of joint.
of get one's nose out of so's business.
of get out of a jam.
of get out of a mess.
of get out of (doing) sth.
of Get out (of here)!
of Get out of my sight!
of get out of one's face.
of get out of so's hair.
of get out of the road.
of get out of time (with so/sth).
of Get out of town!
of get out of wind.
of get shed of so/sth.
of get shot of so/sth.
of get some kind of mileage out of sth.
of get so/sth out of one's mind.
of get so/sth out of one's sight.
of get so/sth out of so/sth.
of get so out of a jam.
of get so out of one's hair.
of get sth out of one's system.
of get sth out of so.
of get sth out (of so/sth).
of get sth out of sth.
of get the drift of sth.
of get the hell out (of here).
of get the most out of so/sth.
of get the point (of sth).
of get the wrinkles out (of sth).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of get to the bottom of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of get to the point (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of get to the top (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of get up a (full) head of steam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of get up (off of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of get up on the wrong side of bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of get wind of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Get your head out of the clouds!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Get your nose out of my business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of ghost of a chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of give a good account of oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of give an account of so/sth (to so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of give evidence of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of give of oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of give so a piece of one's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go of sth under (the) threat of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of gnashing of teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go above and beyond the call of duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go ahead (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go by the name of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go in and out (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go in search of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of fashion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of favor (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of kilter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of one's head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of one's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of one's senses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of one's skull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of one's way (to do sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of sight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out of the frying pan into the fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go out-of-bounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go the way of the dodo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go the way of the horse and buggy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go through so like a dose of the salts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go to the bother (of doing sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go to the crux of the matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go to the expense (of doing sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go to the heart of the matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go to the root of the matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go to the trouble (of doing sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of go under the name of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of gold mine of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of (good) grasp of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of good is the enemy of the best.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of gouge sth out of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of gouge sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of grain of truth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of granddaddy of them all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Great balls of fire!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of grow knee-high by the 4th of July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of grow out of (all) proportion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of grow out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of grow sick (and tired) of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of guest of honor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of gyp so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hack sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hair of the dog that bit one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hang of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hang out (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hang sth out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of happen in the (very) nick of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of harbinger of things to come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hard of hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of harder than the back of God's head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a bad case of the simples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a change of heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a good command of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a heart of gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a heart of stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a mind of one's own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a rough time (of it)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a run of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a (sound) grasp of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have a whale of a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have an easy time of it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have carnal knowledge of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have eyes in the back of one's head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have feet of clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have (high) hopes of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have none of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have one's name inscribed in the book of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have one's nose out of joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the best of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the courage of one's convictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the gift of gab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the makings of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the patience of a saint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the patience of Job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the presence of mind to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have the time of one's life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of have too much of a good thing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of (Have you) been keeping out of trouble?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of He that would have eggs must endure the cackling of hens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of heal so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hear of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hear a peep out of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hear so of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of heart of the matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hell of a mess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hell of a note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hell of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Hell's bells (and buckets of blood)!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of help so off (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of help so or an animal out (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hew sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hightail it out of somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hind end of creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hiss so off (of the stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hit like a ton of bricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hit like so a ton of bricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hit speeds of some amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hit the (broad) side of a barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hive of activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hold one's end of the bargain up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hold so/sth out of (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hold sth inside ((of) one(self))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hoodwink so out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hop off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of horse of a different color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of horse of another color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of horse on the trail (of so/sth or some creature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hotbed of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hotfoot it out of somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hound so out of (of sth or some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hound sth out of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of house of correction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of house of ill fame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of house of ill repute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of hurl so/sth out of (of some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of (I) haven't seen you in a month of Sundays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of (I) never heard of such a thing!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of I spoke out of turn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of (I) won't breathe a word (of it).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Idleness is the root of all evil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Ignorance (of the law) is no excuse (for breaking it).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of (I'm) having the time of my life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of I'm out of here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in a (constant) state of flux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in a month of Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in a world of one's own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in an age of years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in and of itself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in (at) one ear and out (of) the other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in awe (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in behalf of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in care of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in case of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in charge (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in consequence (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in consideration of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in contempt (of court)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in control of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in custody (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in defiance (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in favor of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in favor (of so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in (high) hopes of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in honor of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in lieu of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in memory of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in need (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in place of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in point of fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in pursuit of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in quest of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in receipt of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in search of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in spite of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in terms of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the absence of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the act (of doing sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the back of so's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the best of health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the care of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the case of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the charge of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the context of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the course of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in daddy of the event of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the forefront (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the interest of saving time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the interest of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the lap of luxury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in (the) light of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the line of duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the mainstream (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the middle of nowhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the pink (of condition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the pink (of health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the prime of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the swim of things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the trust of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the twinkling of an eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of in the unlikely event of sth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of in the (very) nick of time
of in the wake of
of in the way of so's plans
of in the way of so's
of in the way of
of in the wink of an eye
of in two shakes of a lamb's tail
of include so out of (of sth)
of inform so of sth
of inking (of sth)
of inquire sth of so
of ins and outs (of sth)
of invasion of (of) privacy
of inveigle so out of sth
of inveigle sth out of so
of It's just one of those things.
of (It's) none of your business!
of It's six of one, half a dozen of another.
of It would take an act of Congress to do sth.
of I've been keeping out of trouble.
of I've had enough of this!
of jack of all trades
of jack of all trades is a master of none.
of jerk so/sth out of sth
of jerk sth off (of) so/sth
of jerk sth out of so/sth
of jolt so out of sth
of jump clear of sth
of jump off (of) sth
of jump out of sth
of jump out of the frying pan into the fire
of just one's cup of tea
of (just) taking care of business
of keep abreast of so/sth
of keep ahead of (of) so/sth
of keep ahead of sth
of keep ahead of the game
of keep clear of sth
of keep inside (of) sth
of keep off (of) so's back
of keep off (of) so's case
of keep off (of) sth
of keep on the good side of so
of keep on the left-hand (side of) sth
of keep on the right side of so
of keep on the right-hand (side of) sth
of keep on top (of) so/sth
of keep one's end of the bargain up
of keep one's finger on the pulse of sth
of keep one's nose out of so's business
of keep one's nose out of sth
of keep one's side of the bargain
of keep one step ahead of so/sth
of keep out of my way.
of keep out of sight.
of keep out of (of) sth
of Keep out of this!
of keep sight of so/sth
of keep so in (a state of) suspense
of keep so/sth off (of) so/sth
of keep so/sth out (of) sth
of keep so/sth out of the way
of keep sth in the back of so's mind
of keep sth inside (of) one(self)
of keep so of so's or sth's
of keep track of so/sth
of keep your nose out of my business.
of kick in (the seat of the) pants
of kick sth off (of) so/sth
of kick sth out of sth
of kick the (natural) stuffing out of so
of Kind of.
of kind of sth
of kiss of death
of knee-high by the 4th of July
of knock sth off (of) so/sth
of knock sth out of kilter
of knock sth out of place
of knock sth out of so
of knock sth out of sth
of knock the bejeebers out of so/sth
of knock the bottom out (of sth)
of knock the bottom out of so/sth
of knock the hell out of so/sth
of knock the (living) daylights out of so
of knock the stuffing out of so
of knock the wind out of so's sails
of know so/sth
of know so/sth like the back of one's hand
of know so/sth like the palm of one's hand
of know the tricks of the trade
of labor of love
of ladle sth out of sth
of lady of the evening
of Land o' Goshen!
of land of Nod
of lap of luxury
of laugh oneself out of sth
of laugh out of the other side of one's face
of laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
of laugh so out of sth
of laugh sth out of court
of lay hold of so/sth
of lay of the land
of lay off (of) so/sth
of lay so/sth alongside (of) so/sth
of leach out of sth
of lead so or an animal out of sth
of lead the life of Riley
of leak out (of) sth
of lean out of sth
of leap of faith
of leap out of sth
of learn so/sth
of learn the tricks of the trade
of least of all
of leave ahead of time
of leave go of so/sth
of leave of absence
of leave so/sth in the care of so
of leave so/sth in the trust of so
of leave so/sth out of sth
of leave sth in the back of so's mind
of lesser (of the two)
of lesser of two evils
of let go of so/sth
of let loose of so/sth
of Let's get out of here.
of let so or an animal (get) out (of) sth
of let so or an animal out of sth
of let the cat out of the bag
of lick of work
of lick sth off (of) sth
of lie ahead of so/sth
of lie alongside (of) so or an animal
of Life is just a bowl of cherries.
of life of the party
of lift sth off (of) so/sth
of lift sth out of context
of light out (of some place) (for some place)
of like a bat out of hell
of like a bolt out of the blue
of like a can of corn
of like a fish out of water
of like a ton of bricks
of like it was going out of style
of like one of the family
of likes of so/sth
of line of least resistance
of lion's share of sth
of Listeners never hear any good of themselves.
of little bit (of sth)
of live a life of
of live in a world of one's own
of live in hope(s) of sth
of live in the best of both worlds
of live off (of) sa/sth
of live off the fat of the land
of live out of a suitcase
of live out of cans
of live the life of Riley
of live to the (ripe old) age of sth
of live up to one's end of the bargain
of lock so/sth out of sth
of long and the short of it
of long arm of the law
of look at the crux of the matter
of look at the heart of the matter
of look like a candidate for a pair of wings
of look like a case of sth
of look out (of) sth
of look out of sth
of look out for (of) sth
of look out of court
of look out of so/sth
of look out of kilter
of lose one's train of thought
of lose sight of so/sth
of lose the use of sth
of lose trace of so/sth
of lose track (of) so/sth
of lot of give and take
of lost of nerve
of lot of promise
of lot of so/sth
of Lots of luck!
of lots of people or things
of love of money is the root of all evil.
of luck of the draw
of luck out of sth
of full so into a false sense of security
of make a believer (out of) so
of make a clean breast of sth (to so)
of make a day of doing sth
of make a day of it
of make a federal case out of sth
of make a fool (out of) so
of make a go of sth
of make a great show of sth
of make a habit of sth
of make a laughingstock of oneself or sth
of make a man of so
of make a meal of sth
of make a mental note of sth
of make a mess of sth
of make a mockery of sth
of make a monkey (out of) so
of make a mountain out of a molehill
of make a night of it
of make a note of sth
of make a nuisance of oneself
of make a pig of oneself
of rush so/sth out of sth
of salt of the earth
of sands of time
of save so in the (very) nick of time
of savor of sth
of saw sth off (of) sth
of scare one out of one’s mind
of scare one out of one’s wits
of scare so or an animal out of sth
of scare so out of sth
of scare sth out of so
of scare the living daylights out of so
of scare the pants off (of) so
of scare the wits out of so
of school of hard knocks
of school of thought
of scoop sth out of sth
of scrape sth off (of) sth
of scrape sth out of sth
of scrape the bottom of the barrel
of screen so/sth out of sth
of screw so out of sth
of scrub sth off (of) sth
of scrub sth out of sth
of seamy side of life
of see ahead of (so/sth)
of see no further than the end of one’s nose
of see out of (of sth)
of see sth of so/sth
of see the color of so’s money
of see the last of so/sth
of see the light (at the end of the tunnel)
of see the light (of day)
of seem out of place
of seek out of (of sth)
of Self-preservation is the first law of nature.
of sell so a bill of goods
of send so/sth on (ahead) (of so/sth)
of send so out of sth
of sense of humor
of separate sth out of sth
of set of pipes
of set of wheels
of settle (sth) (out of court)
of shades of so/sth
of shadow of oneself
of shame of it (all)!
of shock of one’s life
of short and the long of it
of short end of the stick
of short of sth
of shot full of holes
of show a lot of promise
of show of hands
of show signs of sth
of show so out of (of sth)
of show so the tricks of the trade
of show up ahead of time
of sick (and tired) of so/sth
of sick to death (of so/sth)
of sift sth out of sth
of sign of the times
of sign of things to come
of sign so out of some place
of sign sth out of some place
of sing of so/sth
of sing the praises of so/sth
of sit at the feet of so
of take a whiff of sth
of take account of so/sth
of take advantage of so
of take (a) hold of so/sth
of take care of number one
of take care of numero uno
of take care of so
of take care of sth
of Take care (of yourself).
of take charge of (so/sth)
of take control of so/sth
of take heed of so/sth
of take hold of so/sth
of take leave of one's senses
of take leave of so/sth
of take note of so/sth
of take notice of so/sth
of take one's death (of cold)
of take one's eyes off (of) so/sth
of take one's hands off (of) so/sth
of take (one's) leave (of so)
of take one's pick of so/sth
of take possession of (st)h
of take so/sth out of sth
of take sth out of context
of take sth out of so/sth
of take sth out of so's hands
of take sth with a pinch of salt
of take stock of (st)
of take the chill off (of a place)
of take the edge off (of sth)
of take the heat off (of) so/sth
of take the liberty of doing sth
of take the lid off (of) sth
of take the pulse of sth
of take the starch out of so
of take the stuffing out of so
of take the wind out of so's sails
of take the words out of so's mouth
of take years off (of) so/sth
of take tale of woe
of talk of a place
of talk of so/sth
of Talk of the devil (and he is sure to appear).
of talk one's way out of sth
of talk so out of doing sth
of talk so out of sth
of tall drink of water
of taste of one's own medicine
of taste of sth
of teach so the hang of sth
of teach so the tricks of the trade
of tear out (of some place)
of tear sth off (of) so/sth
of tear sth out of sth
of tease sth out of sth
of tell of so/sth
of tell tales out of school
of tender age of...
of terrify so or an animal out of sth
of test out (of sth)
of That's makes two of us.
of That's about the size of it.
of (That's) enough (of this) foolishness!
of That takes care of that.
of (The) best of luck (to so).
of the luck of the Irish
of The proof of the pudding is in the eating
of The wages of sin is death.
of There are plenty of (other) fish in the sea.
of There but for the grace of God (go I).
of There is a tide in the affairs of men.
of thing of beauty is a joy forever.
of think a great deal of so/sth
of think a lot of so/sth
of think ahead of one's time
of think better of so/sth
of think better of sth
of think highly of so/sth
of think little of so/sth
of think much of so/sth
of think nothing of doing sth
of Think nothing of it.
of think nothing of so/sth
of think of so/sth
of think sth of so/sth
of think the world of so/sth
of (this) vale of tears
of thrash sth out of so
of three bricks shy of a load
of throng out (of sth)
of throw oneself at the mercy of some authority
of throw oneself on the mercy of some authority
of throw so or an animal off (of) sth
of throw so/sth off (of) sth
of throw so/sth out of sth
of throw so out of sth
of till all hours (of the day and night)
of Time is of the essence.
of tip of the iceberg
of tire of so/sth
of to say nothing of so/sth
of to so's way of thinking
of to the best of one's ability
of to the best of one's knowledge
of to the ends of the earth
of to the tune of some amount of money
of tons of sth
of too much of a good thing
of top of the heap
of topple off (of) sth
of toss so/sth off (of) sth
of toss so/sth out of sth
of touch of sth
of tow so/sth out of (some place)
of tower of strength
of travesty of justice
of treat a case of sth
of trick so out of sth
of trickle out (of sth)
of tricks of the trade
of trim sth off (of) so/sth
of tub of lard
of tumble out of sth
of turn of fate
of turn of the century
of turn so or an animal out of sth
of tweak sth off (of) so/sth
of twist of fate
of twist sth off (of) sth
of twist sth out of sth
of two bricks shy of a load
of two jumps ahead of so
of two of a kind
of two shakes of a lamb's tail
of under a cloud (of suspicion)
of under the aegis of so
of under the auspices of so
of under the influence (of alcohol)
of until all hours (of the day and night)
of upshot of sth
of usher so/sth out of some place
of Variety is the spice of life.
of venture out (of sth)
of (very) picture of sth
of villain of the piece
of vindicate so of sth
of vote of confidence
of vote of thanks
of vote so out of sth
of walk ahead of so/sth
of walk out (of sth)
of wangle out of sth
of Wanna make sumpin' of it?
of Want a piece of me?
of want off ((of) sth)
of want out (of sth)
of want so/sth out of sth
of Want to make something of it?
of warn the cockles of so's heart
of warn so of sth
of wash off ((of) so/sth)
of wash one's hands of so/sth
of wash so out of sth
of wash sth of sth
of wash sth off (of) so/sth
of wash sth out of sth
of waste of space
of wealth of sth
of wear off ((of) sth)
of wear sth off (of) sth
of weary of so/sth
of weasel out (of sth)
of weave in and out (of sth)
of weee hours (of the night)
of well out (of sth)
of well out (side) of sth
of well up (out of sth)
of whale the tar out of so
of What do you think of that?
of What do you think of this weather?
of What of it?
of What's the good of sth?
of wheel so/sth out of sth
of When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.
of When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.
of whiff of sth
of whisk sth off (of) so/sth
of whistle sth out of sth
of whole bag of tricks
of whole ball of wax
of (whole) mess of so/sth
of whys and wherefores of sth
of wide of the mark
of wiggle out of sth
of will be the death of so/sth (yet)
of will come of sth
of will not hear of sth
of wimp out (of sth)
of win the heart of so
of window of opportunity
of wipe so/sth off the face of the earth
of within a hair's (breath) of sth
of within a stone's throw (of sth)
of within an ace of (doing) sth
of within an inch of one's life
of within earshot (of sth)
of without a shadow of a doubt
of woman of ill repute

Phrase-Finder Index

957
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>off get up (off of) sith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off give sth the shirt off one's back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off give sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off glance off (so/ath)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off gloves are off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off go off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off goof off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hack so (off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hack sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hacked (off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off half a bubble off plumb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hand sth off (to so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off Hands off!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hang off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off harden sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hats off to so/ah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off haul off and do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off head so off at the pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off head so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off help so off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off help so off with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off kiss so off ((of) the stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hit it off (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hit sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hold off (from) doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hold off (on so/ah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hold so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hoot off the press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hoot off the stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hop off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hot off the stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hotfoot it (off to) somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off hurry off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off (I) have to push off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off (I) have to shove off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off I must be off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off I'll have to beg off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off I'm off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off in the offing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off (It's) time to shove off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off (I've) got to be shoving off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off (I've) got to shove off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off (I've) got to take off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off jenk sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off jump off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off jump off the deep end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off jumping-off place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off jumping-off point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off just fell off the turnip truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off just off the boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off keep off (of) so's back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off keep off (of) so's case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off keep off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off keep one's hands off (sthl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off keep so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off kick off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off kick sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off kill so or an animal off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off kiss off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off kiss so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off kiss so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off Knock it off!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off knock off (doing sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off knock off (work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off knock one off one's feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off knock so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off knock so's block off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off knock so's socks off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off knock sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off laugh one's head off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off laugh so off the stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off laugh sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lay off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lay off ((of) so/ah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lay off to (from sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lead off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lead so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off leave off sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off let off (some) steam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off let so (get off) (sthl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off let so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off let sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off level off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off level sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lick sth off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lift off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lift sth off (as) so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off like water off a duck's back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off list so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off little off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off live high off the hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off live off campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off live off (of) so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off live off the fat of the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off live off the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off load off one's feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off load off one's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off log off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off log so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off log sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lumber off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off lunch off sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off make sth with so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off make sth off (of) so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off mark so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off marry so off (to so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off measure sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off mop sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off mouth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off move off campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off move off (from so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off move off (to the side) with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off move so/sth off ((from) so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off nip sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off no skin off so's nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off no skin off so's teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off nod off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off number off (by sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off again, on again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off and on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off and running</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off like a shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off on a sidetrack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off (on sthl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off on the right foot (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off on the wrong foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off one's game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off one's nut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off one's rocker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off one's trolley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off so/sth goes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the beaten path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the beaten track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the hook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the shelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off the wagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off to a bad start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off to a flying start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off to a good start (with so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off to a running start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off to one side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off to the races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off to the side) with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off Off with you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off (work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off-key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off-kilter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off-limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off-line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off-the-cuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off off-the-wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off on again, off again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off on and off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off on the off chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off order so off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off order so off the field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pace sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pack so off (to so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pack sth off (to so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pair off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off palm so/sth off (on so) (as so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pare sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off partition sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pass so/sth off (on so) (as so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pass sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pawn so/sth off (on so) (as so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off Payne sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pay off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pay so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pay sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off peer off (from sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off peer off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off peer off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pension so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pick so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pile off (sthl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pinch sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off piss so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pissed (off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off plane sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off play so off against so else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off play sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pluck sth off ((of) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off polish sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pop off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pop so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pour so off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off prairie sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off prye sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pull sth off (sthl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off pull sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off push off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off push (one'self) off (on sthl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off push so/sth off (of) so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off push sth off (on) so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off put a dog off the scent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off put off by so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off put one off one's game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off put one off one's stride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off put so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off put sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off quick off the mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off raffle sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off rake sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>off rattle sth off</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
off read sth off
off reel sth off
off ricochet off sth
off ride off
off right off the bat
off (right) off the top of one's head
off ring off the hook
off rinse so/sth off
off rip off
off rip so off
off rip sth off
off (rip)-off artist
off roll off (so/sth)
off roll sth off (of) so/sth
off rope sth off
off rot off
off round off to sth
off round sth off
off rub off (of) sth
off rub off (on so)
off rub off on(to) so/sth
off rub sth off (of) sth

off run around like a chicken with its head cut off
off run off
off run one's feet off
off run so/sth off (of) sth
off run sth off
off rush off (from some place)
off rush sth off (to so/sth)
off saw sth off (of) sth
off scare so or an animal off
off scare the pants off (of) so
off scour sth off (of) sth
off scrape sth off (of) so/sth
off screen so/sth off (from so/sth)
off screw off
off scrub off
off scrub sth off (of) sth
off seal sth off from so/sth
off see so off
off sell sth off
off send off for sth
off send so off
off set off (for so/sth)
off set off on sth
off set so off
off set sth off
off shag (off)
off shake a disease or illness off
off shake so/sth off
off shake sth off
off shoot one's mouth off
off shove off
off show off
off show off
off show so/sth off
off shrug sth off (as sth)
off shock sth off
off shuffle off this mortal coil
off sign off
off siphon sth off (from sth)
off skim sth off (of) sth
off skip off (with sth)
off slack off
off sleep sth off
off slice sth off
off sink off
off slip off
off slip sth off
off slough off
off slow off the mark
off sluff (off)
off snack off (of) sth
off snap so/sth head off
off snap sth off
off snip sth off
off so clean you could eat off the floor
off soak sth off (of) sth
off sound off
off spark sth off
off speak off-the-cuff
off spiel sth off
off spin off
off spin sth off
off spirit so/sth off (to some place)
off splinter off (of) sth
off split off (from sth)
off split sth off (of) sth
off sponge sth off of so/sth
off spout off (about so/sth)
off square off (for sth)
off square sth off
off stake sth off
off stall so/sth off
off stand off from so/sth
off stand off some place
off stand so/sth off
off start off
off start (off) with a bang
off start (off) with a clean slate
off start (off) with so/sth
off start off (on sth)
off stave so/sth off
off stave so/sth off
off stay off (st)
off steal sth so
off stream off (of) sth
off step off
off step sth off
off stop off (some place) (for a period of time)
off straight off
off strain sth off of sth
off strike sth off (of) so/sth
off strip sth off (of) so/sth
off sue the pants off (of) so
off swear off (st)
off sweat sth off
off sweep off
off sweep one off one's feet
off sweep sth off (of) sth
off sweat sth off (of) so/sth
off switch off
off switch off
off switch so/sth off
off tail off
off take a load off (of) so/sth mind
off take a load off one's feet
off take a long walk off a short pier.
off take a lot off (of) so/sth's mind
off take a weight off one's mind
off take off
off take one's eyes off (of) so/sth
off take one's gloves off
off take one's hands off (of) so/sth
off take one's hat off to so
off take oneself off some place
off take (some) time off
off take ((some) time) off from work
off take so off
off take so/sth off
off take so's head off
off take sth off
off take the chill off (of) a place
off take the day off
off take the edge off ((of) sth)
off take the heat off (of) so/sth
off take the lid off (of) sth
off take up where one left off
off take years off (of) so/sth
off take-off artist
off talk one's head off
off talk so's ear off
off talk so's head off
off taper off (doing sth)
off tear off (from so/sth)
off tear sth off (of) so/sth
off tee off
off tee so off
off teed off
off tell so off
off tell so where to get off
off throw one off one's game
off throw so off
off throw so on an animal off (of) sth
off throw so/sth off (of) sth
off throw sth off
off tick so off
off ticked (off)
off tie sth off
off time off
off tip so off (about so/sth)
off toddle off
off top sth off
off topple off (of) sth
off toss so/sth off (of) sth
off toss sth off
off touch so/sth off
off towel so/sth off
off trade sth off
off trail off
off travel off the beaten path
off trigger so off
off trigger sth off
off trim sth off (of) so/sth
off turn off
off turn so off
off turn so's water off
off turn sth off
off turned off
off tweak sth off (of) so/sth
off twist sth off (of) sth
off veer off (from so/sth)
off walk off
off walk on stage and off again
off walk so's feet off
off walk so/sth off
off wall so/sth off
off wall sth off (from so/sth)
off waltz off
off wander off (from so/sth)
off want off ((of) sth)
off ward so/sth off
off warn so off
off wash off (of) so/sth
off wash so/sth off
off wash sth off (of) so/sth
off wash so/sth off
off wave so/sth off
off way off (base)
off wear off
off wear sth off (of) sth
off weight off one's mind
off whack sth off
off What's coming off?
off wheel so/sth off
off Where do you think you get off?
off whip sth off
off whip sth written off to so
off whisk so or an animal off
off whisk so/sth off (to sth)
off whisk sth off (of) so/sth
off wind sth off
off Wipe it off!
off wipe so/sth off
off wipe so/sth (off) (with sth)
off wipe sth off
off wipe sth (off) (on sth)
off wish so/sth (off) (on so)
off work one’s ass off
off work one’s tail off
off work some fat off
off work some weight off
off work sth off
off wrench sth off (of) so/sth
off wrest sth off (of) sth
off write off (to so) (for sth)
off write so/sth off
off write sth off
off yack one’s head off
off yank so/sth off (of) sth
off yank sth off
off yell one’s head off
off zone sth off
off zoom off
offend offend against so/sth
offend offend so with sth
offense best defense is a good
defense.
offense mean no offense
offense No offense meant.
offense No offense taken.
offense take offense (at so/sth)
offer make an offer one cannot refuse
offer make one an offer one cannot refuse
offer make so an offer
offer offer a helping hand
offer offer one cannot refuse
offer offer sth for sth
offer offer sth to so (as sth)
offer offer sth up (to so/sth)
ofﬁce Can I see you in my office?
ofﬁce Could I see you in my office?
ofﬁce do a land-office business
ofﬁce drive so out of office
ofﬁce force so out of office
ofﬁce land-office business
ofﬁce take ofﬁce
ofﬁciate ofﬁciate (as sth) (at sth)
ofﬁcial in the ofﬁce
Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).
often best-laid plans of mice and men oft(en) go astray.
often Half the truth is often a whole lie.
often Little and often ﬁlls the purse.
often more often than not
often Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).
ogle ogle (at) so/sth
oh Oh, boy.
oh Oh, sure (so/sth will)! 
oh Oh, ye of little faith.
oh, yeah?
oil burn the midnight oil
oil oil so’s palm
oil pour oil on troubled water(s)
oil squeaking wheel gets the oil.
oink oink out
ointment fly in the ointment
okay (Are you) doing okay?
okay (Are you) feeling okay?
ookay Everything will be okay.
ookay (Have you) been okay?
ookay (I’m) doing okay.
ookay (I’m) feeling okay.
ookay (Is) everything okay?
ookay (I’ve) been okay.
ookay You been okay?
ookay You doing okay?
of’ same o(l)’ same o(l)’
old any old thing
Better be an old man’s darling than
a young man’s slave.
old chip off the old block
old comfortable as an old shoe
old common as an old shoe
old dirty old man
old from the old school
old full of Old Nick
old go into the same old song and
dance about sth
old good old boy
old good old days
old have a rare old time
old little old so/sth
old live to the (ripe old) age of sth
old of the old school
old old as Methuselah
old old as the hills
old old battle-axe
old old college try
old old enough to be so’s father
old old enough to be so’s mother
old Old habits die hard.
old old hand at doing sth
old old hat
old (old) heave-ho
old old one-two
old old poacher makes the best
gamekeeper.
old old warhorse
old old wives’ tale
old one’s old stamping ground
old perform an old warhorse
old play an old warhorse
old ring out the old
old ripe old age
old same o(l)’ same o(l)’
old same old story
old So’s your old man!
old There’s many a good tune played on
an old fiddle.
old There’s no fool like an old fool.
old tough as an old boot
old tough as old (shoe) leather
old You are never too old to learn.
old You cannot put new wine in old
bottles.
old You cannot teach an old dog new
tricks.
old Young men may die, but old men
must die.
olive hold out the olive branch
omega alpha and omega
omelet You cannot make an omelet
without breaking eggs.
omit omit so/sth from sth
on able to do sth standing on one’s head
on about-face (on so/sth)
on abut on sth
on accidentally-on-purpose
on accompany so on a journey
on accompany so on a musical instrument
on act tough on so
on advise so on so/sth
on and so on
on army marches on its stomach.
on arrive one on a wing and a prayer
on arrive on the scene
on avenge oneself (on so/sth) (for sth)
on awkward as a cow on a crutch
on awkward as a cow on roller skates
on back down (on sth)
on back on one’s feet
on back on track
on backﬁre on so
on bag on so
on bang on so/sth
on bank on sth
on bargain on sth
on barge in (on so/sth)
on base one’s opinion on sth
on bear down (on so/sth)
on beat down (on so/sth)
on beat on so/sth
on beat up on so/sth
on becoming on so
on beg off (on sth)
on bent on doing sth
on bestow sth on so
on bet on so/sth
on bet sth on so/sth
on bid (stb) on sth
on big man on campus
on bite on so
on bite on sth
on blame sth on so
on blaze down (on so/sth)
on blight on the land
on blot on the landscape
on blow a bundle (on so)
on Blow on it!
on blow on sth
on blow the whistle (on so)
on bone up (on sth)
on book (on out)
on book so on sth
on born on the wrong side of the blanket
on boxed on the table
on bread always falls on the buttered
side.
on break in (on so)
on break in (on sth)
on break one’s arm patting oneself on
the back
on break sth on sth
on bring down the curtain (on sth)
on bring so in (on sth)
on bring so on
on bring so out (on sth)
on bring so up on sth
on bring so up on sth
on bring so up to speed on so/sth
on bring so up-to-date (on so/sth)
on bring sth down on one’s head
on bring sth on
on browse on sth
on brush up (on sth)
on build one’s hopes on so/sth
on build sth on
on burst in (on so/sth)
on busy as popcorn on a skillet
on butt in (on so/sth)
on buy sth on credit
on buy sth on time
on calculate on sth
on for days on end
on for hours on end
on force so/sth (off) on so
on foreclose on sth
on freak out (on sth)
on freeze on doing sth
on fritter sth away (on so/sth)
on from here on (in)
on from this day on
on front on sth
on frown on so/sth
on gag on sth
on gain on so/sth
on gamble on so/sth
on gang up (on so)
on gaze on so/sth
on gaze out on sth
on generalize on so/sth
on get a bead on so/sth
on get a hurry on
on get a move on
on get along (on a shoestring)
on get along on sth
on get back (to so) (on sth)
on get by (on a shoestring)
on get by (on a small amount of money)
on get down (on all fours)
on get it on
on get on
on get one on one's feet
on get one's rocks off (on sth)
on get right on sth
on get sth down (on paper)
on get started on sth
on get the draw on so
on get the drop on so
on get the show on the road
on get together (with so) (on so/sth)
on get up on one's hind legs
on get up on the wrong side of bed
on give so a pat on the back
on give up (on so/sth)
on glare down on so/sth
on glint on the market
on gnaw on sth
on go back on one's promise
on go back on one's word
on go down on one's knees
on go easy on so/sth
on go easy on sth
on go fifty-fifty (on sth)
on go in with so (on sth)
on go off on a tangent
on go off on so
on Go on.
on go on a binge
on go on a diet
on go on a fishing expedition
on go on a fool's errand
on go on a power trip
on go on a rampage
on go on an errand
on go on and on
on go on (and on) (about so/sth)
on go on (at so)
on go on before (so)
on go on doing sth
on go on for an age
on go on sth
on go on the block
on go on to a better land
on go on sth
on go on tour
on go on with sth
on Go on (with you)!
on go out on a limb
on go (out) on strike
on go to the wall (on sth)
on go to work (on so/sth)
on goad so on
on going on
on gone on
on goods on so
on goof on so
on goof up (on sth)
on gorge oneself on sth
on grade so down (on sth)
on grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence).
on grate on so
on grate on so's nerves
on grate on sth
on gaze on sth
on grind on
on grip on oneself
on grip on sth
on groove on so/sth
on ground sth on sth
on grow on so
on grow soft on so
on hammer on so/sth
on hand sth on (to so/sth)
on handle on sth
on hang a few on
on hang on
on hang one on
on hang sth on so
on hang tough (on sth)
on hang up (on so/sth)
on Happy is the bride that the sun shines on.
on hard on so's heels
on hard on so
on harp on so/sth
on haul so on the carpet
on have a bad effect (on so/sth)
on have a buzz on
on have a good head on one's shoulders
on have a load on
on have a lot on one's mind
on have an effect on so/sth
on have an impact on so/sth
on have designs on so/sth
on have dubs on sth
on have egg on one's face
on have (got) a glow on
on have nothing on so
on have one's brain on a leash
on have one's eye on so/sth
on have one's feet on the ground
on have one's heart on one's sleeve
on have one's heart set on sth
on have pity on so or an animal
on have (some) bearing on sth
on have so on a string
on have so on the string
on have so/sth on one's hands
on have so/sth on one's mind
on have so/sth on the brain
on have so/sth on track
on have so's blood on one's hands
on have sth on
on have the shoe on the other foot
on have too much on one's plate
on have (too much) time on one's hands
on He puts his pants on one leg at a time.
on He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-cent head.
on head on
on head start (on so)
on head start (on sth)
on hell on a holiday
on hell on earth
on help so on with sth
on high man on the totem pole
on high on sth
on hit on so
on hit on sth
on hit so on an animal on sth
on hit the nail (right) on the head
on hitting on all cylinders
on hold back (on sth)
on hold forth (on so/sth)
on hold off (on so/sth)
on hold on
on hold on so
on hold on sth
on hold (on) tight
on hold (sth) out on so/sth
on hold up (on so/sth)
on home in (on so/sth)
on hook oneself on so/sth
on hook so on sth
on hooked on sth
on hop on the bandwagon
on horn in (on so)
on horn in (on sth)
on hot on so's heels
on hot on sth
on hot on the trail (of so/sth or some creature)
on How are you getting on?
on hung up (on so/sth)
on hunker down (on sth)
on hurry on
on hurry one on one's way
on hypothesize on sth
on (I) wouldn't bet on it.
on (I) wouldn't count on it.
on I wouldn't wish that on a dog.
on I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy.
on icing on the cake
on I'd bet money (on it).
on (I'd) better get on my horse.
on If two ride on a horse, one must ride behind.
on I'll get back to you (on that).
on I'll get right on it.
on impale so/sth on sth
on improvise on sth
on in on sth
on in on the act
on in on the ground floor
on in on the kill
on inform on so
on inform so on so
on intend on doing sth
on (Is) anything going on?
on It has so's name on it.
on It's on me.
on I've seen better heads on nickel beers.
on jam the brakes on
on jangle on sth
on jar on so/sth
on joke is on so.
Phrase-Finder Index

on judge one on one's own merits
on judge sth on its own merits
on jump on so
on jump on the bandwagon
on jump up (on so/sth)
on jury is still out on so/sth.
on keen on doing sth
on keen on so/sth
on keep a close rein on so/sth
on keep a firm grip on so/sth
on keep a lid on sth
on keep a tight grip on so/sth
on keep a tight rein on so/sth
on keep an eye on so/sth
on keep (close) watch (on so/sth)
on keep (going) on about so/sth
on keep (going) on at so/sth
on keep harping on
on keep on
on Keep (on) trying.
on keep one on one's toes
on keep one's eye on so/sth
on keep one's eye on the ball
on keep one's feet on the ground
on keep one's finger on the pulse of sth
on keep one's mind on so/sth
on keep one's pants on
on keep one's shirt on
on keep so on
on keep so on a string
on keep so on (stl)
on keep so on tenterhooks
on keep so/sth on (the) (right) track
on keep so/sth on track
on keep sth on
on keep tab(s) on so/sth
on keep watch on so/sth
on Keep your pants on!
on Keep your shirt on!
on kick in (on sth) (for so/sth)
on kick sth in (on sth) (for so/sth)
on kiss so on sth
on knock on sth
on knock on wood
on know where so stands (on so/sth)
on know which side one's bread is buttered on
on land too poor to raise a ratchet on
on lash down (on so/sth)
on last laugh (on so)
on launch forth on sth
on launch out on sth
on lay a finger on so/sth
on lay a guilt trip on so
on lay a (heavy) trip on so
on lay down on the job
on lay emphasis on sth
on lay eyes on so/sth
on lay it on the line
on lay it on thick
on lay it on with a trowel
on lay one on
on lay one's cards on the table
on lay one's hands on so/sth or an animal
on lay some sweet lines on so/sth
on lay sth down (on sth)
on lay sth on
on lay sth out on so/sth
on lay stress on sth
on lay the blame (for sth) on so/sth
on lay the blame on so/sth.
on lay the finger on so/sth
on lead on
on lead so on
on lean back (on so/sth)
on lean on so
on leave an impression (on so)
on leave one's mark on so
on leave sth on
on leg up on so
on Let every tub stand on its own bottom.
on Let me get back to you (on that).
on let on (about so/sth)
on let on sth
on let on (to so) (about so/sth)
on Let's shake on it.
on let so get on with sth
on let so in on sth
on let so in on the act
on let so in on the ground floor
on let up (on so/sth)
on lid on sth
on lie down on sth
on lie down on the job
on lighten up (on so/sth)
on like a bump on a log
on like a house on fire
on like nothing on earth
on line on so/sth
on line so/sth up on sth
on line up on sth
on finger on
on listen in (on so/sth)
on (little) short on one end
on live on (after so)
on live on (after so/sth)
on live on an amount of money
on live on borrowed time
on live on one's own
on live on sth
on live on the edge
on lock in on so/sth
on log on
on log so on (to sth)
on look becomeing on so
on look good on paper
on look in (on so/sth)
on look like a saddle on a sow
on look on
on loom large (on the horizon)
on lose money on sth
on lose one's grip on so/sth
on lose one's hold on so/sth
on lost on so
on low man on the totem pole
on lowdown (on so/sth)
on lower the boom on so
on make a move on so
on make a start on sth
on make an impression on so
on make book on sth
on make good on sth
on make money on sth
on make so's hair stand on end
on make war (on so/sth)
on march on
on maroon so on an island
on mash on sth
on meditate on so/sth
on miss out (on sth)
on model so on so
on model sth on
on Money does not grow on trees.
on mount sth on sth
on mouth on so
on move in (on so)
on move in (on so/sth)
on move on
on move so/sth
on move around sth
on move on
on muscle in (on so/sth)
on nail so down (on sth)
on neighbor on sth
on new kid on the block
on new lease on life
on new one on so
on night on the town
on no flies on so
on nosh on sth
on not able to go on
on not grow on trees
on not have a leg to stand on
on not have a stitch of clothes (on)
on not on any account
on not to put too fine a point on it
on not worth the paper it's printed on
on not worth the paper it's written on
on odds-on favorite
on off again, on again
on off and on
on off on a sidetrack
on off on so/sth
on off (on sth)
on off on the right foot (with so/sth)
on off on the wrong foot
on on a diet
on on a first-name basis (with so)
on on a fool's errand
on on a lark
on on a moment's notice
on on a pedestal
on on a power trip
on on a roll
on on a shoestring
on on a silver platter
on on a string
on on a tight leash
on on a wing and a prayer
on on account
on on active duty
on on advance notice
on on again, off again
on on all fours
on on approval
on on any account
on on average
on on behalf of so
on on bended knee
on on board
on on Broadway
on on call
on on campus
on on cloud nine
on on consignment
on on course
on on credit
on on dangerous ground
on on dead center
on on deck
on on duty
on on earth
on on easy street
on on edge
on on fire
on on foot
on on good terms (with so)
on on hold
on on horseback
on on ice
on on impulse
on on in years
on on its feet
on on land
on on loan (from so/sth)
on on location
on on medication
on on moral grounds
on on no account
on on occasion
on on one's best behavior
on on one's deathbed
on on one's feet
on on (one's) guard (against so/sth)
on on one's high horse
on on one's honor
on on one's mind
on on one's own
on on one's person
on on one's toes
on on one's way ((to) some place)
on on one's way (to sth or some place)
on on order
on on par (with so/sth)
on on pins and needles
on on probation
on on purpose
on on record
on on sale
on on schedule
on on second thought
on on shaky ground
on on short notice
on on so/sth
on on so's account
on on so's back
on on so's behalf
on on so's case
on on so's doorstep
on on so's good side
on on so's head
on on so's heels
on on so's nerves
on on so's or sth's last legs
on on so's say-so
on on so's shoulders
on on so's tail
on on so's watch
on on so's wrong side
on on sth
on on speaking terms (with so)
on on spec
on on standby
on on tap
on on target
on on the air
on on the alert (for so/sth)
on on the average
on on the back burner
on on the ball
on on the bandwagon
on on the beam
on on the bench
on on the bias
on on the bird
on on the bleeding edge
on on the blink
on on the block
on on the books
on on the borderline

on on the bottom rung (of the ladder)
on on the bright side
on on the brink (of doing sth)
on on the button
on on the contrary
on on the cusp (of sth)
on on the cutting edge
on on the defensive
on on the dolce
on on the dot
on on the double
on on the edge
on on the eve of sth
on on the face of it
on on the fast track
on on the fence (about sth)
on on the fly
on on the fringe
on on the Fritz
on on the front burner
on on the go
on on the good side of so
on on the heels of sth
on on the horizon
on on the horns of a dilemma
on on the hot seat
on on the hour
on on the house
on on the job
on on the lam
on on the leading edge
on on the level
on on the lookout (for so/sth)
on on the loose
on on the make
on on the mark
on on the market
on on the mend
on on the money
on on the move
on on the nose
on on the off chance
on on (the) one hand
on on the other hand
on on the outs (with so)
on on the phone
on on the pill
on on the point of doing sth
on on the prowl
on on the QT
on on the rag
on on the right track
on on the rise
on on the road
on on the rocks
on on the run
on on the safe side
on on the same wavelength
on on the sauce
on on the scene
on on the shelf
on on the side
on on the skids
on on the skly
on on the spot
on on the spur of the moment
on on the stick
on on the street
on on the strength of sth
on on the table
on on the take
on on the telephone
on on the throne

on on the tip of one's tongue
on on the track of so/sth
on on the trail of so/sth
on on the up-and-up
on on the verge of doing sth
on on the wagon
on on the waiting list
on on the wane
on on the warpath
on on the watch for so/sth
on on the way (to sth or some place)
on on the whole
on on the wing
on on the (witness) stand
on on the wrong side of so
on on the wrong track
on on thin ice
on on time
on on tiptoe
on on top of sth
on on top of the world
on on track
on on trial
on on vacation
on on view
on on with so
on On your bike!
on on your mark, get set, go
on on one eye on so/sth
on on one's heart is set on sth
on on one up (on so)
on on open fire (on so)
on on open fire (on so/sth)
on on open season (on some creature)
on on open season (on so)
on on open up (on so/sth or an animal)
on on operate on sth
on on operate on sth
on on out a limb
on on out on bail
on on (out) on parole
on on (out) on patrol
on on out (on strike)
on on out on the town
on on overdose (so) on sth
on on paint on sth
on on palm so/sth off (on so) (as so/sth)
on on pan in (on so/sth)
on on paradise (on earth)
on on pass judgment (on so/sth)
on on pass on
on on pass sentence on so
on on pass so on (to so)
on on pass so/sth off (on so) (as so/sth)
on on pass sth off (on so) (as sth)
on on pass sth on
on on paste sth on so
on on pat so on the back
on on pat so/sth on sth
on on pattern sth on sth
on on paradise on earth
on on pay a call on so
on on pay on sth
on on peek in (on so/sth)
on on pelt down (on so/sth)
on on perch on sth
on on perch so/sth on sth
on on perform sth on so/sth
on on perspective on sth
on on pick on somebody your own size
on on pick on so/sth
on on pick on someone your own size
on on pick up on sth
on pig out (on so)
on pile the work on (so)
on pin one's faith on so/th
on pin one's hopes on so/th
on pin so down (on sth)
on pin sth on so
on pivot on sth
on place a price on one's head
on place a strain on so/th
on place so on a pedestal
on place so/th down on so/th
on place the blame on so/th (for so/th)
on plan on so
on plan on sth
on plant sth on so
on play a joke on so
on play a prank on so
on play a trick on so
on play on
on play sth on so/th
on play tricks on so
on plot sth on sth
on pontificate on sth
on pop so on sth
on pork out (on sth)
on post sth on sth
on pound on so/th
on pound sth on so/th
on pour cold water on sth
on pour down (on so/th)
on pour it on thick
on pour oil on troubled water(s)
on pox on so/th!
on present sth on a silver platter
on press down on so/th
on press on sth
on press sth on
on prey on sth
on price on one's head
on pronouncing sth on so/th
on pull a gun (on so)
on pull a knife (on so)
on pull a stunt (on so)
on pull a trick (on so)
on pull on sth
on pull one over on so
on pull rank (on so)
on pull sth on
on pull the plug (on so)
on pull the plug (on sth)
on punch so on sth
on push down on sth
on push on so/th
on push on (to sth)
on push on (with sth)
on push (one's) off (on sth)
on push so/th on (ahead) (of so/th)
on push up on sth
on put a cap on sth
on put a contract out on so
on put a damper on sth
on put a hold on sth
on put a lid on sth
on put a premium on sth
on put a price on one's head
on put a smile on so's face
on put a spin on sth
on put a strain on so/th
on put an amount of time in on sth
on put balls on sth
on put hair on so's chest
on put it on the line
on put on
on put one on one's feet
on put one on one's guard
on put one on one's honor
on put one over so
on put one's cards on the table
on put one's dibs on sth
on put one's face on
on put one's finger on sth
on put one's hands on so/th or an animal
on put one's head on the block (for so/th)
on put one's money on so/th (to do sth)
on put one's neck on the line
on put one's thinking cap on
on put out a warrant (on so)
on put out (some) feelers (on so/th)
on put pressure on sth
on put some sweet lines on so
on put (some) years on so/th
on put so on
on put so/th on hold
on put so/th on ice
on put so/th on sth
on put so/th on track
on put so out on a limb
on put sth back on track
on put sth on
on put sth over on so
on put the arm on so
on put the bite on so
on put the blame on so/th
on put the brakes on so
on put the brakes on sth
on put the chill on so
on put the clamps on so/th
on put the feed bag on
on put the finger on so
on put the freeze on so
on put the hard word on so
on put the heat on
on put the kibosh on so/th
on put the make on so
on put the stunts moves on so
on put the nose-bag on
on put (the) pressure on so (to do sth)
on put the screws on (so)
on put the skids on (st)
on put the squeeze on so
on put the touch on so
on put too fine a point on sth
on put wear (and tear) on sth
on put weight on
on quick on the draw
on quick on the trigger
on quick on the uptake
on quit on so
on quiz so on so/th
on rag so
on rain check (on sth)
on rain down on so/th
on rain in on so/th
on rain so's parade
on rain sth down (on so/th)
on rake so on
on rank so on
on rape on sth
on rap sth out (on sth)
on rat on so
on rattle on (about so/th)
on read on (so/th)
on read the handwriting on the wall
on read up (on so/th)
on record sth on sth
on redound on so
on reed before the wind lives on, while mighty oaks do fall.
on register on sth
on reign back on so/th
on relax one's hold on so/th
on reliance on so/th
on remain on
on renounce on sth
on report back (on so/th)
on rest on one's laurels
on retire on sth
on ride herd on so/th
on ride on
on ride up (on so)
on Right on!
on right on so's heels
on right on time
on ring the curtain down (on sth)
on rip on so
on risk sth on so/th
on rivet one's gaze on so/th
on rivet one's glare on so/th
on roll on
on romp on so
on rotate on sth
on rub off (on so)
on rule on sth
on ruminate on sth
on run a make on so
on run aground (on sth)
on run low (on sth)
on run on
on run on sth
on run out (on so)
on run out on (so)
on rush on sth
on save a bundle (on sth)
on save (money) on sth
on scope (on) so
on scrape along (on sth)
on scrape by (on sth)
on scream down (on so/th)
on scrimp on sth
on see so on the dot
on see the (hand)writing on the wall
on sell so on sth
on sell sth on credit
on send so on a wild-goose chase
on send so/th on (ahead) of so/th
on send so so (out) on an errand
on serve notice (on so)
on serve sth on sth
on serve sth on a silver platter
on serve sth on so
on Set a beggar on horseback, and he'll ride to the devil.
on set eyes on so/th
on set forth on sth
on set off on sth
on set one (back) on one's feet
on set one back on one's heels
on set one on one's feet again
on set one's heart on so/th
on set one's hopes on so/th
on set one's mind on so/th
on set one's sights on so/th
on set out on one's own
on set out on (st)
on set so on fire
on set so or an animal on so or an animal
on set so/th on fire
on set so/th on track
on set so's teeth on edge
on set the world on fire
on set to work (on so/th)
on settle on sth
on shake (hands) on sth
on Shame on you!
on shed (some) light on sth
on shoe is on the other foot.
on show up on the dot
on sign off on sth
on sign on
on sign so on
on sit down on sth
on sit in (on sth)
on sit on its hands
on sit on one's ass
on sit on one's hands
on sit on so/th
on sit on the fence
on sit on their hands
on sitting on a gold mine
on sitting on a powder keg
on (sitting) on top of the world
on skate on sth
on skate on thin ice
on skim on sth
on skip out (on so/th)
on slack up (on sth)
on slam the brakes on
on slap on the wrist
on slap so on sth
on slap so on the wrist
on slap sth on
on sleep on sth
on slip on sth
on slip on over on so/th
on slip sth on
on slip something over on so/th
on slip up on so/th or an animal
on slip up on sth
on slow on the draw
on slow on the uptake
on smile on so/th
on snap back (on so/th)
on snap sth on
on sneak up on so/th
on sneeze on so/th
on snitch on so
on soft on so
on soften one's stance (on so/th)
on sold on so/th
on Soup's on!
on spatter on so/th
on speak out (on sth)
on speculate on sth
on spend sth on so/th
on splash on so/th
on splurge on so/th
on spread it on thick
on spread sth on
on spring sth on so
on spur so on
on squander sth on so/th
on squeal (on so) (to so)
on stake one's reputation on so/th
on stamp on so/th
on stand on ceremony
on stand on one's dignity
on stand on one's head
on stand on one's (own) two feet
on stand on sth
on stand pat (on sth)
on stand sth on its head
on start in on so/th
on start off (on sth)
on start off on the wrong foot
on start on so/th
on start out (on sth)
on start so off (on sth)
on stay on a diet
on stay on (after so/th)
on stay on course
on stay on (one's) guard (against so/th)
on stay on one's toes
on stay on (some place)
on stay on sth
on stay on the good side of so
on stay on top of so/th
on steal a march on so/th
on steal up on so/th
on step back on so/th
on step off on the wrong foot
on step on it
on step on so/th
on step on so's toes
on step on the gas
on step out (on so)
on stink on ice
on stock up (on so/th)
on stoked on so/th
on stomp on so
on stoop (on so)
on stop on a dime
on stop on sth
on stand so on sth
on stream down (on so/th)
on stew sth on so/th
on (strictly) on the level
on (strictly) on the up-and-up
on strike out on one's own
on strike so/th on sth
on struggle on with sth
on strum sth on sth
on stuck on so/th
on stuck on sth
on study up on so/th
on stumble on so/th
on substis on sth
on swap notes (on so/th)
on swear on a stack of Bibles
on swear on one's mother's grave
on sweep down on so/th
on sweet on so
on switch on
on switch sth on
on switched on
on take a bath (on sth)
on take a chance on so/th
on take a drag (on sth)
on take a firm grip on so/th
on take a (firm) stand on sth
on take a rain check (on sth)
on take action on so/th
on take fuel on
on take it easy on so/th or an animal
on take it easy on sth
on take it on the chin
on take it on the lam
on take it on the nose
on take it out on so/th
on take off (on sth)
on take on a new meaning
on take on a new significance
on take on (so)
on take pity (on so or an animal)
on take (quite) a toll (on so/th)
on take so on
on take so/th on
on take so's word on sth
on take so up on sth
on take sth on faith
on take sth on the chin
on take sth on trust
on take sth out on so/th
on take too much on
on talk on
on tank up (on sth)
on tap on sth
on tap so/th on sth
on tattle (on so) (to so)
on tear sth on sth
on tell on so
on tell so on so
on That's a new one on me!
on theorize on sth
on There's many a good tune played on an old fiddle.
on There's no flies on so.
on thin on top
on think back (on so/th)
on think on one's feet
on think the sun rises and sets on so
on This one is on so.
on throw an amount of light on so/th
on throw cold water on sth
on throw one out on one's ear
on throw oneself on the mercy of some authority
on throw (some) light on sth
on throw sth away on so/th
on throw sth on so/th
on thumb so/th
on thumb sth out (on the piano)
on tie it on
on tie on the nose-bag
on tie one on
on Time hangs heavy on so's hands.
on to be on the safe side
on toing and froing (on sth)
on touch on sth
on tough on so
on trade on sth
on train one's sights on sth
on train so on sth
on train sth on so/th or an animal
on travel on sth
on tread on so's toes
on trifle sth away (on so/th)
on trip on so/th
on try sth (on the piano)
on try sth (on) (for size)
on try sth on with so
on try sth out on so
on tune in (on so/th)
on turn on
on Turn on, tune in, drop out.
on turn one's back (on so/th)
on turn so on
on turn sth on
on turn the heat up (on so)
on turn the tables (on so)
on turn thumbs down (on so/th)
on turn thumbs up (on so/th)
on turn up the heat (on so/th)
on up on so/th
on upper hand (on so)
on wager on so/th
on wager sth on so/th
on wait on so hand and foot
one buy the big one
one day one
one do a one-eyed one
one do so one better
one Don’t put all your eggs in one
one basket.
one Don’t spend it all in one place.
one down one for the road
one every last one
one fast one
one from day one
one get off a few good ones
one go at one another tooth and nail
one go back to square one
one go from one extreme to the other
one go in one ear and out the other
one go (so) one better
one hang one on
one Have a good one.
one have a one-track mind
one have just one ear in the water
one have more than one string to one’s
one fiddle.
one have one foot in the grave
one have one in the oven
one have one too many
one He puts his pants on one leg at a
time.
one hole in one
one If two ride on a horse, one must
one ride behind.
one in (at) one ear and out (of) the
other
one in one fell swoop
one In the country of the blind, the
one-eyed man is king.
one It’s just one of those things.
one It’s six of one, half a dozen of
another.
one (It) takes one to know one.
one kill two birds with one stone
one knock one back
one knock one over
one lay one on
one like one of the family
one (little) short on one end
one Little thieves are hanged, but great
ones escape.
one look after number one
one look out for number one
one look out for number one
one make sure to one side
one mouse that has but one hole is
quickly taken.
one my one and only
one new one on so
one No one is indispensable.
one not one iota
one of one mind (about so/th).
one off to one side
one old one-two
one on (the) one hand
one one and all
one one and only
one one and the same
one one brick shy of a load
one one by one
one One cannot be in two places at
once.
one One cannot love and be wise.
one one eye on so/th
one one false move
one one final thing
one one final word
one one for the (record) books
one one for the road
one One good turn deserves another.
one One hand for oneself and one for
the ship.
one One has to draw the line
somewhere.
one one in a hundred
one one in a thousand
one one jump ahead (of so/th)
one one law for the rich and another
for the poor
one one little bit
one One man’s loss is another man’s
gain.
one One man’s meat is another man’s
poison.
one One man’s trash is another man’s
treasure.
one One moment, please.
one one more time
one one move ahead (of so/th)
one one of these days
one one sandwich short of a picnic
one One swallow does not make a
summer.
one one that got away
one One thing leads to another.
one one thing or person after another
one one to a customer
one one too many
one one up (on so)
one one way or another
one one horse town
one one man show
one one-night stand
one one-track mind
one one paste so one
one pull a fast one
one pull one over on so
one put all one’s eggs in one
basket.
one put one foot in front of the other
one put one over on so
one since day one
one six of one and half a dozen of the
other
one slip one over on so/th
one speak as one
one take care of number one
one take one for the road
one take so to one side
one Tell me another (one)!
one That’s a new one on me!
one There’s more than one way to skin
a cat.
one This one is on so.
one tie one on
one turn one hundred and eighty
degrees
one Two can play (at) this game (as
well as one).
one Two heads are better than one.
one up one side and down the other
one wear more than one hat
one When one door shuts, another
opens.
one with one hand tied behind one’s
back
one (Would you) care for another
(one)?
one self break one’s arm patting oneself
on the back
one self by oneself
They also serve who only stand.

only have eyes for

It (only) stands to reason.

God only knows!

face (that) only a mother could

Close only counts in horseshoes

able to take only so much

know

oneself

make a (kind of) life for oneself

know one's onions

online

able to take only so much

Beauty is only skin-deep.

Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see.

Close only counts in horseshoes (and hand grenades).

only face (that) only a mother could love

From the sublime to the ridiculous is only a step.

god only knows!

I'm only looking.

in name only

It (only) stands to reason.

only know sth only too well

my one and only

only one and only

only have eyes for sth

only (Only) time will tell.

only one way to go

(th) Lord only knows

They also serve who only stand and wait.

add (sth) on(to) sth

append sth on(to) sth

back onto sq/sth

back sq/sth onto sq/sth

build on(to) sth

build out onto sth

build sth on(to) sth

burst onto the scene

carry sth onto sth

catch onto sq/sth

catch sq/sth onto sq/sth

cement sth on(to) sth

clamber onto sth

clamp sth on(to) sth

clap sth on(to) sth

climb on(to) sth

clip sth on(to) sq/sth

come sq/sth onto sq/sth

cop onto sth

cotton (on)to sq/sth

couple sth on(to) sth

dab sth on(to) sth

daub sth on(to) sth

divert sth onto sth

drag sth onto (on(to) sth

drag sth on(to) sth

drag sb/sth (on(to) sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

drag onto sth

fall back on(to) sq/sth

fall back on(to) sq/sth

fall on(to) sq/sth

fasten sq/sth (on(to) sq/sth

fit sth on(to) sth

fit sth on(to) sth

fix sth on(to) sth

flop sth down onto sth

flop sq/sth off (on(to) so)

freeze (on)to sth

get on(to) so (about sth)

get on(to) the (tele)phone

get so on(to) sq/sth

get glue on(to) sth

get grab on(to sq/sth)

get graft sth on(to) sth

get hammer sth onto sth

get home on(to sth)

get hook sth onto sq/sth

get hop onto base

get imprint sth on(to) sth

get on(to) sth

join on(to) sq/sth

jolt on(to) sth

jump on(to) sq/sth

latch on(to so)

latch on sth

load sth onto sq/sth

lock on(to sq/sth)

lock sth onto sq/sth

look (out) on(to) sth

nail sth onto sth

nose sth (out) (onto sth)

onto a good thing

onto onto

onto onto sth

onto open (out) on(to) sth

onto paint sth onto sth

onto pile on(to) sq/sth

onto pile sth (on(to) sq/sth

onto pin sth (on(to) sq/sth

onto pin sth up on(to) sth

onto plaster sth onto sth

onto pop sth on(to) sth

onto pour sth on(to) sth

onto pour out on(to) sq/sth

onto press sth onto sth

onto project sth onto

onto project sth on(to) sq/sth

onto push sth off on(to) so

onto put so onto sq/sth

onto rivet sth on(to) sth

onto roll sth onto sth

onto rub off on(to) so

onto rub off on sth

onto run sth onto sth

onto screw sth (on(to) sq/sth

onto seize onto sq/sth

onto set so down (on(to) sth

onto slam down (on(to) sth

onto slap sth onto sq/sth

onto slop sth onto sq/sth

onto slosh sth onto sq/sth

onto smash sth down (on(to) sth

onto smear sth onto sq/sth

onto smooth sth onto sq/sth

onto spill onto sq/sth

onto spill over on(to) sq/sth

onto spit sth on(to) sth

onto splash sth onto sq/sth

onto spray sth onto sq/sth

onto spread sth onto sth

onto sprinkle sth onto sq/sth

onto stamp sth onto sth

onto stick sth on(to) sq/sth

onto stitch sth onto sth

onto strap sth onto sq/sth

onto stay onto sth

onto suffix sth onto sth

onto superimpose sth onto sq/sth

onto tack onto sth

onto throw so onto sq/sth

onto tie sth onto sq/sth

onto tighten sth onto sth

onto turn off (stg) onto sth

onto turn onto sth

onto unload so onto sq/sth

onto vote so onto sth

onto wind sth onto sth

You'll get onto it.

onward press on(ward)

ooze ooze (out) (from sq/sth)

ooze ooze with sth

open blow sth wide open

open bring sth out in the open

open bust sth wide open

open *can of worms

open come out in the open

open come out in(to) the open

open crack a bottle open

open crack open

open crack sth (wide) open

open crack the door (open)

open crack the window (open)

open door must be either shut or open.

open doors open up (to so)

open for openers

open golden key can open any door.

in the open

open keep an open mind

open keep one's eyes open (for sq/sth)

open keep one's weather eye open

open leave oneself wide open for sth

open leave sth open

open leave the door open (for sth)

open (like) an open book

open not open one's mouth

open open a can of worms

open open a conversation

open open a few doors (for so)

open open and aboveboard

open (Open) confession is good for the soul.

open open fire (on so)

open open fire (on sq/sth)

open open for business

open open into sth

open open mind

open open one's heart to sq/sth

open open oneself to criticism

open open (out) onto sth

open open Pandora's box

open open season (on some creature)

open open season (on so)

open open secret

open open some doors (for so)

open open so's eyes to sq/sth

open open so's eyes to sq/sth

open open sth out

open open sth up

open open the door to so

open open the door to sth

open open to criticism

open open to question

open open to sth

open open up

open open (up) one's kimonos

open open with sq/sth

open open-and-shut case

open opening gambit

open out in the open

open put sth in the open

open receive so with open arms

open the heavens opened

open welcome so with open arms

open When one door shuts, another opens.

open wide open

open with one's (eyes) wide open

openers for openers

open operate against sq/sth

open operate from sth

open operate on so

open operate on sth

operation mapping-up operation

opinion base one's opinion on sth

opinion form an opinion
order put sth in apple-pie order
order put sth in order
order put sth in(to) order
order set one's house in order
order tall order
order *to go
ordinary out of the ordinary
orient orient so to sth
originate originate from sth
originate originate in sth
originate originate with so/sth
ornament ornament sth with sth
oscillate oscillate between so/sth and so/sth
other cancel each other out
other Catch me some other time.
other Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
other drop the other shoe
other every other person or thing
other fall in love (with each other)
other go from one extreme to the other
other go in one ear and out the other
other grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence).
other Half the world knows not how the other half lives.
other have the shoe on the other foot
other how the other half lives.
other ('I'll) try to catch you some other time.
other in (at) one ear and out (of) the other
other in other words
other laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
other look the other way
other made for each other
other Maybe some other time.
other none other than
other on the other hand
other other place
other other side of the tracks
other other things being equal
other Other times, other manners.
other other way (a)round
other put one foot in front of the other
other rose by any other name would smell as sweet.
other shoe is on the other foot.
other six of one and half a dozen of the other
other something or other
other There are plenty of (other) fish in the sea.
other turn the other cheek
other turn the other way
other up one side and down the other
other wait for the other shoe to drop
other We'll try again some other time.
other with every (other) breath
ought hadn't oughta
oughta hadn't oughta
ounce ounce of common sense is worth a pound of theory.
ounce ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit.
ounce ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
our Our house is your house.
our Welcome to our house.
ourselves by ourselves
oust oust so from sth
out ace out
out ace so out
out act out
out act sth out
out age out (of sth)
out air out
out air sth out
out (all) tuckered out
out all-out effort
out all-out war
out (almost) jump out of one’s skin
out appear out of nowhere
out apportion sth out (among some people)
out argue one's way out of sth
out argue sth out
out as all get out
out ask so out (for sth)
out ask so out (to sth)
out average out (at sth)
out back out (of sth)
out back so/sth out (from sth)
out back so/sth out of sth
out Bad money drives out good.
out bail out (of sth)
out bail so/sth out
out bail so out of jail
out bail sth out
out balance out
out bang sth out
out barf out
out barf so out
out bark sth out at so
out barrel out (of some place)
out battle sth out
out bawl sth out
out bear sth out
out beat one's brains out (to do sth)
out beat so/sth out
out beat so out
out beat so's brains out
out beat the hell out of so
out beat the (natural) stuffing out of so
out beat the shit out of so
out beat the stuffing out of so
out beat the tar out of so
out begin an all-out effort
out beguile so out of sth
out belch out
out bellow sth out
out belly out
out belt sth out
out bend so out of shape
out bend sth out of shape
out bent out of shape
out blink so out of sth
out billow out
out blab sth out
out black out
out black sth out
out blank sth out
out bleach sth out
out bleep sth out
out blimp out
out bliss out
out bliss so out
out blitz so out
out blitzed out
out block sth out
out blossom out
out blot so/sth out
out blot so out
out blot sth out
out Blow it out your ear!
out blow itself out
out blow so/sth out
out blow so's brains out
out blow sth out
out bluff one's way out (of sth)
out bluff so out (of sth)
out blurt sth out (at so)
out board so or an animal out
out boil sth out
out bolt out (of some place)
out bomb out (of sth)
out bomb so out
out bomb sth out
out book (on) out
out boom out
out boom sth out
out boot so or an animal out
out bong out of wedlock
out bottom fell out (of sth)
out bottom out
out bounce out (of sth)
out bow out (of some place)
out bow out (of sth)
out branch out (from sth)
out branch out (into sth)
out brave sth out
out break out
out break sth out (of sth)
out breathe out
out breathe sth out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breathe sth out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out break out
out break sth out (of sth)
out breathe out
out breathe sth out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breathe out
out breath out
out breath out
out breath out
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
out break sth out (of sth)
Phrase-Finder Index

out drop so/sth out of sth
out drown so or an animal out
out drown so/sth out
out drum so out
out drum sth out
out dry out
out dry so out
out dry sth out
out duck out (of some place)
out duck out (of sth)
out duke it out
out duke so out
out dust sth out
out ease (on) out of sth
out ease so (on) out of sth
out ease so out of sth
out eat (a meal) out
out eat one’s heart out
out eat out
out eat so out
out eat sth out
out eat (stb) out of sth
out edge so out of sth
out edge sth out
out edit sth out of sth
out eke sth out
out elbow so out of sth
out empty so out
out empty sth out
out even sth out
out Everything will work out (all right).
out Everything will work out for the best.
out exorcise sth out of so
out fade out
out fade sth out
out fag so out
out fagged out
out fair sth out
out fake so out
out fall out
out fan out
out fan sth out
out far out
out farm sth out
out farm sth out
out fashion sth out of sth
out fast-talk so out of sth
out feel out of place
out feel out of sorts
out feel out of things
out feel so out (about so/sth)
out fence so or an animal out
out ferret sth out
out fetch sth out of sth
out fight one’s way out (of sth)
out fight sth out
out figure out the root of the problem
out figure so/sth out
out file out (of sth)
out fill sth out
out fill out
out filter sth out of sth
out find out a thing or two (about so/sth)
out find so out
out find sth out
out find (sth) out (about so/sth) (from so/sth)
out find (sth) out the hard way
out fink out (on so/sth)
out fish so/sth out of sth
out fish sth up out of sth
out fit so/sth out (for sth)
out fit so/sth out (with sth)
out fizzle out
out flack out
out flake out
out flare out
out flare sth out
out flash out
out flat out
out flatten so/sth out
out flesh out
out flesh sth out (with sth)
out flex sth out of shape
out flexed out of shape
out flick out
out flick sth out
out flicker out
out filling so/sth out of sth
out flip out
out flip so out
out flood out (of sth)
out flood so/sth out of sth
out flounce out (of some place)
out flow out (of sth)
out fluff sth out
out flunk out (of sth)
out flunk so out
out flush so/sth out of some place
out fly out (of sth)
out fly (so/sth) out of sth
out follow so/sth out
out For crying out loud!
out force so/sth out of sth
out force so out of office
out fork some money out (for sth)
out fork sth out (to so)
out forage sth out of sth
out foul out (of sth)
out frame sth out
out freak out (at so/sth)
out freak out (on sth)
out freak out (over so/sth)
out freak so out
out freaked (out)
out freeze so out
out fresh out (of sth)
out frighten one out of one’s wits
out frighten so out of a year’s growth
out frighten the hell out of so
out funked out
out Garbage in; garbage out.
out gasp sth out
out gaze out on sth
out get a bang out of so/sth
out get a buzz out of so/sth
out get a charge out of so/sth
out get a kick out of so/sth
out get a lot of mileage out of sth
out get euchred out of sth
out get it out
out get one’s ears set out
out get one’s nose out of joint
out get one’s nose out of so/so’s business
out get out
out get (out) while the getting(g)’s good
out get some kind of mileage out of sth
out get so/sth out of one’s mind
out get so/sth out of one’s sight
out get so/sth out of so/sth
out get so out of a jam
out get so out of one’s hair
out get sth out
out get the hell out (of here)
out get the kinks (ironed) out
out get the lead out
out get the most out of so/sth
out get the wrinkles out (of sth)
out Get your head out of the clouds!
out Get your nose out of my business.
out give out
out give (out) with sth
out give so (a) good bawling out
out give sth out
out go all out (for so/sth)
out go in and out (of sth)
out go in one ear and out the other
out go out
out go (out) on strike
out gorked (out)
out gouge sth out
out graph sth out
out grind sth out
out groan sth out
out gronk (out)
out gross so out
out grow out
out growd sth out
out grunt sth out
out gyp so out of sth
out hack sth out of sth
out hammer sth out
out hand sth out (to so)
out hang out (of sth)
out hang out (some place)
out hang out (with so/sth)
out hang so out to dry
out hang sth out (of sth)
out hatch an animal out
out have one’s eye out for so/sth
out have one’s heart go out to so
out have one’s luck run out
out have one’s nose out of joint
out have one’s work cut out for one
out have sth out
out (Have you) been keeping out of trouble?
out head out after so/sth or an animal
out head out (for sth)
out head sth out
out hear a peep out of so
out hear so out
out help out some place
out help out (with sth)
out help so or an animal out of sth
out help so/sth out with so/sth
out help (so) out
out hew sth out of sth
out hide out (from so/sth)
out hightail it out of somewhere
out hire so/sth out
out hiss sth out
out hit out (at so/sth) (in sth)
out hit out (for sth or some place)
out hold out (against so/sth)
out hold out (for so/sth)
out hold out the olive branch
out hold so/sth out (of sth)
out hold (stb) out on so/sth
out hold sth out (to so)
out holler sth out
out hollow sth out
out hoodwink so out of sth
out hotfoot it out of somewhere
out hound so out of (of so or some place)
out hound stb out of so
out of the goodness of
out of the frying pan (and)
out of the closet
out of stock
out of step (with so/sh)
out of sync
out of the ballpark
out of the closet
out of the corner of one’s eye
out of the frying pan (and) into the fire
out of the goodness of one’s heart
out of the hole
out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).
out of the ordinary
out of the picture
out of the question
out of the red
out of the running
out of the swim of things
out of the way
out of (of) the window
out of the woods
out of the woodwork
out of thin air
out of this world
out of time (with so/sh)
out of town
out of tune (with so/sh)
out of turn
out of w(h)ack
out of wind
out of work
out on a limb
out on bail
out on parole
out on patrol
out on strike
out on the town
Out, please.
out to (a meal)
out to get so
out to lunch
out to win
out West
out-of-bounds
out-of-pocket expenses
Overall and out.
pace sh out
pad out
pad sh out
paint sh out
pan out
paint sh out
parade so or an animal out
parcel so/sh out
pass out
pass sh out (to so)
pay sh out
peal out
peek out (from behind so/sh)
peek out (from unpremier so/sh)
peek out of sh (at so/sh)
peel out
peep out (of sh) (at so/sh)
peer out at so/sh
peg out
permit so out (of sh)
pester so out of sh
pester the life out of so
peter out
phase so/sh out of sh
pick so/sh out
piece sh out
pie out (on sh)
pile out (of sh)
pilot sh out of sh
pitch so/sh out (of) sh
pitch sh out
plan sh out
play freeze-out
play one’s heart out
play out
play sh out
played out
plot sh out
pluck sh out of sh
point so/sh out
poke out (of sh)
poke sh out of sh
pooch out
poop out
poop so/sh out
pooped (out)
pop out (of sh)
pop sh out of sh
pork out (on sh)
portion sh out
pound sh out
pour one’s heart out to so
pour out (of sh)
pour out one’s soul
pour sh out on(to) so/sh
press sh out of sh
price so/sh out of the market
price sh out
print sh out
pry sh out of so
pry sh out of (of sh)
push out
psych out
psych so out
psyched (out)
puff out
puff sh out
pull all the stops out
pull (out) in front of so/sh
pull out (of sh)
pull sh out
pull sh up (out of sh)
pull the rug out (from under so)
pump sh out of so/sh
punch out
punch so out
punch so’s lights out
punch sh out of sh
punch out
punk out
push out
push sh out of sh
put a contract out on so
put a horse out to pasture
put an animal out
put one out of (one’s) misery
put one’s nose out of joint
put oneself out
put out
put some creature out of its misery
put so or an animal out of sh
put so or some creature out in the cold
put so/sh out of one’s mind
put so/sh out of the way
put so out
put so’s eye out
put so’s nose out of joint
put sh out
puzzle sh out
quiz out (of sh)
quote so/sh out of context
rack out
rag out
rage out of control
rain sh out
rake sh out of sh
rank so (out)
rap sh out (on sh)
rasp sh out
rat out
ration sh out (among so)
raunch so out
reach out
read so out (for sh)
read so out of sh
read (so) sh out of sh
read sh out
ream so out
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>out</th>
<th>ream sth out</th>
<th>out</th>
<th>separate sth out of sth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>reason sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>serve sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>reject so/sth out of hand</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>set out (for some place) (from some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rent sth (out) (to so)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>set out on one’s own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>ride out (of some place)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>set out (on sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rig so/sth out (in sth)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>set out to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>ring out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>set sth out (for so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rinse so’s mouth out (with soap)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>settle (sth) (out of court)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rinse sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>shut sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rip sth out of so/sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>shake sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>roar sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>shake the lead out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>roll out the red carpet (for so)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>Shape up or ship out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>roll sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>shell out (an amount of money)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>root so/sth out of some place</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>shoot sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>root sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>show so out (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>root sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>shut so/sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rub so out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sift sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rub sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sing out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rule so/sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sign so/so out of some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out at so/sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sign sth out of some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out of gas</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sing one’s heart out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out of patience</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sing sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out of some place</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sing sth out (for sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out (of sth)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>single so/sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out of steam</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sit out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out of time</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sit sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run out (on so)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>sketch sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run so/sth out of sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>skip (out)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>run sth out of sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>skip sth out (on so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rush sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>skip sth out with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rush sth out of sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>slash (out) at so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>rust out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>slide out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>sack out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>slide sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>sacked out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>slink sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>say sth out loud</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare one out of one’s mind</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare one out of one’s wits</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare so or an animal out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare so out of sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare sth out of so</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare the living daylight out of so</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare the wits out of so</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scarr out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>schock sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scoop sth out of sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scope so/sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scour sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scout so/sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scrape sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scratch so/sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scream sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>screen so/sth out of sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>screw so out of sth</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scrub sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>scuzz so out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>search so/sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>see so out of (so)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>seek so/sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>seem out of place</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>seep out (of sth)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>sell out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>sell so out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>sell sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>send out (for so/sth)</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>send so out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>send sth out</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out</td>
<td>send so (out) on an errand</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>some place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Phrase-Finder Index"
out string sth out
out strung out
out strut out of some place
out stub sth out
out surge out (of sth)
out suss sth out
out swarm out of sth
out swerve sth out against so
out sweat sth out
out sweep out of some place
out sweep s/s/th out of s/th
out sweep s th out
out swell out
out swindle s th out of s th
out switch s th out
out tag so out
out take a leaf out of s o’s book
out take a lot out of so
out take it out on s o/s/th
out take out a loan
out take out (after s o/s/th)
out take s o/s/th out of s/th
out take so out
out take s th out
out take the coward’s way out
out take the easy way out
out take the starch out of so
out take the stuffing out of so
out take the wind out of s o’s sails
out take the words out of so’s mouth
out take time out
out talk one’s way out of s th
out talk oneself out
out talk so out of doing s th
out talk so out of s th
out talk s th out
out talked out
out tap out
out tap s th out
out tear one’s hair (out)
out tear out (of some place)
out tear s th out of s th
out tease s th out
out tell tales out of school
out terrify so or an animal out of s th
out test out (of s th)
out test s th out
out thaw out
out thaw s o/s/th out
out thin out
out thin s th out
out Things will work out (all right).
out think out loud
out think s th out
out thrash s th out
out Three strikes and you are out.
out throng out (of s th)
out throw one out on one’s ear
out throw so/s/th out of s/th
out throw so out of s th
out throw the baby out with the bath(water)
out thrust out
out thump s th out (on the piano)
out thunder s th out
out Time (out)!
out time out
out time so out
out tire out
out tire so out
out toss s o/s/th out of s th
out tough s th out
out tow so/s/th out (of same place)
out tow so/s/th out (to s th)
out trample s th out
out trick so out of s th
out trickle out (of s th)
out trot so/s/th out
out trot s th out
out truth will out.
out try one’s wings (out)
out try out (for s th)
out try so/s/th out
out try s th out on s
outucker so out
out tumble out of s th
out tune out
out turn so/s/th out
out turn on, tune in, drop out.
out turn out
out turn some place inside out
out turn so or an animal out of s th
out turn so/s/th inside out
out turn so out
out turn s th out
out twist s th out of s th
out type s th out
out usher so/s/th out of some place
out vacuum s th out
out veg out
out vegged out
out vent s th out of (of s th)
out vomit s th out
out vote so out of s th
out wait s th out
out walk out (of s th)
out walk out (on so)
out walk out (on s th)
out walk out with so
out walk so out
out wangle out of s th
out want out (of s th)
out want so/s/th out of s th
out wash out
out wash so out
out wash s th out
out washed out
out watch out for so
out way out
out wear out
out wear so out
out wear s th out
out wear so/s/th out of (of s th)
out weave in and out (of s th)
out weed so/s/th out
out week in, week out
out weigh s th out
out weird out
out weirded out
out well out (of s th)
out well up (out of s th)
out whacked (out)
out whale the tar out of so
out wheel s o/s/th out of s th
out wheeze s th out
out When poverty comes in at the
door, love creeps out of the window.
out When the wolf comes in at the
door, love creeps out of the window.
out whine s th out
out whip s th out
out whittle s th out of s th
out wig out
out wiggle out of s th
out wimp out (of s th)
out win (out) (over so/s/th)
out wipe out
out wipe so out
out wipe s th out
out work itself out
out work out
out work s th out of s th
out work s th out (with so)
out work s th out (with s/th)
out worm (one’s way) out (of s th)
out worm s th out of s o
out worry an animal out of s th
out worry s th out of s o
out wrench s th out of s th
out wriggle out (of s th)
out writing s th out
out write s th out
out X s o/s/th out
out X’d out
out yak s o/s/th out of s th
out year in, year out
out yell one’s guts out
out yell out
out yell s th out (at so/s/th)
out You been keeping out of trouble?
out You cannot make a silk purse out of
of a sow’s ear.
out You scared the crap out of me.
out You scared the devil out of me.
out You scared the hell out of me.
out (You) took the words right out of
my mouth.
out You’re out of your mind!
out You’ve got to be out of your mind!
out zeal out
out zerked (out)
out zonked out
out zonked (out)
out zoom out
out zonked (out)
out outdoor big as all outdoors
out outhouse built like a brick outhouse
out outright killed outright
out outset at the outset
out outset from the outset
out outside at the (very) outside
out outside (Do) you want to step
outside?
out outside fall outside s th
out outside outside of s th
out outside stand outside ((of) s th)
out outside step outside
out outside think outside the box
out outside well out(side) of s th
out oven have one in the oven
out agonize (oneself) over so/s/th
out all over
out (all) over again
out arch (oneself) over
out arch over so/s/th
out arch s th over so/s/th
out argue (with so) (over so/s/th)
out ask so over
out back over so/s/th
out bargain (over so/s/th) (with so)
out battle (with so) (over so/s/th)
out be given precedence over so/s/th
out bend over
out bind so over (to so/s/th)
out blow over
out blow so/s/th over
out blow so over
over boil over
over bowl so over
over break over sth
over bridge over sth
over brim over (with sth)
over bring so over from same place
over bring so over (too) same place
over bring so over to sth
over browse over sth
over brush over sa/sth
over bubble over
over build (stb) out over sth
over build (stb) over sth
over call so over to (same place)
over carry over
over carry sa/sth from sth
over carry sa/sth to sth
over carry sth over
over change over (from sa/sth) (to sa/sth)
over check so/sth over
over chew sth over
over chuck sth over sth
over circle around (over sa/sth)
over clash (with so/sth) (over sa/sth)
over cloud over
over come over
over come to blows (over sa/sth)
over control over sa/sth
over crawl over sth
over creep over sa/sth
over cross over
over crow over sth
over cry over sa/sth
over cry over spilled milk
over daily over sth
over dash over (for sth)
over dabble over sth
over deed sth (over) to so
over deliberate over sa/sth
over distribute sth over sth
over do so over
over do sth over
over done over
over Don't cry over spilled milk.
over double over
over double so over
over double sth over
over drag one's feet (on or over sth)
over drag sa/sth over to sa/sth
over drape oneself over sth
over draw sth over sa/sth
over draw sth over sa/sth
over drive over (to same place)
over drool (all) over sa/sth
over drop over
over dub sth over
over edge over so
over exercise control over sa/sth
over exercise power over sa/sth
over extend over sa/sth
over exult over sth
over fall (all) over oneself (to do sth)
over fall all over so
over fall head over heels
over fall out (with so) (over sth)
over fail over
over fawn (all) over so
over feel like death warmed over
over feud (with so) (over sa/sth)
over fight over sa/sth
over fight (with so) or some creature (over sa/sth)
over film over
over fire over sth
over fix sth over
over flip over
over flop so/sth over
over flow over sa/sth
over flutter over so/sth
over fly over so/sth
over fog over
over fold sth over
over fork sth over (to so)
over freak out (over sa/sth)
over freeze over
over fret over so/sth
over frost over
over frosted (over)
over fuss over so/sth
over gain dominion over so/sth
over get (oneself) into a stew (over so/sth)
over Go over it!
over get over so/sth
over get over sth
over get over to (same place)
over get sth over (to so)
over Get your ass over here!
over Get your bums over here!
over give oneself over to sa/sth
over give sth over to (so/sth)
over glance over so/sth
over glaze over
over go over sth
over gloat over sth
over gloss over sth
over go ape (over so/sth)
over go over
over go to war (over so/sth)
over (good) working over
over groan over so/sth
over grow over sth
over gush over sa/sth
over haggle (with so) over sa/sth
over Hand it over.
over hand over fist
over hand over hand
over hand over to sth (over so/sth)
over hand sth over
over hang over sa/sth
over hang over so/sth
over hang over so('s) head
over hang sth over so/sth
over hash sth over (with so)
over haul so/sth over to sth
over haul so/sth over the coals
over have a (good) working over
over have it (all) over so/sth (in sth)
over have so over a barrel
over have so over (for sth)
over have sth hanging over one's head
over have words with so (over so/sth)
over head over heels in debt
over head over heels in love (with so)
over heal over
over help so or an animal (get) over sth
over hesitate over sth
over hold so/sth over
over hold sth over so('s) head
over honeymoon is over.
over hover over so/sth
over hunch over
over hush fell over so/sth
over I can't get over sth!
over ice over
over in over one's head (with sa/sth)
over inch over
over invite so over (for sth)
over It is all over with so.
over It's all over but the shouting.
over It's no use crying over spilled milk.
over It's not over till it's over.
over It's written all over one's face.
over jerk so over
over jump all over so
over jump off the deep end (over so/sth)
over jump over sth
over jump over the broomstick
over jut out (over so/sth)
over keel over
over keel sth over
over keep (close) watch (over so/sth)
over keep watch over so/sth
over kick over
over knock one over
over knock over sth
over knock so/sth over
over knock so over (with a feather)
over knock sth sth over
over labor over so/sth
over lament over so/sth
over languish over so/sth
over lap over (stb)
over lay over (some place)
over lay sth over so/sth
over lean over
over leap over sth
over like death warmed over
over linger over sth
over live over so/sth
over live sth over
over loiter over sth
over look like death warmed over
over look over (stb)
over looking over one's shoulder
over lord it over so
over lose one's head (over so/sth)
over lose sleep over so/sth
over make a check over to so/sth
over make a fuss (over so/sth)
over make so over
over make sth over
over mess so over
over mind over matter
over mist over
over move over
over move sth over sth
over null sth over
over muse over so/sth
over My cup runneth over.
over negotiate (with so/sth) (over so/sth)
over niggie (over sth) (with so)
over noodle over sth
over once-over
over once-over-lightly
over once-over a barrel
over one and above sth
over over (and done) with
over Over and out.
over over and over (again)
over over easy
over Over my dead body!
over over so's head
over over the counter
over over the edge
over over the hill
over over the hump
over over the long haul
over over the short haul
Mind your own business.

Men are blind in their own cause.

Let every tub stand on its own bottom.

Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest.

Every man must stand on his own bottom.

Every horse thinks its own pack

{own} own up to
{own} own up (to sth)

{own} paddle one's own canoe

{own} pay one's own way

{own} pick on somebody your own size

{own} pick on someone your own size

{own} place to call one's own

{own} prophet is not without honor save in his own country.

{own} pull one's (own) weight

{own} pull oneself up by one's (own) bootstraps

{own} put one's own house in order

{own} set one's own price

{own} set out on one's own

{own} sign one's own death warrant

{own} stand on one's (own) two feet

{own} stew in one's own juice

{own} strike out on one's own

{own} take one's own life

{own} take the law into one's own hands

{own} talk to hear one's own voice

{own} taste of one's own medicine

{own} tell its own story

{own} tell its own tale

{own} think so is God's own cousin

{own} To each his own.

{own} foot one's own horn

{own} under one's own steam

{own} Virtue is its own reward.

ox strong as an ox

oyster world is one's oyster.

P mind one's p's and q's

pace at a snail's pace

pace change of pace

pace It is the pace that kills.

pace keep pace (with sth)

pace around

pace pace back and forth

pace pace sth off

pace pace sth out

pace pace up and down

pace pick up the pace

pace put one through one's paces

pace put sth through its paces

pack Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest.

pack pack a punch

pack pack a wallop

pack pack down

pack pack it in

pack pack of lies

pack pack off (to sth)

pack pack sosth in

pack pack sosth (in) like sardines

pack pack sosth into sth

pack pack sosth together

pack pack sth away

pack pack sth down

pack pack sth in sth

pack pack sth off (to sth)

pack pack sth up (in sth)

pack pack them in

pack pack up

pack send so packing

package best things come in small packages.

package Good things come in small packages.

package package deal

packet cop a packet

pad pad down (somewhere)

pad pad out

pad pad sth out

pad pad the bill

paddle paddle one's own canoe

paddle up the creek (without a paddle)

page read from the same page

page take a page from so's book

paid put paid to sth

pain double up (with pain)

pain feeling no pain

pain Genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains.

pain give so a pain

pain have growing pains

pain No pain, no gain.

pain pain in the ass

pain pain in the neck

pain pain in the rear

pain racked with pain

pain royal pain

pain share so's pain

pain take (great) pains (to do sth)

pain take pains off sth

pain take pains with so/sth

pain There is no pleasure without pain.

paint about as exciting as watching the paint dry

paint black as one is painted

paint close as two coats of paint

paint devil is not so black as he is painted

paint Do I have to paint (you) a picture?

paint Do I need to paint you a picture?

paint exciting as watching (the) paint dry

paint paint on sth

paint paint over sth

paint paint sth in

paint paint sth onto sth

paint paint sth out

paint paint the town (red)

pair another pair of eyes

pair candidate for a pair of wings

pair fresh pair of eyes

pair look like a candidate for a pair of wings

pair pair off

pair pair up (with so)

pal bosom pal

pal around (with so)

pal pal up (with so)

pally (with so)

Pat 'er there,( pal).

day beyond the pale

day pale around the gills

day pale as a ghost

day pale as death

day pale at sth

day pale beside so/sth

day pale by comparison

day pally (with so)

day palm cross so's palm with silver

day palm grease so's palm

day palm itchy palm

day palm know so/sth like the palm of one's hand

day palm oil so's palm

day palm so/sth (off on so) (as so/sth)

pan flash in the pan

pan go out of the frying pan into the fire
**Phrase-Finder Index**

- pan If ifs and ands were pots and pans (there’d be no work for tinkers’ hands).
- pan jump out of the frying pan into the fire.
- pan out of the frying pan (and) into the fire.
- pan pan across to so/sth.
- pan pan for sth.
- pan pan in (on so/sth).
- pan pan out.
- pan pan over so/sth.
- pancake flat as a pancake.
- pander pander to so/sth.
- Pandora open Pandora’s box.
- pant hit the panic button.
- panic panic at sth.
- panic panic so by sth.
- panic press the panic button.
- pant the panic button.
- pant ants in one’s pants.
- pant beat the pants off (of) so.
- pant bore the pants off of so.
- pant by the seat of one’s pants.
- pant catch one with one’s pants down.
- pant charm the pants off so.
- pant dust so’s pants.
- pant fly by the seat of one’s pants.
- pant frighten the pants off so.
- pant He puts his pants on one leg at a time.
- pant keep one’s pants on.
- pant Keep your pants on!
- pant kick in the (seat of the) pants.
- pant make it by the seat of one’s pants.
- pant pant for air.
- pant pant for so/sth.
- pant pant sth out.
- pant scare the pants off (of) so.
- pant sue the pants off (of) so.
- pant wear the pants (in the family).
- paper can’t carry a tune in a paper sack.
- paper get sth down (on paper).
- paper leave a paper trail.
- paper look good on paper.
- paper make a paper trail.
- paper not worth the paper it’s printed on.
- paper not worth the paper it’s written on.
- paper one’s walking papers.
- paper paper over sth.
- paper paper over the cracks (in sth).
- paper paper trail.
- paper put sth on paper.
- paperhanger busy as a one-armed paperhanger.
- par above par.
- par below par.
- par on par (with so/sth).
- par par for the course.
- par up to par.
- parade parade by (so).
- parade parade so or an animal out.
- parade parade so/sth in front of so/sth.
- parade rain on so’s parade.
- paradise fool’s paradise.
- paradise paradise (on earth).
- parcel parcel so/sth out.
- parcel parcel sth up.
- parcel part and parcel.
- pardon (I) beg your pardon, but...
- pardon if you’ll pardon the expression.
- pardon Never ask pardon before you are accused.
- pardon Pardon (me).
- pardon Pardon me for living!
- pardon Pardon my French.
- pardon pardon so for sth.
- pare pare sth down (to sth).
- pare pare sth off (of) sth.
- park ballpark figure.
- park in park.
- park in the ballpark.
- park out of the ballpark.
- park park it (somewhere).
- parlay parlay sth into sth.
- parley parley with so.
- parol (out) on parol.
- parry thrust and parry.
- parsnip Fine words butter no parsnips.
- part best part of sth.
- part Discretion is the better part of valor.
- part do one’s part.
- part (Even) the best of friends must part.
- part fool and his money are soon parted.
- part for one’s (own) part.
- part for the most part.
- part in part around.
- part in these parts.
- part in those parts.
- part part and parcel.
- part part company (with so).
- part part from so.
- part part in sth.
- part part over sth.
- part part so or an animal from so or an animal.
- part part so’s hair.
- part part with so/sth.
- part parting of the ways.
- part play a big part (in sth).
- part play a bit part.
- part play a large part (in sth).
- part play a part in sth.
- part play take part (in sth).
- part take so’s part.
- partake partake in sth.
- partake partake of sth.
- partial partial to so/sth.
- partial partially sighted.
- partially partially sighted.
- participate participate (in sth) (with so/sth).
- particular ain’t particular.
- particular in particular.
- particular particulars sth.
- partition partition sth into sth.
- partition partition sth off.
- partner partners in crime.
- party certain party.
- party life of the party.
- party party line.
- party party’s over.
- party party to sth.
- party responsible party.
- party throw a party (for so).
- pass All things must pass.
- pass All things will pass.
- pass come to a pretty pass.
- pass come to pass.
- pass cut so off at the pass.
- pass head so off at the pass.
- pass in passing.
- pass just passing through.
- pass let so pass by.
- pass let sth pass.
- pass make a pass at so.
- pass make a pass at sth.
- pass mention so/sth in passing.
- pass *over so’s head.
- pass pass as so/sth.
- pass pass away.
- pass pass by (so/sth).
- pass pass for so/sth.
- pass pass for sth.
- pass pass from sth.
- pass pass gas.
- pass pass in review.
- pass pass into sth.
- pass pass judgment (on so/sth).
- pass pass muster.
- pass pass on.
- pass pass out.
- pass pass over (so/sth).
- pass pass over so’s head.
- pass pass sentence on so.
- pass pass so (on) to so.
- pass pass so/sth by.
- pass pass so/sth off (on so) (as so/sth).
- pass pass so/sth up.
- pass pass sth along (to so).
- pass pass sth around (to so).
- pass pass sth back to so.
- pass pass sth down (to so).
- pass pass sth forward.
- pass pass sth in (to so).
- pass pass sth off.
- pass pass sth on.
- pass pass sth out (to so).
- pass pass sth over (to so).
- pass pass sth to so.
- pass pass the buck.
- pass pass the hat (around) (to so).
- pass pass the time (of day).
- pass pass the time of day (with so).
- pass pass through so.
- pass pass through so’s mind.
- pass pass through sth.
- pass pass under sth.
- pass ships that pass in the night.
- pass with each passing day.
- passion have a passion for so/sth.
- passport passport to sth.
- past age of miracles is past.
- past brush past so/sth.
- past file past (so/sth).
- past fly past (so/sth).
- past get past (so/sth).
- past get sth past (so/sth).
- past go past so/sth.
- past go past sth.
- past in times past.
- past let so (get) past.
- past live in the past.
- past march past so/sth.
- past mill cannot grind with water that is past.
- past not put it past so.
- past past caring.
- past past master at sth.
- past past so’s or sth’s prime.
- past push past (so/sth).
- past slip past so/sth.
- past slip so/sth past sth.
- past struggle so/sth past so/sth.
people all things to all people
people idle people have the least leisure.
people people sth with so
people People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.
people Some people (just) don’t know when to quit.
people split people up
people Times change, people change.
pep pep sq/sth up
pepper pepper sq/sth with sth
perceive perceive sq/sth as sth
percent Genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.
perch perch on sth
perch perch sq/sth on sth
percolate percolate through sth
perfect cook sth to perfection
perfect perfect stranger
perfect picture perfect
perfect Practice makes perfect.
perfection cook sth to perfection
perfectly Do I make myself (perfectly) clear?
perform *old warhorse
perform perform an old warhorse
perform perform sth on sq/sth
perhaps Perhaps a little later.
perish perish from sth
perish perish in sth
perish Perish the thought.
perish perish with sth
perish publish or perish
perk perk so up
perk perk up
perk perk up
permeate permeate sth with sth
permeate permeate through sth
permit Permit me.
permit permit so into sth
permit permit so out of (of sth)
permit permit so through (of sth)
permit permit so up (of sth)
permit permit so up to sth
permit weather permitting
perpetual contented mind is a perpetual feast.
perpetuity in perpetuity
persecute persecute so for sth
persevere persevere at sth
persevere persevere in sth
persevere persevere with sth
persist persist in doing sth
persist persist with sth
person be the last person (to do sth)
person day person
person feel like a new person
person flit from person to person
person have sth on one’s (person)
person in person
person night person
person on one’s person
person person of color
person seem like the last person
person shuttle sq/sth from person to person
personally take sth personally
perspective from my perspective
perspective in perspective
perspective perspective on sth
perspective put sth into perspective
perspiration Genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.
persuade persuade so of sth
persuade persuade so to do sth
persuasion of the persuasion that...
pertain pertain to sq/sth
pester pester so about sq/sth
pester pester so into sth
pester pester so out of sth
pester pester so with sth
pester pester the life out of so
pet pet hate
pet pet peeve
pet teacher’s pet
petard hoist with one’s own petard
Pete For Pete’s sake!
Pete Honest to Pete.
peter peter out
Peter rob Peter to pay Paul
petition petition sq/sth for sth
phase phase sq/sth into sth
phase phase sq/sth out of sth
phone get on the phone
phone Hold the phone.
phone on the phone
phone phone in (to sq/sth)
phone phone so up
phone phone sth in (to sq/sth)
phone Who’s on the phone?
phony phony as a three-dollar bill
photo photo opportunity
physical physical (with sq)
physician Physician, heal thyself.
piano the sth sth out (on the piano)
pick cherry-pick sth
pick close enough to use the same toothpick
pick easy pickings
pick have a bone to pick (with so)
pick need a pick-me-up
pick pick a hitchhiker (with so)
pick pick a lock
pick pick a quarrel (with so)
pick and choose
pick at sq/sth
pick at sth
pick hole sth in
pick hole sth
pick of sth
pick on somebody your own size
pick on sq/sth
pick on someone your own size
pick one’s way through sth
pick sq/sth apart
pick pick sq/sth from sq/sth
pick pick sq/sth off
pick pick sq/sth out
pick pick sq/sth to pieces
pick pick so’s brain(s)
pick pick so up
pick pick sth away
pick pick sth over
pick pick sth to pieces
pick pick sth up
pick up
pick picked over
pick take one’s pick of sq/sth
pick want a pick-me-up
pickle in a (pretty) pickle
pickle pretty pickle
picnic It’s no picnic!
picnic one sandwich short of a picnic
picture big picture
picture Do I have to paint (you) a picture?
picture Do I need to paint you a picture?
picture (Do you) get the picture?
picture Get the picture?
picture in the picture
picture keep so in the picture
picture know the big picture
picture out of the picture
picture picture is worth a thousand words.
picture picture of (good) health
picture picture perfect
picture picture so as sq/sth
picture picture so in sth
picture pretty as a picture
picture put so in the picture
picture see the big picture
picture show so the big picture
picture (very) picture of sth
piddle piddle sth away
pie American as apple pie
pie cow pie
pie cut the pie up
pie easy as (apple) pie
pie eat humble pie
pie have a finger in the pie
pie have one’s finger in too many pies
pie in apple-pie order
pie motherhood and apple pie
pie pie in the sky
pie put sth in apple-pie order
piece all in one piece
piece blow sq/sth to pieces
piece break sth to pieces
piece dash sth to pieces
piece down the road a piece
piece fall to pieces
piece fur piece
piece give so a piece of one’s mind
piece go to pieces
piece pick sq/sth to pieces
piece pick sth to pieces
piece pick up the pieces (of sth)
piece piece of cake
piece piece of the action
piece piece of sth out
piece piece sth together
piece pull sq/sth to pieces
piece say one’s piece
piece speak one’s piece
piece take sth to pieces
piece tear sq/sth to pieces
piece that beats sq/sth all to pieces
piece thrill so to pieces
piece thrilled to pieces
piece tickle so to pieces
piece villain of the piece
piece Want a piece of me?
piece (You) want a piece of me?
piecrust Promises are like piecrust, made to be broken.
pier Take a long walk off a short pier.
pierce pierce through sth
pierce piercing scream
pig ain’t fittin’ to roll with a pig
pig buy a pig in a poke
pig fat as a pig
pig If that don’t beat a pig a-pecking!
pig In a pig's ass!
pig In a pig's ear!
pig In a pig's eye!
pig like pigs to the slaughter
pig like stealing acorns from a blind pig
pig make a pig of oneself
pig pig out (on sth)
pig serve as a guinea pig
pigeon stool (pigeon)
pikestaff plain as a pikestaff
pile make a pile
pile pile in(to) sth
pile pile off (of sth)
pile pile on(to) sth
pile pile out (of sth)
pile pile so into sth
pile pile so/th on(to) so/th
pile pile up
pile pile the work on (so)
pile pile up
pile pilfer from so/th
pile pilfer pilfer from so/th
pile pilfer sighth from so/th
pile小时内 to swallow
pile on the pill
pillar from pillar to post
pillar pillar of strength
pillar pillar of support
pillar send so from pillar to post
pills more sighth than Carter has liver
pilot pilot so/th through (sith)
pilot pilot sith into sith
pilot pilot sith out of sith
pimple break out in (in pimples)
pimple goose pimples
pin bright as a new pin
pin get one's ears pinned back
pin neat as a pin
pin on pins and needles
pin pin one's faith on so/th
pin pin one's hopes on so/th
pin pin so down (on sith)
pin pin so/d against sth
pin pin so/d beneath so/th or an animal
pin pin so/d under so/th
pin pin so's ears back
pin pin sith back
pin pin sith down
pin pin sith on so
pin pin sith (on)to sith
pin pin sith up
pin pins and needles
pin that so quiet you could hear a pin drop
pin that so still you could hear a pin drop
pinch feel pinched
pinch feel the pinch
pinch in a pinch
pinch pinch and scrape
pinch pinch so for sith
pinch pinch sith back
pinch pinch sith from so/th
pinch pinch sith off
pinch pinch-hit for so
pinch take sith with a pinch of salt
pine pine after so/th
pine pine away (after so/th)
pine pine for so/th
pine pine over so/th
pink in the pink (of condition)
pink in the pink (of health)
pink seeing pink elephants
pink seeing pink spiders
pink tickle so pink
pink tickled pink
pint You cannot get a quart into a pint pot.
pip piped (up)
pipe lead-pipe cinch
pipe pipe down
pipe pipe dream
pipe pipe sth away
pipe pipe sith from some place (to some place)
pipe pipe sith into some place
pipe pipe up (with sth)
pipe piping hot
pipe Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
pipe set of pipes
pipeliner in the pipeline
piper He who pays the piper calls the tune.
piper pay the piper
pique in a pique
pique pique's curiosity
pique pique's interest
piss don't have a pint to piss in (or a window to throw it out of)
piss piss so off
piss pissed (off)
pit pit of one's stomach
pit pit one's shoulder to the wheel
pit pit so/d against so/th
pitch pitch black as pitch
pitch in there pitching
pitch pitch a tent
pitch pitch a tent
pitch pitch black
pitch pitch camp
pitch pitch dark
pitch pitch forward
pitch pitch in (and help) (with sth)
pitch pitch in and throw (with sth)
pitch pitch so a curve(ball)
pitch pitch so/d out of sth
pitch pitch so/d over sth
pitch pitch so/d sth
pitch pitch so/d sth
pitch pitch sth out
pitch pitch the (the) woo
pitcher Little pitchers have big ears.
pitchfork it's raining pitchforks (and hammer handles).
pity For pity's sake!
pity pity have pity on so or an animal
pity pity's more the pity
pity pity take pity on (so or an animal)
pity What a pity!
pivot pivot on sth
place adjourn to some place
place admit so (in)to some place
place allow so/th into a place
place appear at some place
place arrive (some place) from some other place
place ask so (in)to some place
place banish so/th from some place
place bar so from some place
place between a rock and a hard place
place bring so/th (in)to some place
place bring so over from some place
place bust ass out of some place
place bust so out of some place
place bust about some place
place buzz so into a place
place call at some place
place change places with so
place chase so or an animal in(to) some place
place chase so/th (away) from some place
place chase so/th out of some place
place chuck so out of some place
place clap so in(to) some place
place clear so/th out of some place
place come from some place
place cross from some place to some place
place crowd in(to) some place
place dispatch so from some place
place Don't spend it all in one place.
place draw so/th out of some place
place eject so from some place
place evict so from some place
place fall in(to) place
place feel out of place
place flush so/th out of some place
place go places
place haul sth (from some place) to some place
place have a place in sth
place have one's heart in the right place
place hound so from some place
place in place
place in so else's place
place in the first place
place in the right place at the right time
place in the second place
place in the wrong place at the wrong time
place Is there some place I can wash up?
place jumping-off place
place keep one in one's place
place knock sth out of place
place know one's place
place Let's bump this place!
place Lightning never strikes (the same place) twice.
place migrate between some place and some place else
place Nice place you have here.
place not one's place
place One cannot be in two places at once.
place one's heart is in the right place
place one's last resting place
place order so out of some place
place other place out at some place
place out of place
place place a price on one's head
place place a strain on so/th
place place an order
place place for everything, and everything in its place.
place place of business
place place of concealment
place place one's trust in so/th
place place so
place place so by so/th
place place so in an awkward position
place place so on a pedestal
place place so with so/th
place place sth aside
place place sth at a premium
place place sth back
place place sth down (on sth)
place place sth in sth
place place sth under so/th
place place sth up against sth
place
place sth with sth
place the blame on sth (for sth)
place to call one's own
place pull sth into a place
place put one in one's place
place put oneself in someone else's place
place put sth into a place
place quit a place
place race so to some place
place repatriate so to some place
place route so/sth out of some place
place run up to some place
place see so to some place
place seem out of place
place send so over (to) some place
place set foot in some place
place set sth in a place
place shoot a place up
place sign so out of some place
place sign sth out of some place
place smuggle so/sth into some place
place smuggle so/sth out of some place
place starve so or an animal out of some place
place stop short of a place
place stranger to so or some place
place take oneself off some place
place take place
place take sth into some place
place talk of a place
place There is a time and a place for everything
place There's no place like home.
place ticket so for some place
place track sth into some place
place uproot so from some place
place usher so/sth into some place
place usher so/sth out of some place
place wide place in the road
place woman's place is in the home.
place Your place or mine?
plague avoid so/sth like the plague
plague enough sth to plague a saint
plague plague so/sth with sth
plain in plain English
plain in plain language
plain plain and simple
plain plain as a pikestaff
plain plain as day
plain put sth plainly
plain say sth in plain English
plain say sth in plain language
plain write sth in plain English
plan best-laid plans of mice and men
plaster plaster sth up
plaster plaster sth with sth
plate clean one's plate
plate clean (up) one's plate
plate full plate
plate have too much on one's plate
plate step up to the plate
plateau hit a plateau
platter on a silver platter
platter present sth on a silver platter
platter serve sth on a silver platter
platter want sth on a silver platter
play All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
play at play
play bring sth into play
play child's play
play come into play
play foul play
play game that two can play
play Go play in the traffic.
play If you play with fire you get burned.
play in play
play level playing field
play level the (playing) field
play make a play (for so)
play not playing with a full deck
play *old warhorse
play play a big part (in sth)
play play a bit part
play play a joke on so
play play a large part (in sth)
play play a part in sth
play play a prank on so
play play a role in sth
play play a trick on so
play play about (with so/sth)
play play against so/sth
play play along (with so/sth)
play play an old warhorse
play play around (with so/sth)
play play at full blast
play play at sth
play play ball with so
play play both ends (against the middle)
play play by ear
play play by the book
play play cat and mouse with so
play play dead
play play down to so
play play dumb
play play fair
play play fast and loose (with so/sth)
play play first chair
play play footsie with so
play play for keeps
play play for sth
play play for time
play play freeze-out
play play games (with so)
play play hard to get
play play hardball (with so)
play play havoc with so/sth
play play hell with so/sth
play play hob with so/sth
play play hooky
play play ignorant
play play in sth
play play in the big leagues
play play innocent
play play into so's hands
play play it cool
play play it for all it's worth
play play it safe
play play like so/sth
play play on
play play one's cards close to one's chest
play play one's cards right
play play one's cards well
play play one's heart out
play play one's trump card
play play out
play play politics
play play possum
play play second fiddle (to so)
play play so against so else
play play so for a fool
play play so off against so else
play play so/sth down
play play so/sth up
play play sth as sth
play play sth at full blast
play play sth back (to so)
play play sth by ear
play play sth off
play play sth on so/sth
play play sth out
play play sth over
play play sth through
play play sth up
play play sth with so/sth
play play (the) devil's advocate
play play the devil with sth
play play the field
play play the fool
play play the heavy
play play the horses
play play the ponies
play play the race card
play play the (stock) market
play play through
play play to so/sth
play play to the crowd
play play to the gallery
play play tricks on so
play play up to so
play play (up)on sth
play play with a full deck
play play with fire
play play with so/sth
play play-by-play description
play played out
play power play
play put sth back in play
play put sth in play
play roll over and play dead
play team player
play *the race card
play There's many a good tune played on an old fiddle.
play Turnabout is fair play.
play Two can play (at) this game (as well as one).
play way it plays
play When the cat's away, the mice will play
plea cop a plea
plead plead for so
plead plead for sth
plead plead guilty to sth
plead plead to sth
plead plead with so
please Again, please.
please Can you excuse us, please?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>phrase</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pony dog and pony show</td>
<td>possible everything humanly possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pony play the ponies</td>
<td>possible so far as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pook pook out</td>
<td>possible soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poop poop out</td>
<td>possum play possum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poop poop so/sh out</td>
<td>post by return post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poop pooped (out)</td>
<td>post deaf as a post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poop in poor taste</td>
<td>post from pillar to post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor It is a poor heart that never</td>
<td>keep so posted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor land so poor it wouldn’t even</td>
<td>post so somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor land too poor to raise a racket on</td>
<td>post sth on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor one law for the rich and another for the poor</td>
<td>post sth to to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor poor as a church mouse</td>
<td>post sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor poor but clean</td>
<td>post send so from pillar to post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poorhouse end up in the poorhouse</td>
<td>postage postage and handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poorhouse in the poorhouse</td>
<td>postal go postal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poorhouse live in the poorhouse</td>
<td>poster poster child (for sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop around (for a visit)</td>
<td>postpone postpone sth until sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop back (for sth)</td>
<td>posture posture as sq/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop by (for a visit)</td>
<td>pot don’t have a pot to piss in (or a window to throw it out of)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop down (for a visit)</td>
<td>pot go to pot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop for sth</td>
<td>pot hit the jackpot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop in (for a visit)</td>
<td>pot if five and lands were pots and pans (there’d be no work for tinkers’ hands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop in(to sth)</td>
<td>pot pot is calling the kettle black.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop off</td>
<td>pot pot of gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop one’s cork</td>
<td>pot pot sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop out of (sth)</td>
<td>pot sweeten the pot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop over (for a visit)</td>
<td>pot temper in a teapot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop some tops</td>
<td>pot That’s the pot calling the kettle black.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop so off</td>
<td>pot watched pot never boils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop so on sth</td>
<td>pot You cannot get a quart into a pint pot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop sth into sth</td>
<td>potato couch potato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop sth on(to) sth</td>
<td>potato drop sq/sh like a hot potato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop sth out of sth</td>
<td>potato small potatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop up</td>
<td>potential realize one’s potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop the question</td>
<td>potshot take a potshot at sq/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop pop up</td>
<td>pounce pounce (up)on sq/sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop take a pop at so</td>
<td>pound ounce of common sense is worth a pound of theory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop What’s poppin’?</td>
<td>pound ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop corn busy as popcorn on a skillet</td>
<td>pound ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poppy red as a poppy</td>
<td>pound owe sq/sh a pound of flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>porcelain bow to the porcelain altar</td>
<td>pound pay sq/sh a pound of flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>porcelain pray to the porcelain god</td>
<td>pound penny-wise and pound-foolish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pore air one’s pores</td>
<td>pound pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pore pore over sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pork pork out (on sth)</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pork any port in a storm</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portent portent of things to come</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portion portion sth out</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portrait sit for one’s portrait</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portray portray so as sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portray portray sq/sh as so</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pose pose a question</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pose pose as so</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pose pose for sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pose strike a pose</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>position come to the position with sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>position jockey for position</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>position jockey sq/sh into position</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>position make sq/sh’s position clear</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>position place so in an awkward position</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>position put so in an awkward position</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possess possessed by sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possess possessed of sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possession come into sq/sh’s possession</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possession in sq/sh’s possession</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possession Possession is nine-tenths of the law.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possession take possession (of sth)</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possible as far as possible</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound (on sq/sh)</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound forth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound in(to sth)</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound it on thick</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound money down the drain</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound oil on troubled water(s)</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound one’s heart out to so</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound oneself into sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound out (of sth)</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound out one’s soul</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound back in(to sth)</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound into sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound off (of) sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound on(to) sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound out on(to) sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound over sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound through sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound through sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pound with rain</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pouring rain</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pound pout about sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poverty Poverty is no sin.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poverty Poverty is a crime.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poverty When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder Can I use your powder room?</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder Could I use your powder room?</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder Keep your powder dry.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder May I use your powder room?</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder powder one’s face</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder powder powder</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder powder powder</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder Powder Put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder sitting on a powder keg</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder take a powder</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>powder Absolute power corrupts absolutely.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power balance of power</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power come into power</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power do so a power of good</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power exercise power over sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power fall from power</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power give on a power trip</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power have no staying power</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power in power</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power Knowledge is power.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power Money is power.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power More power to you!</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power on a power trip</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power power behind the throne</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power power play</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power power sth up</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power power sth with sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power power up</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power powers that be</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power put into power</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pox pox on sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practical for all practical purposes</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice go out of practice</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice in practice</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice make a practice of sth</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice make sth a practice</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice out of practice</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice Practice makes perfect.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice practice (up)on sq/sh</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice Practice what you preach.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice put sth into practice</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>praise damn sq/sh with faint praise</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>praise praise sq/sh to the skies</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>praise Self-praise is no recommendation.</td>
<td>pound pound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pul
pull
pull the plug (on sth)
pull
pull the rug out (from under so)
pull
pull up stakes
pull
pull up a chair.
pull
pull (up) alongside ((of) so/soth)
pull
pull up (somewhere)
pull
purge
purge
purge s/o's eyes
purge
purge
purge (some) iron
purge
purge so for sth
purge
purge so up (for sth)
purge
purge sth into so/soth
purge
purge sth out of so/soth
purge
purge sth through sth
purge
purge sth up
purge
pumped (up)
purp
pump
pump some pumpkins
pump
pump beat so to the punch
pump
pump get one's ticket punched
pump
pump pack a punch
pump
pump pleased as Punch
pump
pump pull one's punches
pump
pump punch a hole in sth
pump
pump punch in
pump
pump punch out
pump
pump punch so in sth
pump
pump punch so on sth
pump
pump punch so out
pump
pump punch so's lights out
pump
pump punch sth down
pump
pump punch sth in
pump
pump punch sth into sth
pump
pump punch sth out of sth
pump
pump punch sth up
pump
pump roll with the punches
pump
pump take a punch at so
pump
pump throw a punch
pump
punch a punch
punch
punctuality Punctuality is the soul of business.
pUNCTUATE punctuate sth with sth
pun
punish punish so by sth
pun
punish so for sth
pun
punish so with sth
punishment
punishment glutton for punishment
punk punk out
punny feeling (kinda) puny
pup
pup meander than a junkyard dog (with fourteen sucking pups)
puppy puppet love
purchase purchase sth for so
pure
pure and simple
pure
pure as the driven snow
pure
pure luck
purge bingle and purge
purge
purge so/soth from sth
purge
purge so/soth of so/soth
purge
purge sth away
purpose
purpose accidentally-on-purpose
purpose
purpose answer so's purpose
purpose
purpose at cross-purposes
purpose
purpose devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose.
purpose
purpose devil can quote Scripture for his own purpose.
purpose
purpose for all intents and purposes
purposes
purpose for all practical purposes
purpose
purpose on purpose
purpose
purpose serve a (useful) purpose
purpose
purpose serve so's purpose
purr
purr like a cat
purr
purr like a kitten
purse
purse control the purse strings
purse
purse He that hath a full purse never wanted a friend.
purse
purse heavy purse makes a light heart.
purse
purse hold the purse strings
purse
purse light makes a heavy heart.
purse
purse Little and often fills the purse.
purse
purse purge sth up
purse
purse You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.
purp
pursuit in pursuit of sth
push
push Don't push (me)!
push
push () have to push off.
push
push if push comes to shove
push
push ahead (with sth)
push
push ahead
push
push along
push
push at so/soth
push
push down on sth
push
push for sth
push
push forward
push
push off
push
push on so/soth
push
push on to so/soth
push
push on with (st)
push
push one's luck
push
push oneself (away) (from sth)
push
push oneself by (so/soth)
push
push oneself off (on sth)
push
push oneself out
push
push oneself about
push
push oneself across (st)
push
push oneself ahead of so
push
push oneself along
push
push oneself around
push
push oneself aside
push
push oneself away (from so/sth)
push
push oneself back (from so/sth)
push
push oneself down
push
push oneself forward
push
push oneself into so/soth
push
push oneself off (of) so/soth
push
push oneself on (ahead) (of so/soth)
push
push oneself or an animal into sth
push
push oneself out of sth
push
push oneself over
push
push oneself to so/soth
push
push to the wall
push
push too far
push
push up against the wall
push
push sth in
push
push sth off on(to) so
push
push sth through (st)
push
push sth to
push
push sth (up) against so/soth
push
push the envelope
push
push the panic button
push
push through (st)
push
push toward so/soth
push
push toward so/soth
push
push (up) against so/soth
push
push up on sth
push
push for money
push
push pushed for time
push
push pushing up (the) daisies
push
push seem pushed for time
push
push *up against the wall
push
push when push comes to shove
pushy
pushyfoot pushyfoot around
put
put Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
put
put Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today.
put
put Don't put the cart before the horse.
put
put hard put (to do sth)
put
put He puts his pants on one leg at a time.
put
put I'll put a stop to that.
put
put *in apple-pie order
put
put *in harm's way
put
put *in order
put
put *in perspective
put
put *in place
put
put *in plain language
put
put *in play
put
put *in the gutter
put
put *in writing
put
put *lid on sth
put
put not put (a lot) of stock in sth
put
put not it past so
put
put not to put too fine a point on it
put
put *off one's game
put
put *on a pedestal
put
put *on so's shoulders
put
put *on the back burner
put
put *on the front burner
put
put *on the market
put
put *out in the cold
put
put a bee in so's bonnet (about so/soth)
put
put a cap on sth
put
put a contract out on so
put
put a damper on sth
put
put a dog off the scent
put
put a hold on sth
put
put a horse to pasture
put
put a lid on sth
put
put a plug in (for so/soth)
put
put a premium on sth
put
put a price on one's head
put
put a smile on so's face
put
put a sock in it!
put
put a spin on sth
put
put a stop to sth
put
put a strain on so/soth
put
put all one's eggs in one basket
put
put an amount of time in on sth
put
put an animal down
put
put an animal out
put
put an end to sth
put
put another way
put
put balls on sth
put
Put 'em up!
put
Put 'er there(, pal).
put
put hair on so's chest
put
put ideas into so's head
put
put in a good word (for so)
put
put in a hard day at work
put
put in an appearance (at sth)
put
put in for sth
put
put in some place
put
put it on the line
put
put money up (for sth)
put
put off by so/soth
put
put on
put one at (one's) ease
put one foot in front of the other
put one in one's place
put one in over one's head
put one off one's game
put one off one's stride
put one on one's feet
put one on one's guard
put one on one's honor
put one out of (one's) misery
put one over on so
put one's back (in) to sth
put one's best foot forward
put one's cards on the table
put one's dibs on sth
put one's face on
put one's feet up
put one's finger on sth
put one's foot down (about so/sth)
put one's foot in it
put one's foot in one's mouth
put one's hair up
put one's hand to the plow
put one's hand up
put one's hands on so/sth or an animal
put one's head on the block (for so/sth)
put one's heart (and soul) into sth
put one's house in order
put one's mind to sth
put one's money on so/sth (to do sth)
put one's neck on the line
put one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
put one's nose out of joint
put one's nose to the grindstone
put one's oar in
put one's own house in order
put one's thinking cap on
put one's trust in so/sth
put one's two cents' worth in
put one through one's paces
put oneself in so else's place
put one's self out
put one out
put paid to sth
put people or things together
put people's heads together
put pressure on sth
put roots down (some place)
put some creature out of its misery
put some distance between so and oneself or sth
put some sweet lines on so
put some teeth into sth
put some (some) years on so/sth
put so across (in a good way)
put so away
put so behind bars
put so behind the eight ball
put so by so/sth
put so down as sth bad
put so down (for sth)
put so in
put so in(side) (st)
put so into power
put so into the doghouse
put so into the doldrums
put so into the gutter
put so off
put so on
put so onto so/sth
put so or an animal out of sth
put so or so/th sth
put so or so/small creature to death
put so or some creature out in the cold
put so/so above so/so
put so/so ahead (of so/so)
put so/so among so/so
put so/so at loose ends
put so/so at so's disposal
put so/so before so/so
put so/so down
put so/so forward
put so/so in
put so/so into so/so's jeopardy
put so/so into order
put so/so into so/so
put so/so into the middle of nowhere
put so/so on hold
put so/so on ice
put so/so on sth
put so/so on track
put so/so out of one's mind
put so/so out of the way
put so/so over
put so/so through (to so)
put so/so to the test
put so/so under so/sth
put so/so with so
put so over a barrel
put so's back up
put so's eye out
put so's nose out of joint
put so through sth
put so through the mill
put so through the wringer
put so to bed
put so to shame
put so to sleep
put so under
put so up
put so wise to so/sth
put sth across (to so)
put sth aside
put sth at a premium
put sth at an amount
put sth at so's door
put sth away
put sth back
put sth behind one
put sth behind so/sth
put sth by
put sth down
put sth (st) forth
put sth forward
put sth in
put sth in(side) so/sth
put sth into effect
put sth into orbit
put sth into order
put sth into perspective
put sth into place
put sth into practice
put sth in(to) print
put sth in(to) service
put sth in(to) so/so's head
put sth into use
put sth into words
put sth off
put sth on
put sth out
put sth over
put sth plain
put sth right
put sth straight
put sth through its paces
put sth to bed
put sth to (good) use
put sth to rest
put sth together
put sth under pressure
put sth up
put sth teeth in(to) sth
Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
put the arm on so
put the bite on so
put the blame on so/sth
put the brakes on so/sth
put the cart before the horse
put the chill on so
put the clamps on so/sth
put the fear of God in(to) so
put the feed bag on
put the finger on so
put the freeze on so
put the hard word on so
put the heat on
put the kibosh on so/sth
put the make on so
put the moves on so
put the nose-bag on
put the pedal to the metal
put (the) pressure on so/sth
put the screws on so/sth
put the skids on so/sth
put the skins under so/sth
put the squeeze on
put the touch on so
put to bed with a shovel
put to it
put too fine a point on sth
put two and two together
put up a (brave) front
put up a fight
put up a struggle
put up one's dukes
put up or shut up!
put up with so/sth
put upon by so
put wear (and tear) on sth
put weight on
put words in(to) so/sth's mouth
put Your money where your mouth is!
put Your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.
put-up job
put stay put
put *through the mill
put to it another way
put to it mildly
put *under a spell
put *under arrest
put *under pressure
put *up for auction
put *up for sale
You cannot put new wine in old bottles.
putt putt along
putter putter about
putter putter around
putty putty in so/sth's hands
putty seem like putty in so/sth's hands
putz putz around
puzzle puzzle over so/sth
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>puzzle</strong> puzzle sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q mind one's p's and q's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QT on the QT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quail quail at so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quail quail before so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quake quake in one's boots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quake quake with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qualify qualify as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qualify qualify for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qualify qualify so as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qualify qualify so for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quality quality time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qualm cause qualms (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qualm qualms (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quandary in a quandary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quantity unknown quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarrel It takes two to make a quarrel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarrel patch a quarrel up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarrel pick a quarrel (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarrel quarrel (with so) (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarrel quarrel (with so) (over so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quart You cannot get a quart into a pint pot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarter drawn and quartered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarter give so no quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarter grant so no quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarter have so drawn and quartered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Queen's English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>queer queer as a (church) mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quest in quest of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quest quest for so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question Ask no questions and hear no lies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question beg the question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question beside the question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question bombard so with questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question bring sth into question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question burning question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question call so/sth into question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question field questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question leading question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question Next question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question no questions asked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question open to question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question out of the question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question pop the question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question pose a question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question question of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question question so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question question so at great length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question Shoot first, ask questions later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question sixty-four-dollar question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question There are two sides to every question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question without question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>queue queue up (for sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quibble quibble (about so/sth) (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick cut so to the quick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick He gives twice who gives quickly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick make a quick buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick and dirty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick as a flash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick as a wink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick as (greased) lightning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick like a bunny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick off the mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick on the draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick on the trigger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick on the uptake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quick temper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quicker than hell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick quicker than you can say Jack Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet Be quiet!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet keep quiet (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet keep so/sth quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet keep sth quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet Let's go somewhere where it's (more) quiet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quiet as a (church) mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quiet as the grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quiet down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quiet so or an animal down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet so quiet you could hear a pin drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quip about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet Church ain't out till they quiet singing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet Don't quit trying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet Don't quit your day job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quit a place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quit on so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quit over so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quit while one is ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet Some people (just) don't know when to quit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet cause (quite) a stir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet I didn't (quite) catch that (last) remark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet I'm having quite a time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet It doesn't quite suit me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quite a bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quite a few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quite a lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quite a number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quite a sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet quite something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet speaking (quite) candidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet (speaking) (quite) frankly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet take (quite) a toll (on so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet This doesn't quite suit me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quits call it quits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiver quiver with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiz quiz out of (sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiz quiz so about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiz quiz so on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quote devil can quote Scripture for his own purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quote *out of context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quote put sth in quotes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quote quote a price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quote quote so/soh out of context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quote quote so/soh from so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quote quote, unquote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rabbit knee-high to a jackrabbit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raccoon in a coon's age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race deal the race card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race off to the races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race play the race card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race against so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race against time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race into so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race so for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race so to some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race through so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race through sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race to so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race up to so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race race with so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race rat race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race run the good race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race Slow and steady wins the race.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race the race card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race tight race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race use the race card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race go to rack and ruin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race rack one's (brain) (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race rack out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race rack sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race racked with pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>race use your head for more than a hatrack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>racket land too poor to raise a racket on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>radiate radiate from so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raffle raffle sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag chew the rag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag from rags to riches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag in rags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag on the rag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag rag on so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag rag out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag rag so about so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag run so ragged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag talk so ragged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage all the rage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage bristle with rage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage fly into a rage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage rage against so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage rage at so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage rage out of control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage rage over so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage rage through so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage run so ragged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rag rag so about so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage run so ragged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rage talk so ragged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rail rail against so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rail rail at so (about sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>railroad railroad so into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>railroad railroad sth through (sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain Charge it to the dust and let the rain settle it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain come in out of the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain come rain or (come) shine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain come rain or shine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain doesn't have enough sense to come in out of the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain hold sth back for a rainy day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain It never rains but it pours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain It's raining cats and dogs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain It's raining pitchforks and hammer handles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain keep sth for a rainy day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain not know enough to come in out of the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain pour with rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain pouring rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain put sth aside for a rainy day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain cats and dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain check (on sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain down on so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain Slow and steady wins the race.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain on so/soh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain on so's parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain or shine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain sth down (on so/soh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rain rain (up) on so/soh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Phrase-Finder Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>right</th>
<th>hit the nail (right) on the head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hold one's mouth the right way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(I) can't rightly say.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I don't rightly know.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(I'll) be right there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(I'll) be right with you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I'll get right on it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in one's right mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in the right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is that right?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>jog to the right or left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>keep on the right side of so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>keep on the right(-hand) side (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>keep so/sth on (the) (right) track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>left and right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>make sth right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Might makes right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not right now, thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>off the right foot (with so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'on so's heels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on the right track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>one's heart is in the right place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>play one's cards right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>put sth right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>read one's rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right and left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right as rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right at a certain time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right down so's alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right in the kisser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right off the bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(right) off the top of one's head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Right on!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right on so's heels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right side up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right stuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(right) under so's (very) nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right up so's alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right-of-way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sail (right) through sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>say sth (right) to so's face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>serve so right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>set sth right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sit right with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>step right up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>straighten up and fly right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>strike the right note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Things will work out (all right).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>turn out (all right)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two wrongs do not make a right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walk right in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walk (right) into a trap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walk (right) into so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walk right up (to so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>when it comes right down to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>whiz (right) through sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>within one's rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>work out (all right)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(You) took the words right out of my mouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rightly</td>
<td>(!) can't rightly say.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rightly</td>
<td>I don't rightly know.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rightly</td>
<td>All rightly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rightly</td>
<td>All right(y) already!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rile rile so up</th>
<th>Riley lead the life of Riley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riley live the life of Riley</td>
<td>ring (dead) ringer (for so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring Give me a ring.</td>
<td>ring give so a ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring have a familiar ring (to it)</td>
<td>ring like a three-ring circus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring like a (dead) ringer (for so)</td>
<td>ring one's ears are ringing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring a bell</td>
<td>ring ring around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring back</td>
<td>ring ring in so's ears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring in so's mind</td>
<td>ring ring in the new year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring off the hook</td>
<td>ring ring out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring so back</td>
<td>ring ring so up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring sh up</td>
<td>ring ring the bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring the bell</td>
<td>ring ring the curtain down (on sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring the curtain up</td>
<td>ring ring true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring ring with sth</td>
<td>ring run rings around so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring throw one's hat in the ring</td>
<td>ring toss one's hat into the ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ringer (dead) ringer (for so)</td>
<td>ringer look like a (dead) ringer (for so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rinse rinse so/sth down</td>
<td>rinse rinse so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rinse rinse so's mouth out (with soap)</td>
<td>rinse rinse sth down (with sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rinse rinse sth down</td>
<td>rinse rinse sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rinse rinse sth with sth</td>
<td>riot read so the riot act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>riot riot color</td>
<td>riot run riot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip Let her rip!</td>
<td>rip rip into so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip into so/sth</td>
<td>rip rip off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip off</td>
<td>rip rip so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip so off</td>
<td>rip rip so/sh apart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip so/sh apart</td>
<td>rip rip so/sh to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip so/sh to sth</td>
<td>rip rip so/sh up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip sth away (from so)</td>
<td>rip rip sth away (from sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip sth away (from sth)</td>
<td>rip rip sth in half</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip sth in half</td>
<td>rip rip sth in two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip sth in two</td>
<td>rip rip sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip sth out of so/sth</td>
<td>rip rip sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip sth up</td>
<td>rip (rip-)off artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rip (rip-)off artist</td>
<td>rip rivets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rivets</td>
<td>rinse rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rivet riveted to the ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road All roads lead to Rome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road down one for the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road down the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road get out of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road get the show on the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road hit the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road (I'd) better hit the road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road in the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road (It's) time to hit the road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road (I've) got to hit the road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road on the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road one for the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road road hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road road to hell is paved with good intentions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road rocky road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road smash the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road take one for the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road There is no royal road to learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road where the rubber meets the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road wide place in the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road roam about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road keep it down (to a dull roar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road roam away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road roam away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road roam sh out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road rob daylight robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>road rise gain the new year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rise to the top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rise to the top of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk risk of showers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk risk of thunderstorms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk risk one's neck (to do sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk risk sth on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk risk of showers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk run a risk (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk run the risk (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>risk take a risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>ritz put on the ritz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rival rival so in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>river sail up a river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>river sell so down the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>river send so up (the river)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>river up the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rivet mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rivet one's gaze on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rivet one's glare on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rivet one's attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rivet rivet so on (to) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivets (on(to)) sth</td>
<td>rivet rivet so on (to) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rivet rivet rivet to the ground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road All roads lead to Rome.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road down one for the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road down the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road end of the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road get out of the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road get the show on the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road hit the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road (I'd) better hit the road.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road in the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road (It's) time to hit the road.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road (I've) got to hit the road.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road on the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road one for the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road road hog</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road road to hell is paved with good intentions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road rocky road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road smash the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road take one for the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road There is no royal road to learning.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road where the rubber meets the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road wide place in the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road roam about</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road keep it down (to a dull roar)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road roam away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road roam away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road roam sh out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road rob daylight robbery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrase-Finder Index</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rob highway robbery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rob rob Peter to pay Paul</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rob rob so blind</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rob rob so of sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rob rob the cradle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>robbery daylight robbery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>robbery highway robbery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>robin all around Robin Hood’s barn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson before you can say Jack Robinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson quicker than you can say Jack Robinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock between a rock and a hard place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock get one’s rocks off (on sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock hard as a rock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock have rocks in one’s head</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock hit (rock) bottom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock Let’s rock and roll!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock on the rocks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock reach (rock) bottom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock rock around</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock (rock) bottom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock rock so to sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock rock the boat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock rocky road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock solid as a rock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock steady as a rock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rocker off one’s rocker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rocket rocket (in)to sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rocket rocket sth into sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rocky rocky road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rod Spare the rod and spoil the child.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Roger (wilco).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>role play a role in sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roller ain’t rollin’ to roll with a pig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll awkward as a cow on roller skates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll call (the) roll</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll easy as rolling off a log</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll get rolling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll get the ball rolling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll heads will roll</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll high roller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll keep the ball rolling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll leave them rolling in the aisles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll Let it roll!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll Let’s rock and roll!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll on a roll</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll about</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll along</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll around</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll back</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll by</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll down</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll in(to some place)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll off (so/sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll one’s sleeves up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll (oneself) up in sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll out the red carpet (for so)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll (over) in one’s grave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll prices back</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll so/sth over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll so/sth (up) in sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth back</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth down</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth off (of) so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth onto sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth to so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll sth up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll roll with the punches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll rolling in it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll rolling in money</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll rolling in sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll rolling in the aisles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll rolling stone gathers no moss.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll set the ball rolling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll start the ball rolling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll take (the) roll</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roller awkward as a cow on roller skates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roller high roller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman When in Rome(, do as the Romans do).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome All roads lead to Rome.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome fiddle while Rome burns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome Rome was not built in a day.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome When in Rome(, do as the Romans do).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romp romp all over so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romp romp around</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romp romp on so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romp romp through sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room go through the roof</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof hit the roof</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof live under the same roof (with so)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof roof sth over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room allow some elbow room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room boys in the back room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room Can I use your powder room?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room Could I use your powder room?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room Don’t let it out of this room.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room Go to your room!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room go to the room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room leave the room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room make room (for so/sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room May I use your powder room?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room need some elbow room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room not enough room to swing a cat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room room and board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room room together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room room with so</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room send so to the locker room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room smoke-filled room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room some elbow room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>room take up room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roost chickens come home to roost.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roost come home (to roost)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roost rule the roost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root appear to be rooted to the spot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root determine the root of the problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root figure out the root of the problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root find the root of the problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root go to the root of the matter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root idi-ness is the root of all evil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root love of money is the root of all evil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root Money is the root of all evil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root put roots down (some place)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root around (for sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root for so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root of the matter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root of the problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root so/sth out of sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root sth in sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root sth out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root root sth up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root rooted in sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root rooted to sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root rooted to the spot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>root take root</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope at the end of one’s rope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope Give so enough rope and he’ll hang himself.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope know the ropes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope learn the ropes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope rope so in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope rope so into doing sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope rope so into sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope rope so or an animal up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope rope sth off</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope rope sth together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope ropes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope show so to the ropes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope skip rope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope walk a tightrope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose bed of roses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose come out smelling like a rose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose come up smelling like a rose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose Everything’s coming up roses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose primrose path</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose red as a rose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose rose by any other name would smell as sweet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose smell like a rose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose There’s no rose without a thorn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rosebud Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot Early ripe, early rotten.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rot away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rot off</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rot out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rot Apple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rotten apple spoils the barrel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rotten egg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rotten luck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot rotten to the core</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot Something is rotten in (the state of) Denmark.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot Soon ripe, soon rotten.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rot spoiled rotten</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotate rotate on sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rote by rote</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rote learn sth by rote</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten Early ripe, early rotten.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten rotten apple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten rotten apple spoils the barrel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten rotten egg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten rotten luck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten rotten to the core</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten Something is rotten in (the state of) Denmark.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten Soon ripe, soon rotten.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rotten spoiled rotten</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough diamond in the rough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough have a rough time (of it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough idea (about sth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough so up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough sth in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough sth out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough sth up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough stuff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough-and-ready</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rough rough-and-tumble</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope rope around</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rope Take the rough with the smooth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roughshod ride roughshod over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roughshod run roughshod over so/sth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round all year round</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round buy a round (of drinks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round buy the next round (of drinks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
round express sth in round figures
round express sth in round numbers
round in round figures
round in round numbers
round longest way round is the shortest way home.
round Love makes the world go round.
round round off to sth
round round so/sth up
round round sth down
round round sth off
round round sth out
round round sth up
round round up to sth
round rounding error
round round-trip ticket
round square peg in a round hole
round write sth in round figures
roundabout say sth in a roundabout way
roundup head for the last roundup
roundup last roundup
rouse rouse so from sth
rouse rouse so out of sth
rouse rouse so to sth
roust roust so out of sth
rouse roust so out of sth
route route so/sth around sth
route route so/sth to so
route route so to so
route have a roving eye
row get one's ducks in a row
row hard row to hoe
row hoe one's own row
row kick up a row
row row (so/sth) out to sth
row tough row to hoe
row royal battle royal
row royal royal pain
row royal royal treatment
royal There is no royal road to learning.
rub don't know whether to eat it or rub it on
rub rub (away) at sth
rub rub elbows (with so)
rub rub off (of) sth
rub rub off (on so)
rub rub off on(to) so/sth
rub rub salt in a wound
rub rub shoulders with so
rub rub so or an animal down
rub rub so/sth with sth
rub rub so out
rub rub so's (fun) the wrong way
rub rub so's nose in it
rub rub sth against so/sth
rub rub sth away
rub rub sth in
rub rub sth into sth
rub rub sth off (of) sth
rub rub sth onto sth
rub rub sth out
rub rub sth over sth
rub rub sth together
rub rub sth up
rub rub (up) against so/sth
rubber lay (some) rubber
rubber where the rubber meets the road
rubbish good riddance (to bad rubbish)
rubicon cross the Rubicon
ruby red as a ruby
ruffle ruffle its feathers
ruffle ruffle so's feathers
ruffle ruffle sth up
rug lie like a rug
rug pull the rug out (from under so)
rug rug rat
rug snug as a bug in a rug
ruin go to rack and ruin
ruin go to wrack and ruin
ruin in ruins
ruin lay in ruins
ruin leave sth in ruins
ruin lie in ruins
ruin ruin of so/sth
ruin wreck and ruin
rule as a (general) rule
rule as a rule
rule bend the rules
rule exception proves the rule.
rule hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
rule rule against so/sth
rule rule in favor of so/sth
rule rule of thumb
rule rule on sth
rule rule over so/sth
rule rule so/sth out
rule rule the roost
rule rule with a velvet glove
rule rule with an iron fist
ruminant ruminant about sth
ruminant ruminant on sth
rummage rummage around (somewhere) (for sth)
rummage rummage through sth
rumor rumor has it that...
rump rump session...
rumple rumple so/sth up
run also-ran
run could fight a circle-saw (and it a- runnin')
run course of true love never did run smooth.
run cut and run
run days running
run dry run
run eat and run
run for (some) days running
run for (some) months running
run for (some) years running
run front-runner
run have a run of
run have a run-in (with so/sth)
run have one's luck run out
run He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day.
run hit the ground running
run (I) hate to eat and run.
run (I) have to run along.
run If you run after two hares, you will catch neither.
run in the long run
run in the running
run in the short run
run (t's) time to run.
run (I've) got to run.
run *like stink
run *like the devil
run *like the wind
run make a run for it
run make so's blood run cold
run months running
run My cup runneth over.
run off and running
run off to a running start
run on the run
run one's luck runs out
run *out of gas
run *out of patience
run *out (of sth)
run out of the running
run run a comb through sth
run run a fever
run run a make on so
run run a red light
run run a risk (of sth)
run run a tab
run run a taut ship
run run a temperature
run run a tight ship
run run across so/sth
run run across sth
run run (a) foul of so/sth
run run after so
run run against so
run run against the grain
run run aground (on sth)
run run along
run run amok
run run amuck
run run an errand
run run around
run run as sth
run run at a fast clip
run run at a good clip
run run at full blast
run run at so/sth
run run away (from so/sth)
run run away with so
run run away with sth
run run back
run run behind
run run between sth and sth else
run run circles around so
run run counter to sth
run run down
run run for it
run run for one's life
run run for one's money
run run for sth
run run for the hills
run run from so/sth
run run from sth to so
run run in circles
run run in sth
run run in the family
run run into a stone wall
run run into so
run run in(to sth)
run Run it by (me) again.
run run it down
run run its course
run run like clockwork
run run like stink
run run like the wind
run run low (on sth)
run run off
run run on
run run on sth
run run one's eye over sth
run run one's feet off
run run one's fingers through sth
run run one's head against a brick wall
run run one's rhymes
run run out at so/sth
salt back to the salt mines
salt eat so's salt
salt go back to the salt mines
gold go through so like a dose of the salts
salt have st hung up and salted
salt rub salt in a wound
salt salt of the earth
salt salt st away
salt salt st down
salt salt st with st
salt take st with a pinch of salt
salt worth one's salt
salute salute so with st
salvage salvage st from so/sth
Salt What in (the) Sam Hill?
same add up to the same thing
same all the same
same amount to the same thing
same at the same time
same bitten by the same bug
same by the same token
same cast in the same mold
same close enough to use the same toothpick
same come to the same thing
same cut from the same cloth
same go into the same old song and dance about st
same I'll have the same.
same in the same boat (as so)
same in the same breath
same just the same
same Lightning never strikes (the same place) twice.
same live under the same roof (with so)
same made from the same mold
same not in the same league with so/sth
same on the same wavelength
same one and the same
same read from the same page
same same as so/sth
same same difference
same same for me.
same Same here.
same same o(l)' same o(l)'
same same old story
same same to you.
same sing from the same hymnbook
same speak the same language
same tarred with the same brush
sanctity odor of sanctity
sand bury one's head in the sand
sand draw a line in the sand
sand have one's head in the sand
sand hide one's head in the sand
sand sand st down
sand sands of time
sandwich ask for a knuckle sandwich
sandwich knuckle sandwich
sandwich one sandwich short of a picnic
sandwich sandwich so/sth between people or things
sandwich want a knuckle sandwich
sardine pack so/sth (in) like sardines
sardine packed (in) like sardines
sassy fat and sassy
satiate satiate so or an animal with sth
satisfy satisfy so or an animal with sth
satisfy satisfy st by st
saturate saturate so/sth with sth

Saturday Saturday night special
sauce happy as a clam (in butter sauce)
sauce Hunger is the best sauce.
sauce on the sauce
sauce What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.
saucer eyes like saucers
saunter saunter along
save dip into one's savings
save in the interest of saving time
save penny saved is a penny earned.
save prophet is not without honor save in his own country.
save save a bundle (on sth)
save save!
save save (money) on sth
save save (money) toward sth
save save money up (for sth)
save save one's bacon
save save one's breath
save save one's face
save save oneself (for marriage)
save save so in the (very) nick of time
save save so from so/sth
save save so's skin
save save so's neck
save save so's face
save save st's for a rainy day
save save sth for so/sth
save save sth up
save save the day
save save (up) (for sth)
save saved by the bell
save saving grace
save scrimp and save
save stitch in time saves nine.
savor savor of sth
saw could fight a circle-saw (and it a runnin')
saw against the grain
saw into sth
saw sth down
saw saw sth (off) (of) sth
saw saw sth (up) (into) sth
saw saw through sth
say after all is said and done
say Anything you say.
say as I was saying
say before you can say Jack Robinson
say better left unsaid
say Can't say (a) (a) I do,( can't say (a) I don't).
say can't say boo to a goose
say Do as I say, not as I do.
say Do you know what I'm saying?
say (Do you mean to say sth)?
say Don't make me say it again!
say Don't say it!
say drop in (to say hello)
say easier said than done
say final say
say get a say (in sth)
say go so far as to say sth
say have the final say
say (I) can't rightly say.
say (I) can't say (as) I do.
say (I) can't say (as) I have.
say (I) can't say for sure.
say (I) can't say I do.
say (I) can't say I have.
say (I) can't say that I do.
say (I) can't say that I have.
say I hear what you're saying.
say (I) just want(ed) to say sth.
say I must say good night.
say I wish I'd said that.
say in plain language
say (It) (just) goes without saying.
say just let me say
say less said (about sth), the better.
say let me (just) say
say let's say
say like I was saying
say Need I say more?
say needless to say
say Never say die.
say No sooner said than done
say on so's say-so
say one's say
say quicker you than you can say Jack Robinson
say say a mouthful
say Say cheese!
say say grace
say say hello to so (for me).
say say in sth
say say no more.
say say one's piece
say say sth about so/sth
say say sth against so/sth
say say sth for sth
say say sth in a roundabout way
say say sth in plain English
say say sth in plain language
say say sth out loud
say say sth over (and over again)
say say sth (right) to so's face
say say sth to oneself
say say sth to so
say say sth to sth
say say sth under one's breath
say say that...
say say the word
say say uncle
say Say what?
say say when.
say says me!
say says who?
say says you!
say smile when you say that.
say That's easy for you to say.
say That's what I say.
say The hell you say!
say to say nothing of so/sth
say to say the least
say *under one's breath
say Well said.
say What can I say?
say What do you say?
say What do you want me to say?
say What say?
say What so.
say What would you say if...?
say when all is said and done
say You can say that again!
say You don't say.
say You (really) said a mouthful.
say You said it!
scab scab over
scale scale so/sth
tip the scales at so/sth
scam What's the scam?
misc scamp scam along
scamp scam away
scoff  
tell tales out of school

school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school

Never tell tales out of school.

of the old school
secret Your secret is safe with me.
secure lull so into a false sense of security
secure secure sth against so/sth or an animal
secure security against sth
security lull so into a false sense of security
seducer seduce so from sth
see Am I glad to see you!
see as I see it
see begin to see daylight
see begin to see the light
see Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see.
see buy sth sight unseen
see Can I see you again?
see Can I see you in my office?
see cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
see cannot see the forest for the trees
see cannot see the wood for the trees
see can't see a hole in a ladder
see can't see beyond the end of one's nose
see can't see one's hand in front of one's face
see can't see straight
see Children should be seen and not heard.
see Come back and see us.
see Could I see you again?
see Could I see you in my office?
see first see the light of day
see have seen better days
see Haven't I seen you somewhere before?
see (I) haven't seen you in a long time.
see (I) haven't seen you in a month of Sundays.
see (I) hope to see you again
see (I) never thought I'd see you here!
see If you don't see what you want, please ask (for it).
see (I'll) be seeing you.
see (I'll) see you in a little while.
see I'll see you later.
see I'll see you next year.
see (I'll) see you (real) soon.
see (I'll) see you then.
see (I'll) see you tomorrow.
see (It's) good to see you (again).
see (It's) nice to see you.
see (I've) seen better.
see I've seen better heads on nickel beers.
see (I've) seen worse.
see Just (you) wait (and see)!  
see Long time no see.
see look-see
see May I see you again?
see Monkey see, monkey do.
see *(neither) hide nor hair
see not able to see the forest for the trees
see Not if I see you first.
see Not if I see you sooner.
see not see any objection (to sth)
see *on the dot
see see a man about a dog
see see about so/sth
see see after so/sth
see see ahead (of so/sth)
see see around sth
see see beyond sth
see see double
see see eye to eye (about so/sth) (with so)
see see fit (to do sth)
see See if I care!
see see (neither) hide nor hair
see See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.
see see no further than the end of one's nose
see see no objection (to sth)
see see one's way (clear) (to do sth)
see see over sth
see see red
see see so about so/sth
see see so across sth
see see so as so/sth
see see so as sth
see see so back (to sth)
see see so down to sth
see see so home
see see so into sth
see see so off
see see so on the dot
see see so/sth around sth
see see so/sth in a new light
see see so/sth out of season
see see so (of sth)
see see so to some place
see see so to sth
see see so to the door
see see so up to sth
see see sth against sth
see see sth as sth else
see see sth in so/sth
see see sth in the cards
see see sth of so/sth
see see sth through
see see stars
see see the big picture
see see the color of so's money
see see the (hand)writing on the wall
see see the last of so/sth
see see the light
see see the sights
see see through so/sth
see see (to it) that sth is done
see see to so/sth
see see which way the wind is blowing
see see with the naked eye
see See ya.
see See ya, bye-bye.
see See you.
see See you around.
see See (You) later.
see See you later, alligator.
see Seeing is believing.
see seeing pink elephants
see seeing pink spiders
see seeing snakes
see seeing that...
see seeing things
see the way I see it
see There's none so blind as those who will not see.
see They must have seen you coming.
see wait-and-see attitude
see (We) don't see you much around here anymore.
see What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over.
see What you see is what you get.
Every man for himself (and the select from selected)

Things are seldom what they seem out of place

Self-praise is no recommendation.
Self-preservation is the first law of nature.

Seek and ye shall find.
Seek professional help

Things are seldom what they seem

Seek revenge (against so)
Seek out
Seek sth from so/sth
See
million miles away
'Out of place

Seek Things are seldom what they seem

See

Children should be seen and not heard.

Seek(Haven't I seen you somewhere before?
See (I've) seen better days

I've seen better heads on nickel beers.

You ain't seen nothing yet!

I've seen better days

I've seen worse.

They must have seen you coming.

Would not be seen dead (doing sth)

You ain't seen nothing yet!

See away

I've seen better heads on nickel beers.

You ain't seen nothing yet!

See away

See big sth off

Send gods send nuts to those who have no teeth.

Send one about one's business

Send one to one's death

Send out (for so/sth)

Send after

Send before so/sth

Send below

Send down for sth

Send from pillar to post

Seek

Seek after

Seek professional help

Seek Things are seldom what they seem

Seek revenge (against so)
Seek out
Seek sth from so/sth

See

Children should be seen and not heard.

Seek(Haven't I seen you somewhere before?
See (I've) seen better days

I've seen better heads on nickel beers.

You ain't seen nothing yet!

See away

See big sth off

Send gods send nuts to those who have no teeth.

Send one about one's business

Send one to one's death

Send out (for so/sth)

Send after so/sth

Send ahead for sth

Send away (for sth)

Send for so/sth

Send in for sth

Send off for sth

Send one about one's business

Send one to one's death

Send out (for so/sth)

Send so after so/sth

Send so away

Send so back for sth

Send so before so/sth

Send so below

Send so down for sth

Send so for so/sth

Send so from pillar to post

Send so in

Send so into a state or condition

Send so into sth

Send so off

Send so on a wild-goose chase

Send so/sth across (st)

Send so/sth along

Send so/sth around

Send so/sth away

Send so/sth back

Send so/sth down

Send so/sth on (ahead) (of so/sth)

Send so/sth under sth

Send so/sth up

Send so out

Send so (out) on an errand

Send so over (to) some place

Send so packing

Send so through the mill

Send so to bed

Send so to glory

Send so to the locker room

Send so to the showers

Send so up

Send sth by sth

Send sth C.O.D.

Send sth from sth

Send sth into sth

Send sth off (to so/sth)

Send sth over (to) some place

Send sth to so/sth

Send send up a trial balloon

Send send word to so

Send *through the mill

Sense ain't got a grain of sense

Sense ain't got a lick of sense

Sense ain't got the sense God gave geese

Sense bring one to one's senses

Sense come to one's senses

Sense doesn't have enough sense to bell a cat

Sense doesn't have enough sense to come in out of the rain

Sense doesn't have the sense God gave geese

Sense doesn't have the sense God gave him (or her)

Sense go out of one's senses

Sense have more luck than sense

Sense horse sense

Sense in a sense

Sense knock some sense into so

Sense lull so into a false sense of security

Sense make sense

Sense make (some) sense (out) of so/sth

Sense ounce of common sense is worth a pound of theory.

Sense sense of humor

Sense sixth sense

Sense take leave of one's senses

Sensitize sensititize so to sth

Sentence pass sentence on so

Sentence sentence so to sth (for sth)

Separate separate but equal

Separate separate off (from sth)

Separate separate so from so else

Separate separate sth into sth

Separate separate sth from sth else

Separate separate sth off from sth

Separate separate sth from sth else

Separate separate sth off from sth

Separate separate the men from the

Separate separate the wheat from the chaff

Serious dead serious

Serious Get serious!

Serious serious about so

Servant Fire is a good servant but a bad master.

Serve Dinner is served.

Serve First come, first served.

Serve How can I serve you?

Serve if my memory serves me correctly

Serve If you would be well served,

Serve yourself

Serve No man can serve two masters.

Serve *on a silver platter

Serve Revenge is a dish best served cold.

Serve serve a (useful) purpose

Serve serve as a guinea pig

Serve serve as

Serve serve as the driving force (behind so/sth)

Serve serve notice (on so)

Serve serve on sth

Serve serve so right

Serve serve so's purpose

Serve serve so with sth

Serve serve sth around
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>serve serve sth for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve sth in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve sth on a silver platter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve sth on so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve sth to so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve under so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve serve with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve They also serve who only stand and wait.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve You cannot serve God and mammon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serve Youth must be served.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service at so's service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service bring sth into service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service Call my service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service come into service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service go into service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service go into the service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service go out of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service in service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service of service (to so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service out of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service pay lip service (to so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service put so/sth into service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service put sth in(to) service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>session in session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>session jam session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>session rump session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set (all) set (to do sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set at a set time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set dead set against so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set get one's ears set out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set have a set-to (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set have one's heart (dead) set against sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set have one's heart set on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set not set foot somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set on your mark, get set, go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set one's heart is (dead) set against sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set one's heart is set on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set ready, set, go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set Set a beggar on horseback, and he'll ride to the devil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set a precedent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set Set a thief to catch a thief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set a trap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set about doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set eyes on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set fire to so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set foot in some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set for life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set forth on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set great store by so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set of pipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set of wheels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set off (for sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set off on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one (back) on one's feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one back on one's heels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one on one's feet again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's heart against sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's heart on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's hopes on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's house in order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's mind on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's mind to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's own price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set one's sights on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set out (for some place) (from some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set out on one's own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set out (on sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set out to do sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sail for some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so about sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so apart from so else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so back (some amount of money)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so down (on(to) sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so or an animal on so or an animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth above so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth free (from sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth up against so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so/sth up as sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so's mind at ease (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so's teeth on edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set so up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth against so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth apart from sth else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth aside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth at sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth before so/sth or some creature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth beside sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth forth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth out (for so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth over sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth to music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set sth (up) on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set the ball rolling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set the record straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set the stage for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set the table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set the world on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set tongues (a-)wagging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set up shop somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set set upon so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set think the sun rises and sets on so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setback suffer a setback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle Charge it to the dust and let the rain settle it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle have a score to settle (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle a score with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle so's affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle so's hash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle (sth) (out of court)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle the score (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle settle up with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settle when the dust settles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seven at sixes and sevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seven in seventh heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seven Keep a thing seven years and you'll (always) find a use for it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seven seven-day wonder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seven seven-year itch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seventh in seventh heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>severs sever ties with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sew sew so/sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sew sewed up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sex opposite sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sez Sez me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sez Sez who?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shabby not too shabby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shack shack up (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shackle shackle so with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shade have it made in the shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shade shades of so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shadow afraid of one's own shadow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shadow beyond the shadow of a doubt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shadow Coming events cast their shadows before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shadow shadow of oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shadow shadow without a shadow of a doubt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shady shady character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shady shady deal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaft get the shaft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaft give so the shaft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shag shag (off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shag shagged out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shag shaggy-dog story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaggy shaggy-dog story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake all shook up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake fair shake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake in two shakes of a lamb's tail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake Let's shake on it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake more so/sth than one can shake a stick at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake movers and shakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake no great shakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake on shaky ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake a disease or illness off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake a habit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake a leg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake (hands) on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake in one's boots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake Shake it (up)!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake so down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake so/sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake so's up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake so's hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake so up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake sth down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake the habit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shake the lead out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake shook up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake two shakes of a lamb's tail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake What's shakin' (bacon)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaker movers and shakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaking What's shakin' (bacon)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaky on shaky ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shall As a man sows, so shall he reap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shall As you sow, so shall you reap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shall Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shall East is East and West is West (and never the twain shall meet).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shall Seek and ye shall find.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
shallow Cross the stream where it is shallowest.
shambles in (a) shambles
shame crying shame
shame Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.
shame For shame!
shame hide one's face in shame
shame put it to shame
shame shame of it (all)
shame Shame on you!
shame Tell the truth and shame the devil.
shame What a shame!
shank by shank's mare
shank go (somewhere) by shank's mare
shank shank it
shank shank's mare
shank bend so out of shape
shank bend sth out of shape
shank bent out of shape
shank flex sth out of shape
shank to do so out of shape
shank in any way, shape, or form
shank in bad shape
shank in good shape
shape keep in good shape
shape keep out of shape
shape in shape
shape in good shape
shape to share
shape one's share
shape share and share alike
shape share so's pain
shape share so's sorrow
shape Thank you for sharing.
shape trouble shared is a trouble
sharp at some time sharp
sharp bring so up sharply
sharp have a mind as sharp as a steel trap
sharp sharp as a razor
sharp sharp as a tack
sharp sharp as tongue
sharp sharp wit
sharp throw sth into sharp relief
shape close shape
shape have a close shape
shape little shaver
shape She She will get hers.
shape She That's all she wrote.
shape She That's what she wrote.
shape shebang whole shebang
shape get shed of so/sth
shape not shed a tear
shape shed crocodile tears
shape shed (some) light on sth
shape sheep wolf in sheep's clothing
shape both sheets in the wind
shape four sheets in the wind
shape know no more about sth than a frog knows about bedsheets
shape three sheets in the wind
sheet two sheets to the wind
sheet white as a sheet
shelf of the shelf
shelf on the shelf
shell bring one out of one's shell
shell come out of one's shell
shell shell out (an amount of money)
shell walk on eggshells
shellac shellacking
shift shift for oneself
shift shift one's ground
shift stick shift
shine come rain or (come) shine
shine come rain or shine
shine from sea to shining sea
shine Happy is the bride that the sun shines on.
shine Make hay while the sun shines.
shine rain or shine
shine Rise and shine!
shine shine up to so
shine take a shine to so/sth
shine when the sun don't shine
Shinola know shit from Shinola
Shinola tell shit from Shinola
ship abandon ship
ship desert a sinking ship
ship Don't give up the ship!
ship jump ship
ship leave a sinking ship
ship like rats abandoning a sinking ship
ship Loose lips sink ships.
ship One hand for oneself and one for the ship.
ship Rats abandon a sinking ship.
ship run a taut ship
ship run a tight ship
ship Shape up or ship out.
ship shipping and handling
ship ships that pass in the night
ship when one's ship comes in
shirt give so to the shirt off one's back
shirt keep one's shirt on
shirt Keep your shirt on!
shirt lose one's shirt
shirt beat the shit out of so
shirt Cut the shit!
shirt get one's shit together
shirt know shit from Shinola
shirt Shit happens.
shirt shoot the shit
shirt tell shit from Shinola
shirt when the shit hits the fan
shock shock of one's life
shoddy all wool and no shoddy
shoe Close only counts in horseshoes (and hand grenades).
shoe comfortable as an old shoe
shoe common as an old shoe
shoe drop the other shoe
shoe fill so's shoes
shoe For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost.
shoe have the shoe on the other foot
shoe If the shoe fits (wear it).
shoe in so's shoes
shoe It's ill waiting for dead men's shoes.
shoe shoe is on the other foot.
shoe step into so's shoes
shoe tough as old (shoe) leather
shoe wait for the other shoe to drop
shoe wouldn't want to be in so's shoes
shoestring get along (on a shoestring)
shoestring get by (on a shoestring)
shoestring on a shoestring
shook all shook up
shook shook up
shoot easy as shooting fish in a barrel
shoot like shooting fish in a barrel
shoot shoot a place up
shoot first, ask questions later.
shoot for shit
shoot for the sky
shoot shoot from the hip
shoot shoot one's breakfast
shoot shoot one's cookies
shoot shoot one's mouth off
shoot one's supper
shoot one's wad
shoot oneself in the foot
shoot shoot so/sth down in flames
shoot spout (all) to hell
shoot shoot so/sth on an animal down
shoot sth down
shoot sth out
shoot shoot the breeze
shoot shoot the bull
shoot shoot the cat
shoot shoot the crap
shoot shoot the shit
shoot shoot the works
shoot shoot up
shoot straight shooter
shoot Sure as shooting!
shoot whole shooting match
shop awkward as a bull in a china shop
shop bull in a china shop
shop close up shop
shop go window-shopping
shop idle brain is the devil's workshop.
shop Keep your shop and your shop will keep you.
shop like a bull in a china shop
shop set up shop somewhere
shop shop around (for sth)
shop shopping list
shop talk shop
shore shore so up
shore shore sth up
shore Art is long and life is short.
shore bring so up short
shore catch so up short
shore caught short
shore come short of sth
shore cut a long story short
shore cut so/sth off (short)
shore day late and a dollar short
shore Eat my shorts!
shore end up with the short end of the stick
shore fall short
shore few bricks short of a load
shore few cards short of a deck
shore for short
shore in short
shore in the short haul
shore in the short run
shore Life is short and time is swift.
shore Life is too short.
shore (little) short on one end
have broad shoulders

It's time we should be going.

Children should be seen and

Children should be seen and

one's

system
side bread always falls on the buttered side.
side can’t hit the (broad) side of a barn
side choose (up) sides
side dark side of so/soth
side flip side
side from side to side
side get up on the wrong side of bed
side go off (to the side) with so
side grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence).
side hindsight first
side hit the (broad) side of a barn
side keep on the good side of so
side keep on the left-hand side of so
side keep on the right side of so
side keep on the right-hand side of so
side keep one’s side of the bargain
side know which side one’s bread is buttered on
side laugh out of the other side of one’s face
side laugh out of the other side of one’s mouth
side look on the bright side
side motion so to one side
side move off (to the side) with so
side off to one side
side off (to the side) with so
side on so’s good side
side on so’s wrong side
side on the bright side
side on the good side of so
side on the safe side
side on the other side
side on the wrong side of so
side other side of the tracks
side right side up
side seamy side of life
side side against so
side side by side
side side with so
side split one’s sides (with laughter)
side stay on the good side of so
side step off (to the side) with so
side sunny-side up
side swim from side to side
side take sides
side take so to one side
side There are two sides to every question.
side There are two sides to every story.
side thorn in so’s side
side to be on the safe side
side up one side and down the other
side wrong side of the tracks
side track off on a sidetrack
side side away (from so/soth)
side side up (to so/soth)
sift sift so from soth
sift sift so off of soth
sift sift through soth
sift sift through soth
sigh breathe a sigh of relief
sigh about soth
sigh for so
sight burst into sight
sight buy soth sight unseen
sight can’t stand (the sight of) so/soth
sight catch sight of so/soth
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sink sink down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink into despair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink into oblivion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink one's teeth into 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink or swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink in(to) so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink to (going) th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sink under (th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink sinking feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink swallow th hook, line, and sinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sinker hook, line, and sinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sinker swallow th hook, line, and sinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siphon siphon th off (from sth)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| siren No sireee(, Bob)!
| siree Yes siree( |
| sinker sinker |
| sinker sinker |
| sinker sinker |
| sinker sinker |
| sit at a sitting |
| sit Come in and sit a spell. |
| sit Do sit down. |
| sit leave so sitting pretty |
| sit like a sitting duck |
| sit looking like a sitting duck |
| sit *on the fence (about th) |
| sit sit around |
| sit sit at th |
| sit sit at the feet of so |
| sit sit back |
| sit sit behind so/th |
| sit sit below so/th |
| sit sit beneath th |
| sit sit bolt upright |
| sit sit by so |
| sit sit close to so/th |
| sit sit down |
| sit sit for an exam |
| sit sit for one's portrait |
| sit sit for so |
| sit sit hand in hand |
| sit sit idly by |
| sit sit in (for so) |
| sit sit in judgment (up)on so/th |
| sit sit in (on th) |
| sit sit on its hands |
| sit sit on one's ass |
| sit sit on one's hands |
| sit sit on so/th |
| sit sit on the fence |
| sit sit on their hands |
| sit sit out |
| sit sit right with so |
| sit sit th out |
| sit sit still for th |
| sit sit through th |
| sit sit tight |
| sit sit up |
| sit sit well with so |
| sit sit with so |
| sitting sitting duck |
| sitting sitting on a gold mine |
| sitting sitting on a powder keg |
| sitting (sitting) on top of the world |
| sitting pretty |
| situation no-win situation |
| situation reality of the situation |
| six at sixes and sevens |
| six deep-six so/th |
| six eighty-six th |
| six It's six of one, half a dozen of another |
| six six feet under |
| six six of one and half a dozen of the other |
| six sixth sense |
| sixth sixth sense |
| sixty do a three-sixty |
| sixty sixty-four-dollar question |
| sixty turn three hundred and sixty degrees |
| size all of a size |
| size beat so down to size |
| size cut so down (to size) |
| size knock so down to size |
| size pick on somebody your own size |
| size pick on someone your own size |
| size size/th up |
| size take so down (to size) |
| size That's about the size of it. |
| size try th (on) (for size) |
| size whistle so down to size |
| size whistle th down (to size) |
| skate awkward as a cow on roller skates |
| skate skate around |
| skate skate on th |
| skate skate on thin ice |
| skate skate over th |
| skeleton skeleton(s) in the closet |
| sketch sketch th in |
| sketch sketch th out |
| sketch thumbnail sketch |
| skirt green |
| skirt skirt |
| skirt skirt in |
| skirt skirt in (for th) |
| skirt skirt on |
| skirt skirt on |
| skirt skirt over th |
| skirt skirt over th |
| skirts skirt around so/th |
| skitter (all) beer and skittles |
| skitter Life isn't all beer and skittles. |
| skull get th through so's thick skull |
| skull go out of one's skull |
| skull out of one's skull |
| skunk drunk as a skunk |
| skunk Let every man skin his own skunk. |
| sky aim for the sky |
| sky come out of a clear blue sky |
| sky go sky-high |
| sky high as the sky |
| sky pie in the sky |
| sky praise so/th to the skies |
| sky reach for the sky |
| sky shoot for the sky |
| sky sky's the limit. |
| slack cut so some slack |
| slack slack off |
| slack slack off |
| slack slack up (on th) |
| slack take the slack up |
| slam slam dunk |
| slam slam into so/th |
| slam slam so/th down |
| slam slam th down (on(to) th) |
| slam slam the brakes on |
| slam slam the door in so's face |
| slant slant against th |
| slant slant against so/th |
| slant slant toward so/th |
| slant slant toward so/th |
| slap slap against so/th |
| slap slap in the face for th |
| slap slap on the wrist |
| slap slap so down |
| slap slap so in th |
| slap slap so on th |
| slap slap so on the wrist |
| slap slap th against so/th |
| slap slap th down |
| slap slap th on |
| slap slap onto so/th |
| slap slap th together |
| slash slash and burn |
| slash slash (out) at so |
| slate have so slated for th |
| slate have so slated to do th |
| slate slate so/th for th |
| slate slated for th |
| slate slated to do th |
| slate start (off) with a clean slate |
| slate start (over) with a clean slate |
| slate wipe so's slate clean |
| slate wipe the slate clean |
| slaughter like a lamb to the slaughter |
| slaughter like lambs to the slaughter |
| slaughter like pigs to the slaughter |
| slave Better be an old man's darling than a young man's slave |
| slave slave away (at th) |
| slave slave over th |
| slave slave to th |
**Phrase-Finder Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small</th>
<th>Slow</th>
<th>Slowly</th>
<th>Sleek</th>
<th>Sleek as a whistle</th>
<th>Slice</th>
<th>Slime</th>
<th>Slip</th>
<th>Slide</th>
<th>Sleep</th>
<th>Sled</th>
<th>Slop</th>
<th>Slang</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>small</td>
<td>slow</td>
<td>slowly</td>
<td>sleek</td>
<td>sleek as a whistle</td>
<td>slice</td>
<td>slime</td>
<td>slip</td>
<td>slide</td>
<td>sleep</td>
<td>sled</td>
<td>slop</td>
<td>slang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
small thankful for small blessings
smart get smart (with so)
smart smart ass
smart smart at sth
smart smart from sth
smart smart guy
smart smart money
smart smart mouth
smart smart under sth
smart You think you’re so smart!
smarten smarten up
smash smash hit
smash smash into sth
smash smash out of sth
smash smash so/sth face in
smash smash in
smash smash sth up
smash smash through sth
smear smear campaign (against so)
smear smear so/sth with sth
smear smear sth on(to) so/sth
smell come out smelling like a rose
smell come up smelling like a rose
smell rose by any other name would smell as sweet.
smell smell a rat
smell smell blood
smell smell fishy
smell smell like a rose
smell smell of sth
smell smell so/sth or an animal out
smell smell sth up
smell smell to (high) heaven
smell Wake up and smell the coffee.
smile crack a smile
smile flash a smile (at so)
smile Keep smiling.
smile put a smile on so/sth's face
smile smile at so
smile smile on so/sth
smile smile (up) on so/sth
smile Smile when you say that.
smile smiling like a Cheshire cat
smirk smirk at so/sth
smite smite so with sth
smiteereens blow so/sth to smiteereens
smiteereens blow sth to smiteereens
smoke go up in smoke
smoke Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
smoke smoke smoke and mirrors
smoke smoke like a chimney
smoke smoke so/sth or an animal out of sth
smoke smoke sth up
smoke smoke-filled room
smoke smoking gun
smoke (There's) no smoke without fire.
smoke smoke Where there's smoke there's fire.
smooth course of true love never did run smooth.
smooth smooth as glass
smooth smooth as silk
smooth smooth sailing
smooth smooth sth away
smooth smooth sth back
smooth smooth sth down
smooth smooth sth onto so/sth
smooth smooth sth out
smooth Take the rough with the smooth.
smother smoother so/sth with sth
smuggle smuggle so/sth across sth
smuggle smuggle so/sth into some place
smuggle smuggle so/sth out of some place
smuggle smuggle so/sth past (so/sth)
smuggle smuggle so/sth through (so/sth)
smack smack off (of) sth
snag hit a snag
snail at a snail's gallop
snake at a snail's pace
snake go at sth like a boy killing snakes
snake if it was a snake it woulda bit you.
snake like fighting snakes
snake seeing snakes
snake snake along
snake snake in the grass
snakebite snakebites medicine
snap It's a snap.
snap Make it snappy!
snap snap at so
snap snap at sth
snap snap back after sth
snap snap back (at so)
snap snap back on so/sth
snap snap into sth
snap Snap it up!
snap snap so/sth's head off
snap snap sth back
snap snap sth into sth
snap snap sth off
snap snap sth on
snap snap sth out of sth
snap snap sth up
snap snap to (attention)
snap Snap to it!
snappy Make it snappy!
snarl snarl at so/sth or an animal
snarl snarl so/sth up
snarl snarl sth out
snatch snatch at so/sth
snatch snatch so from the jaws of death
snatch snatch so/sth (away) from so/sth
snatch snatch so out of the jaws of death
snatch snatch so out of sth
snatch snatch sth up
snatch snatch victory from the jaws of defeat
snazz snazz sth up
sneak sneak around (some place)
sneak sneak around so/sth
sneak sneak away (from some place)
sneak sneak in(to some place)
sneak sneak out of (some place)
sneak sneak up on so/sth
sneak sneak up to so/sth
sneer sneer at so/sth
sneeze nothing to be sneezed at
sneeze nothing to sneeze at
sneeze sneeze at so
sneeze sneeze at sth
sneeze sneeze into sth
sneeze sneeze on so/sth
sniff sniff at so/sth
sniff sniff so/sth out
snip snip sth off
snipe snipe at so/sth
snit in a snit
snitch snitch on so
snoochock a snoochock at so
snoop snoop around (stil)
snoop snoop into sth
snort ripsnorther
snort snort at so/sth
snotnosed snotnose(d) (kid)
snow do a snow job on so
snow pure as the driven snow
snow snow bunny
snow snow job
snow snow so/sth in
snow snow so/sth under with sth
snow snowed in
snow snowed under
snow white as snow
snow white as the driven snow
snowball not have a snowball's chance in hell
snowball snowball into sth
snuff not up to snuff
snuff snuff so out
snuff snuff sth out
snuff up to snuff
snug snug as a bug in a rug
snug snug down (some place)
snuggle snuggle down into sth
snuggle snuggle down (with so)
snuggle snuggle down (with sth)
snuggle snuggle (up) against so/sth
snuggle snuggle up (to so/sth)
so able to take just so much
so able to take only so much
so and so forth
so and so on
(Are you) leaving so soon?
so As a man sows, so shall he reap.
so As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.
so As you make your bed, so you must lie (up)on it.
so As you sow, so shall you reap.
so be so bold as to do sth
so devil is not so black as he is painted.
so do so
so Don't stay away so long.
so 'Fraid so.
so go so far as to say sth
so (have) never had it so good
so have so
so have to do sth so bad one can taste it
so How so?
so I am so sure!
so I believe so.
so (I) don't think so.
so I expect (so).
so I guess (so).
so (I) hope so.
so I suppose (so).
so I suspect (so).
so I think so.
so if so
so (I'm) afraid so.
so in so many words
so Is that so?
so I've heard so much about you.
so just so
so land so poor it wouldn't even raise a fuss
so make so bold as to do sth
so need so bad one can taste it
so not so hot
so Nothing is given so freely as advice.
so Nothing so bad but (it) might have been worse.
so on so's say-so
so so bad one can taste it
so So be it.
so so clean you could eat off the floor
so so cold you could hang meat
so So do I.
so so far as anyone knows
so so far as possible
so so far as so is concerned
so so far as sth is concerned
so So far, so good.
so So gross!
so So help me(, God)!
so So it goes.
so So long.
so So long as
so So mad I could scream
so So many countries, so many customs.
so so much for so/so
so so much for that.
so so much the better
so so quiet you could hear a pin drop
so So's your old man!
so so soon
so so still you could hear a pin drop
so So, sue me.
so So to speak
so So (what)?
so (So) what else is new?
so so-and-so
so so take on (so)
so So Thank you so much.
so So There's none so blind as those who will not see.
so So There's none so deaf as those who will not hear.
so so want so bad one can taste it
so So what makes you think so?
so So Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap?
so so without (so much as) a (for or by) your leave
so so without so much as doing sth
so So you leaving so soon?
so So you think you're so smart!
soak soak in(to sth)
soak soak one's face
soak soak so/so with sth
soak soak so to the skin
soak soak sth in sth
soak soak sth (off) (of) sth
soak soak sth out of sth
soak soak sth up
soak soak through sth
soak soaked to the skin
soap no soap
soap rinse so's mouth out (with soap)
soap soap so/so down
soap soft soap
sob sob one's heart out
sob sob oneself to sleep
sob sob sth out
sob sob sth to so
sob sob story
sober cold sober
sober sober as a judge
sober sober so up
sober sober up
sober stone(cold) sober
society pay one's debt (to society)
some is there some place I can wash up?
some it takes (some) getting used to.
some it will take some doing.
some kick some ass (around)
some knock some heads together
some knock some sense into so
some knock so some skin
some lay (some) rubber
some lay some sweet lines on so
some leave some loose ends
some let off (some) steam
some make (some) sense (out) of so/so
some maybe some other time.
some need some elbow room
some need some shut-eye
some open some doors (for so)
some pop (some) tops
some pull (some) strings
some pump (some) iron
some put out (some) feelers (on so/so)
some put some distance between so and oneself or sth
some put some sweet lines on so
some put some teeth into sth
some run down some lines
some shed (some) light on sth
some some elbow room
some some loose ends
some (some) new blood
some some people (just) don't know when to quit.
some some pumpkins
some some shut-eye
some some suck (some) brew
some some suck (some) suds
some some take some doing
some some take some heat
some some take (some) time off
some some take ((some) time) off from work
some some Throw dirt enough, and some will stick.
some some throw (some) light on sth
some some to some extent
some some use some elbow grease
some some use some shut-eye
some some We'll try again some other time.
some some work some fat off
some some work some weight off
some some You win some, you lose some.
some somebody pick on somebody your own size
some somehow carry on somehow
someone pick on someone your own size
something do something (to drink)?
something do (something) you want to know something?
something (Do you) want to know something?
something (Do you) want to make something of it?
something have something going (with so)
something something else (again)
something something is better than nothing.
something something is rotten in (the state of) Denmark.
something something of the sort
something something or other
something something's got to give.
something something's up
sorrow over sorrow
drown

strike a sore point

sight for sore eyes

sopy

sight for sore eyes

sore (at so)
sore

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat

spat
spell put so under a spell
spell spell disaster
spell spell so (at so)
spell spell so down
spell spell so for so
spell spell soh out
spell spell soh trouble
spell under a spell
spend Don't spend it all in one place.
spend *king's ransom
spend spend money like it's going out of style
spend spend money like there's no tomorrow.
spend spend sth for sth
spend spend sth on sth
spend spend time in sth
spend spending money
spend tax-and-spend
spew spew one's guts (out)
spew spew sth out
spew spew sth up
spice spice sth up
spice Variety is the spice of life.
spite see pink spiders
spiel spiel sth off
spiff spiff sth up
spiff spiffed out
spiff spiffed up
spill cry over spilled milk.
spill Don't cry over spilled milk.
spill It's no use crying over spilled milk.
spill Don't cry over spilled milk.
spill spiff sth up
spill spill into milk
spill spill over
spill spill (over) into sth
spill spill (out) into sth
spill spill (over) into sth
spill spill the beans
spill spill the works
spill take a spill
spill for a spin
spin go into a tasselpin
spin make so's head spin
spin put a spin on sth
spin spin a yawn
spin spin around
spin spin doctor
spin spin off
spin spin one's wheels
spin spin sth sth
spin spin sth off
spin spin sth out
spoon fold, spindle, or mutilate
spiral spiral down
spiral spiral up
spirit dampen so's spirits
spirit in good spirits
spirit lift so's spirits
spirit lower so's spirits
spirit raise so's spirits
spirit spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
spirit spirit so/so away (somewhere)
spirit spirit so/so off (to some place)
spirit That's the spirit!
spit close chewer and a tight spitter
spit don't amount to a bucket of spit
spit mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets)
spit mad enough to spit nails
spit and image of so
spit and polish
spit at so/so
spit spit in(to) so/so
spit spit out of so/so
spit spit up
spit spit (up) on so/so
spit spitting image of so
spit cut one's nose off to spite one's face
spite in spite of so/so
spite out of spite
spitter close chewer and a tight spitter
splitting spitting image of so
splash splash about
splash splash down
splash splash on so/so
splash splash over
splash splash so/so up
splash splash so/so with sth
splash splash so/so with so/so
split for a split second
split in a split second
split (it's) time to split.
split (it's) got to split.
split a gut
split split hairs
split split in sth
split split off (from sth)
split split one's sides (with laughter)
split split people up
split split second
split split so/so up (into sth)
split split so/so with so/so
split split sth between (so and so else)
split split sth fifty-fifty
split split sth into sth
split split sth off (of sth)
split split the difference
split split up (with so)
split splitting headache
spin vote a split ticket
spur splurge on so/so
spur rotten apple spoils the barrel.
spur Spare the rod and spoil the child.
spur spoiled rotten
spur spoiling for a fight
spur To the victors belong the spoils.
spur Too many cooks spoil the broth.
spur Too many cooks spoil the stew.
spoke I spoke out of turn.
spoke I spoke too soon.
spoke Many a true word is spoken in jest.
spoke spoken for
spoke There's many a true word spoken is past recalling.
spoon sponge so/so down
spoon sponge sth away
spoon sponge sth from so
spoon sponge sth from sth
spoon sponge sth off of so/so
spoon sponge sth up
spoon throw in the sponge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>phrase</th>
<th>definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stand</td>
<td>stay by, stay behind, stay back (from, for)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stamp</td>
<td>stamp out, stamp out (to some place), stampede, stampede out of some place, stampede out of sth, stampede out into sth, stamping one’s old stamping ground</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| stance                                      | soften one’s stance (on so/sth), stand able to do sth standing on one’s head, can’t stand (the sight of) so/sth, Don’t stand on ceremony, empty sack cannot stand upright, every tub must stand on its own bottom, house divided against itself, one’s (own) two feet, one’s heart stands still, one-night stand, stand a chance (of doing sth), stand against so/sth, stand and deliver, stand apart (from so/sth), stand around, stand aside, stand at sth, stand back (from so/sth), stand behind so/sth, stand between so/sth and so/sth else, stand by, stand clear of sth, stand close to so/sth, stand corrected, stand down, stand for sth, stand head and shoulders above so/sth, stand idly by, stand in awe (of so/sth), stand in (in) back of so/sth, stand in (for so), stand in so’s way, stand knee-deep in sth, stand off from so/sth, stand off some place, stand on ceremony, stand on one’s dignity, stand on one’s head, stand on one’s (own) two feet, stand one’s ground, stand out (against so/sth), stand out (from so/sth), stand out (to some place), stand outside ((of) so/sth), stand over so/sth, stand pat (on so/sth), stand so in good stead, stand so/sth off, stand so to a treat, stand so up, stand sth on its head, stand still for sth, stand tall, stand the test of time, stand there with one’s bare face hanging out, stand to lose sth, stand to reason, stand together, stand trial, stand up, stand (up) on so/sth, stand Stand Well with so, stand with so, stand standing joke, stand sure as I’m standing here, take a (firm) stand on sth, take a stand (against so/sth), take the stand, They also serve who only stand and wait, United we stand, divided we fall, *stand up before so, standards up to so’s standards, standby on standby, standstall bring sth to a standstill, standstill come to a standstill, star Bless one’s lucky star, star Hitch your wagon to a star, star as so/sth, star in sth, star-crossed lovers, starch take the starch out of so, stare give so a blank stare, stare at so/sth, stare into sth, stare out at so/sth, stare so down, stare so in the face, stark stark raving mad, stars Aim for the stars!, stars Bless one’s stars, stars Reach for the stars!, stars see stars, stars stars in one’s eyes, stars thank one’s lucky stars, stars think so hung the moon (and stars), *start by fits and starts, Don’t start (on me)!, fits and starts, for starters, fresh start, *from scratch, start from sth, get started on sth, head start on (so), start (on so), start (on sth), in fits and starts, jolt to a start, make a fresh start, make a start on sth, off to a bad start, off (to a flying start), off to a good start (with so/sth), off to a running start, one’s start, start a fire under so, start an all-out effort, start back (to some place), start for some place, start from scratch, start from some place, start in on so/sth, start off, start (off) with a bang, start (off) with a clean slate, start (off) with so/sth, start on so/sth, start out, start over, start (over) with a clean slate, start so in (as sth), start so off (on sth), start so out (as sth), start so out at an amount of money, start over, start so up (in sth), start sth, start sth up, start the ball rolling, start up, with fits and starts, starters for starters, startle startle so out of sth, starve Feed a cold and starve a fever, starve for some food, starve for so/sth, starve so or an animal into sth, starve so or an animal out of some place, stale, stale off, in (as sth), of sth, stave for starters, station Busy as Grand Central Station, station station so at sth, stay stave so/sth off, stave sth sth, stave sth off, stay Come back when you can stay longer, stay Don’t stay away so long, stay family that prays together stays together, stay have no staying power, stay *in the fast lane, stay *on one’s toes, stay *out of sight, stay abreast of so/sth, stay after so (about sth), stay after so/sth, stay ahead of sth, stay ahead of the game, stay aloof from so/sth, stay at some place, stay at sth, stay away (from so/sth), stay back (from sth), stay behind, stay by so/sth, stay clear of so/sth, stay down.
steam up
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
steam
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>phrase</th>
<th>definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stolen</td>
<td>Stolen pleasures are sweetest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>army marches on its stomach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>butterflies in one's stomach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>cannot stomach so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>can't stomach so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>cast-iron stomach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>have the stomach for so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>not able to stomach so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>one's eyes are bigger than one's stomach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>pit of one's stomach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>turn so/a's stomach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>way to a man's heart is through his stomach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stomp</td>
<td>stomp on so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>break so/a's stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>bust (so/o)'s stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>carve sth in stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>carved in stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>cast the first stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>Constant dropping wears away a stone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>engraved in stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>hard as stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>have a heart of stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>(just) a stone's throw away (from sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>kill two birds with one stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>leave no stone unturned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>put one's nose to the grindstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>rolling stone gathers no moss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>run into a stone wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>stone-(cold) sober</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>stone dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>stone's throw away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>within a stone's throw (of sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>write in stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>You cannot get blood from a stone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>should have stood in bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stoop</td>
<td>fall between two stools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoof</td>
<td>stoof (on so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoof</td>
<td>stoof (pigeon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoop</td>
<td>Stoop down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stoop</td>
<td>Stoop over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoop</td>
<td>Stoop to do (sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoop</td>
<td>buck stops here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>come to a stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>face that could stop a clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>homely enough to stop a clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>I'll put a stop to that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>jolt to a stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>nature stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>pull all the stops out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>put a stop to (sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop at sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop behind so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop by (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop dead in one's tracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop for so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop for sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop in (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop, look, and listen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop off (some place) (for a period of time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop one or sth dead in one's or sth's tracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop over (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop short of a place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop short of doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop so/th from doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop sh/th (with sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop the music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>Stop the presses!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stop up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>will stop at nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storage</td>
<td>in closed storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>in storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>have sth in store (for so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>hold sth in store (for so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>in closed storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>in storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>in store (for so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>lie in store (for so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>mind the store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>set great store by so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>store sth/th away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>store sth/th in sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>store sth/th up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
<td>watch the store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stork</td>
<td>keep the stork busy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stork</td>
<td>keep the stork flying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stork</td>
<td>visit from the stork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>After a storm comes a calm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>any port in a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>calm before the storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>come up a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>cook up a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>eye of the storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>gab up a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>kick up a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>lull before the storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>risk of thunderstorms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>sing up a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>storm around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>storm at so/th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>storm in (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>storm is brewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>storm out (of some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>take so/th by storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>talk up a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>up a storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm</td>
<td>weather the storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>break a long story short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>cock-and-bull story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>cut a long story short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>End of story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>fish story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>fish story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>inside story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>long story short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>make a long story short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>same old story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>shaggy-dog story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>sob story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>tell its own story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>There are two sides to every story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>top story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>story</td>
<td>upper story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stove</td>
<td>stow away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stow</td>
<td>stow sh/th away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stow</td>
<td>straddle the fence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straight</td>
<td>can't see straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straight</td>
<td>get sth/th straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straight</td>
<td>get the facts straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straight</td>
<td>give it to so (straight)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
straw
straw

straw that broke the camel's back
straw
straw You cannot make bricks without straw.

stray
stray (away) (from sth)
stray
stray in(to sth)
stray
stray onto sth

streak
streak continue one's losing streak
streak
streak cuss a blue streak
streak
streak have a yellow streak down one's back
streak
streak losing streak
streak
streak lucky streak
streak
streak mean streak
streak
streak across sth
streak
streak of bad luck
streak
streak of good luck
streak
streak of luck
streak
streak talk a blue streak
streak
streak yellow streak (down so's back)

stream
stream change horses in midstream
stream
stream change horses in the middle of the stream
stream
stream Cross the stream where it is shallowest.
stream
stream Don't change horses in midstream.
stream
stream in the mainstream (of sth)
stream
stream down (on so/so/th)
stream
stream in(to sth)
street
street down the street
street
street man in the street
street
street on easy street
street
street on the street
street
street put sth on the street
street
street take it to the street
street
street two-way street
strength
strength at full strength
strength
strength by brute strength
strength
strength by main strength and awkwardness
strength
strength main strength and awkwardness
strength
strength not know one's own strength
strength
strength on the strength of sth
strength
strength pillar of strength
strength
strength tower of strength
strength
strength Union is strength.
stress
stress lay stress on sth
stress
stress make sth fancy
stress
stress make sth funny
stress
stress make sth into sth
stress
stress make sth off (of) so/so/th
strength
strength make sth off (of) so/so/th

strike
strike a balance (between two things)
strike
strike a bargain
strike
strike a chord (with so)
strike
strike a deal
strike
strike a happy medium
strike
strike a match
strike
strike a pose
strike
strike a sour note
strike
strike at so/so/th
strike
strike back (at so/so/th)
strike
strike for sth
strike
strike home
strike
strike it rich
strike
strike out
strike
strike over sth
strike
strike so as sth
strike
strike so funny
strike
strike so/so/th down
strike
strike so/so/th from sth
strike
strike so/so/th on sth
strike
strike so/so/th with sth
strike
strike so's fancy
strike
strike so's down
strike
strike so's into sth
strike
strike so's off (of) so/so/th
strike
strike so's out
strike
strike so's up
strike
strike so's (up) on sth
strike
strike the right note
strike
strike up a conversation
strike
strike up a friendship
strike
strike up the band
strike
strike while the iron is hot.
strike
strike three strikes and you are out.
strike
strike two strikes against one
string
string control the purse strings
string
string get along (on a shoestring)
string
string get by (on a shoestring)
string
string have more than one string to one's fiddle
string
string have so on a string
string
string have so on the string
string
string hold the purse strings
string
string keep so on a string
string
string latch string is always out.
string
string on a shoestring
string
string on a string
string
string play on so's heartstrings
string
string pull a few strings
string
string pull (some) strings
string
string string along (with so)
string
string string of bad luck
string string of good luck
string string so along
string string so up
string string s'hh out
string string s'hh together
string strung out
string string tied to one's mother's apron
strings string with no strings attached
string without any strings attached
strip strip down
strip strip for s'hh
strip strip s'hh down to s'hh
strip strip s'hh of s'hh
strip strip s'hh away (from s'hh)
strip strip s'hh in
strip strip off (of) s'hh
strip strip to s'hh
strive strive after s'hh
strive strive against s'hh
strive strive for s'hh
strive strive toward s'hh
stroke arrive (somewhere) at the stroke of some time
stroke arrive (somewhere) (up) on the stroke of some time
stroke Different strokes for different folks.
stroke have a stroke
stroke Little strokes fell great oaks.
stroke stroke of genius
stroke stroke of luck
stroke stroke so's ego
stroll stroll arm in arm
stroll stroll around
stroll stroll through s'hh
strong strong chain is no stronger than its weakest link.
strong come on strong
strong going strong
strong strong as a horse
strong strong as a lion
strong strong as an ox
strong strong, silent type
strong strong-arm tactics
strong strong use strong language
struggle give up the struggle
struggle put up a struggle
struggle struggle against s'hh
struggle struggle along under s'hh
struggle struggle along (with s'hh)
struggle struggle for s'hh
struggle struggle on with s'hh
struggle struggle through (s'hh)
struggle struggle to do s'hh
struggle struggle to the death
struggle struggle with so for s'hh
struggle struggle with s'hh
strump strump s'hh on s'hh
strong strung out
strut strut around
strut strut in(to some place)
strut strut one's stuff
strut strut out of some place
stub stub one's toe against s'hh
stub stub s'hh out
stubborn stubborn as a mule
stick (stuck) in a rut
stick stick in traffic
stick stuck on s'hh
stick stuck on s'hh
stick stuck with s'hh
study quick study
study slow study
study study for s'hh
study study up on s'hh
stuff beat the (natural) stuffing out of so
stuff beat the stuffing out of so
stuff Cut the funny stuff!
stuff get one's stuff together
stuff green stuff
stuff kick the (natural) stuffing out of so
stuff kid's stuff
stuff knock the stuffing out of s'hh
stuff know one's stuff
stuff right stuff
stuff rough stuff
stuff show so one's stuff
stuff strut one's stuff
stuff Stuff a sock in it!
stuff stuff and nonsense
stuff stuff one's face
stuff stuff s'hh into s'hh
stuff stuff s'hh with s'hh
stuff stuff so's head with s'hh
stuff stuff s'hh down so's throat
stuff stuff s'hh down s'hh
stuff stuff s'hh up
stuff stuff the ballot box
stuff take the stuffing out of so
stuff That's the stuff!
stuff stumble across s'hh
stuff stumble into s'hh
stuff stumble on s'hh
stuff stumble over s'hh
stuff stumble through s'hh
stuff stumble (up) s'hh
stuff stubbling block
stump stump for so
stump stump so
stump (You've) got me stumped.
stunt pull a stunt (on s'hh)
stupor in a stupor
style after the style of s'hh
style cramp so's style
style follow after the style of s'hh
style go out of style
style in style
style like it was going out of style
style out of style
style spend money like it's going out of style
sub sub for s'hh
sub so for so else
subdivide subdivide s'hh into s'hh
subject change the subject
subject Drop the subject!
subject off the subject
subject subject s'hh to s'hh
subject subject so's to s'hh
subject subject to s'hh
subjugate subjugate so to so
sublime from the sublime to the ridiculous
submerge submerge s'hh in s'hh
submerge submerge so's under s'hh
submit submit so's to s'hh
submit submit to s'hh
subordinate subordinate so's to so's else
subpoena subpoena so to do s'hh
subscribe subscribe to s'hh
subsist subsist on s'hh
substance form and substance
substance sum and substance
substitute substitute for so's
substitute substitute so for so else
subtract subtract s'hh from s'hh else
succeed if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
succeed Nothing succeeds like success.
succeed succeed as s'hh
succeed succeed at s'hh
succeed succeed in s'hh
succeed succeed so as s'hh
succeed succeed to s'hh
success bring s'hh to a successful conclusion
success key to success
success Nothing succeeds like success.
successful bring s'hh to a successful conclusion
succumb succumb to s'hh
such as such
such (1) never heard of such a thing!
such Like it's so such a big deal!
such and such
such as such
such as such as
such as life
such There ain't no such thing as a free lunch.
such There's no such thing as a free lunch.
suck Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs.
suck It sucks.
suck meaner than a junkyard dog (with fourteen sucking pups)
suck suck (some) brew
suck suck (some) suds
suck suck so in
suck suck so's down
suck suck so's into s'hh
suck suck so's under
suck suck so's hind tit
suck suck s'hh from s'hh
suck suck s'hh
suck suck s'hh up
suck suck up to so
suck teach one's grandmother to suck eggs.
suck That sucks.
sucker sucker for so's
sucker sucker list
sucker sucker so into s'hh
sudden all of a sudden
sudden suddenly the fat hit the fire
suds bust (some) suds
suds crack some suds
sudsuck (some) suds
sue So, sue me.
sue sue for s'hh
sue sue so for s'hh
sue sue the pants off (of) so
suffer suffer a setback
suffer suffer an attack (of an illness)
suffer suffer from s'hh
suffer suffer under so
suffice suffice for so's
sufficiency elegant sufficiency
sufficient Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.
suffix suffix s'hh onto s'hh
suffuse suffuse so with s'hh
sugar give so some sugar
suggest suggest itself to so
suggest suggest sth to so
suggestive suggestive of sth
suit cut one’s coat to suit one’s cloth
suit follow suit
suit in one’s birthday suit
suit It doesn’t quite suit me.
suit (It) suits me (fine).
suit monkey suit
suit one’s actions to one’s words
suit suit oneself
suit suit (oneself) up
suit suit so/th to sth
suit suit so’s fancy
suit suit so to a T
Suit yourself.
suit This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
suitcase live out of a suitcase
suit suit (to)
This doesn’t quite suit me.
swing swing into action
swing swing into high gear
swing swing sth
swing swing to sth
swing swing with so/sth
swing take a swing at so
swipe take a swipe at so/sth
swirl swirl about so/sth
swirl swirl around
swish swish around
swish swish sth off (of) so/sth
switch asleep at the switch
switch bait and switch
switch fall asleep at the switch
switch switch around
switch switch (around) (with so/sth)
switch switch back (to sth)
switch switch from so to so else
switch switch from sth to sth else
switch switch into sth
switch switch off
switch switch on
switch switch over (to so/sth)
switch switch so/sth around
switch switch so/sth off
switch switch so/sth over to sth
switch switch so/sth through
switch switch sth back (to sth)
switch switch sth (from sth) (into) sth
switch switch sth on
switch switch sth off
switch switch sth over (to sth)
switch switch sth to sth else
switch switch to sth
switch switched on
swoon swoon over so/sth
swoop at one fell swoop
swoop in one fell swoop
swoop swoop down (up)on so/sth
sword cross swords (with so)
sword double-edged sword
sword fall on one's sword
sword Live by the sword, die by the sword.
sword pen is mightier than the sword.
sword two-edged sword
sympathize sympathize with so (about so/sth)
sympathy extend one's sympathy (to so)
sympathy one's deepest sympathy
sync out of sync
synchronize synchronize sth with so/sth else
system All systems are go.
system get sth out of one's system
T done to a T
T fit so to a T
T have sth down to a T
T suit so to a T
T tab keep tab(s) (on so/sth)
tab pick up the tab
tab run a tab
tab tab so for sth
table boxed on the table
table clear the table
table coffee-table book
table drink so under the table
table get so around the table
table lay one's cards on the table
table on the table
table put one's cards on the table
table set the table
table table a motion
table turn the tables (on so)
table under the table
table wait (on) tables
tack get down to brass tacks
tack sharp as a tack
tack tack so down
tack tack sth onto sth
tack tack up
tactic strong-arm tactics
tag tag along (after so)
tag tag so out
tail Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.
tail bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
tail can't make heads or tails (out of so/sth)
tail come up tails
tail freeze one's tail off
tail get off so's tail
tail get one's tail in gear
tail has the world by the tail (with a downhill drag)
tail have a bear by the tail
tail have a tiger by the tail
tail heads or tails
tail high tail it out of somewhere
tail in two shakes of a lamb's tail
tail make heads or tails of so/sth
tail not able to make head or tail of sth
tail on so's tail
tail tail after so
tail tail off
tail tail wagging the dog
tail turn tail (and run)
tail two shakes of a lamb's tail
tail with one's tail between one's legs
tail work one's tail off
tailor tailor so/sth to so/sth
tails spin go into a tailspin
taint taint sth with sth
take able to take a joke
take able to take just so much
take able to take only so much
take *all the marbles
take as a duck takes to water
take *blame for sth
take Can I take a message?
take Can I take your order (now)?
take can take it to the bank
take Could I take a message?
take Could I take your order (now)?
take Devil take the hindmost
take difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer.
take do a double take
take Don't take any wooden nickels.
take Every man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost).
take *firm hand
take Genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains.
take Give so an inch and he'll take a mile.
take Give so an inch and he'll take a yard.
take God takes so soonest those he loveth best.
take hard to take
take have what it takes
take (is) this (seat) taken?
take It takes all kinds (to make a world).
take It takes money to make money.
take (it) takes one to know one.
take It takes (some) getting used to.
take It takes two to make a bargain.
take It takes two to make a quarrel.
take (it) takes two to tango.
take It will take some doing.
take It would take an act of Congress
to do sth.
take (I've) got to take off.
take (just) taking care of business
take like taking candy from a baby
take *load off one's feet
take *load off one's mind
take *long shot
take *look-see
take lot of give-and-take
take *lot of nerve
take *long shot

take a beating
take a bath
take a bow
take a break
take a chance
take a collection up from (so) (for
so's) sake
take a course (in sth)
take a crack at so
take a crack at sth
take a dig at so
take a dim view of so/sth
take a dirt nap
take a dive
take a drag (on sth)
take a fall
take a fancy to so/sth
take a firm grip on so/sth
take a (firm) stand on sth
take a gander (at so/sth)
take a go at so
take a go at sth
take a guess
take a hand in sth
take a hard line (with so)
take a hike
take a hint
take a jab at so
take a jab at sth
take a leaf out of so's book
take a leak
take a licking
take a liking to so/sth
take a load off (of) so's mind
take a load off one's feet
take A long walk off a short pier.
take a look at so/sth

take a look for so/sth
take a lot of nerve
take a lot off (of) so's mind
take a lot out of so
take a nap
 take a new turn
take a nosh
take a page from so's book
take a poke at so
 take a pop at so
take a potshot at so/sth
take a pound of flesh
take a powder
take a punch at so
take a rain check (on sth)
take a risk
 take a running jump (in the lake)!
take a shine to so/sth
 take a shot at so/sth
take a shower
 take a spill
 take a stab at so
 take a stab at sth
 take a stand (against so/sth)
 take a swing at so
 take a spice at so/sth
 take a try at so
 take a try at sth
 take a turn for the better
 take a turn for the worse
 take a vacation
 take a walk
 take a weight off one's mind
 take a whack at sth
 take a whiff of sth
 take account of so/sth
 take action against so/sth
 take action on so/sth
 take advantage of so
 take after so
 take (a)hold of so/sth
 take aim at so/sth
 take aim (at so/sth or an animal)
 take an amount of money so/sth
 take an interest in so/sth
 take an oath
 take attendance
 take away from so/sth
 take Care.
 take care of number one
 take care of numero uno
 take care of so
 take care of sth
 Take Care (of yourself),
 take charge of (so/sth)
 take cold
 take control of so/sth
 take cover
 take credit for sth
 take digs at so
 take effect
 take exception (to sth)
 take first crack at sth
 take five
 take forty winks
 take fuel on
 take (great) pains (to do sth)
 take heart (from sth)
 take heed (of so/sth)
 take hold of so/sth
 take ill
 take into account so/sth
 take inventory
 take issue with so
 take issue with sth
 take it
 take its course
 take kindly to sth
 take leave of one's senses
 take leave of so/sth
 take liberties with so/sth
 take My word for it.
 take names
 take no prisoners
 take no stock in sth
 take note of so/sth
 take notice of so/sth
 take off
 take off
 take offense (at so/sth)
take office
 take on a new meaning
 take off on a new significance
 take on (so)
take one at one's word
 take one back (to some time)
take one for the road
 take one's belt in (a notch)
take one's break
 take one's cue from so
 take one's death (of cold)
take one's eyes off (of) so/sth
 take one's hands off (of) so/sth
 take one's hat off to so
 take one's (one's) leave (of so)
take one's lumps
 take one's medicine
 take one's own life
 take one's pick of so/sth
 take one's time
 take one's turn
 take oneself off some place
 take out a loan
 take out after (so/let)
take over (from so)
take pains with sth
 take part (in sth)
take pity (on so or an animal)
take place
 take possession of (stf)
take precedence over so/sth
 take pride in so/sth
 take (quite) a turn (on so/sth)
take refuge in sth
 take revenge (against so)
take root
 take shape
 take sick
 take sides
 take solace (in
 sth)
take sides
 take sides
 take side
 take some doing
 take some heat
 take (some) time off
 take (some) time off from work
 take so apart
 take so around
 take so as so
 take so aside
 take so below
 take so by surprise
 take so down a notch (or two)
take so down a peg (or two)
take so down (to size)
take so for a fool
 take so for a ride
take take so for an idiot
take take so for dead
take take so for so's
take take so for sth
take take so for hostage
take take so in
take take so into one's confidence
take take so off
take take so on
take take so on an animal in
take take so on an animal into one's heart
take take so/th th abroad
take take so/th across (th)
take take so/th along
take take so/th at face value
take take so/th away (from so/th)
take take so/th before so/th
take take so/th by th
take take so/th by storm
take take so/th by surprise
take take so/th down
take take so/th for granted
take take so/th into account
take take so/th off
take take so/th on
take take so/th out of sth
take take so/th over
take take so/th with one
take take so/th wrong
take take so's blood pressure
take take so's breath away
take take so's head off
take take so's life
take take so's part
take take so's pulse
take take so's temperature
take take so's word for sth
take take so's word on sth
take take so/th or an animal in(side)
take take so through (th)
take take so to court
take take so to one side
take take so to task
take take so to the cleaners
take take so under so's wing(s)
take take so up
take take sth
take take sth aloft
take take sth amiss
take take sth apart
take take sth around
take take sth as sth
take take sth at face value
take take sth away (from so/th)
take take sth back
take take sth down
take take sth for a drive
take take sth from so
take take sth from sth
take take sth home (with oneself)
take take sth in
take take sth into account
take take sth into one's head
take take sth into some place
take take sth lying down
take take sth off
take take sth on faith
take take sth on the chin
take take sth on trust
take take sth out
take take sth over
take take sth personally

take take sth public
take take sth the wrong way
take take sth to heart
take take sth to pieces
take take sth to so/th
take take sth under advisement
take take sth up
take take sth (up) on oneself
take take sth with a pinch of salt
take take sth with one
take take sth with sth
take take steps (to prevent sth)
take take stock (of sth)
take take the bit between the teeth
take take the bit in one's teeth
take Take the bitter with the sweet.
take take the blame (for doing sth)
take take the bull by the horns
take take the chill off ((of) sth)
take take the coward's way out
take take the cure
take take the day off
take take the easy way out
take take the edge off ((of) sth)
take take the fall
take take the floor
take take the gods the gods provide.
take take the heat
take take the initiative (to do sth)
take take the law into one's own hands
take take the liberty of doing sth
take take the lid off (of) sth
take take the (long) count
take take the pledge
take take the plunge
take take the pulse of sth
take take the rap (for so)
take take the rap (for sth)
take take (the) roll
take Take the rough with the smooth.
take take the slack up
take take the spear (in one's chest)
take take the stage
take take the stand
take take the starch out of so
take take the stuffing out of so
take take the trouble (to do sth)
take take the wind out of so's sails
take take the words out of so's mouth
take take things easy
take take time out
take take to one's bed
take take to one's heels
take take to so/th
take take to the hills
take take too much on
take take turns ((at) doing sth)
take take turns with so
take take turns with (sth)
take take umbrage at sth
take take up arms (against so/th)
take take up one's abode some place
take take up residence some place
take take up room
take take up (so's) time
take take up space
take take up the challenge
take take up where one left off
take take up with so
take take years off (of) so/th
Take Take your seat.
take take turns back
take take turns for dead

take take with so/th
take take-off artist
take taking calls
take That takes care of that.
take That takes the cake!
take *time off
take *try at so
take *try at sth
take *under so's wing(s)
take undertake to do sth
take *whiff of sth
take winner take all
take (You) can't take it with you.
take You pays your money and you takes your chance(s).
takeoff do a takeoff on so/th
tale Dead men tell no tales.
tale fish tale
tale Never tell tales out of school.
tale old wives' tale
tale tale never loses in the telling.
tale tale of woes
tale tell its own tale
tale tell tales out of school
tale thereby hangs a tale
talent have a hidden talent
talent have hidden talents
talk all talk (and no action)
talk engage in small talk
talk fast-talk so into so/th
talk fast-talk so out of sth
talk have a heart-to-heart (talk)
talk (I'll) talk to you soon.
talk (It's been) good talking to you.
talk Let's talk (about it).
talk like to hear oneself talk
talk Look who's talking!
talk *mile a minute
talk Money talks.
talk Now you're talking!
talk straight talk
talk sweet-talk so
talk talk a blue streak
talk talk a mile a minute
talk talk about so/th
talk Talk about so/th
Talk about so/th
talk talk around sth
talk talk at so
talk talk back (to so)
talk talk big
talk talk down to so
talk talk in circles
talk Talk is cheap.
talk tell tales out of school
Talk tale
Talk tale never loses in the telling.
talk thereby hangs a tale
tale have a hidden talent
tale have hidden talents
talk all talk (and no action)
talk engage in small talk
talk fast-talk so into so/th
talk fast-talk so out of sth
talk have a heart-to-heart (talk)
talk (I'll) talk to you soon.
talk (It's been) good talking to you.
talk Let's talk (about it).
talk like to hear oneself talk
talk Look who's talking!
talk *mile a minute
talk Money talks.
talk Now you're talking!
talk straight talk
talk sweet-talk so
talk talk a blue streak
talk talk a mile a minute
talk talk about so/th
talk Talk about so/th
Talk about so/th
talk talk around sth
talk talk at so
talk talk back (to so)
talk talk big
talk talk down to so
talk talk in circles
talk Talk is cheap.
talk tale
Talk tale never loses in the telling.
talk thereby hangs a tale
tale have a hidden talent
tale have hidden talents
talk all talk (and no action)
talk engage in small talk
talk fast-talk so into so/th
talk fast-talk so out of sth
talk have a heart-to-heart (talk)
talk (I'll) talk to you soon.
talk (It's been) good talking to you.
talk Let's talk (about it).
talk like to hear oneself talk
talk Look who's talking!
talk *mile a minute
talk Money talks.
talk Now you're talking!
talk straight talk
talk sweet-talk so
talk talk a blue streak
talk talk a mile a minute
talk talk about so/th
talk Talk about so/th
Talk about so/th
talk talk around sth

taste taste like more
taste taste like oh
style taste of one’s own medicine
taste taste of oh
style taste of oh
style Tastes differ.
taste There is no accounting for taste(s).
taste want so bad one can taste it
tat give so tit for tat
tater all vine and no taters
tater Hold your tater!
tatter in tatters
tattle going to tattle
tattle (on so) (to so)
tattoo screwed, blued, and tattooed
taunt taunt so about oh
taunt taunt so into oh
taunt taunt so with oh
taut run a taut ship
tax Nothing is certain but death and taxes.
tax tax so/so with oh
tax tax-and-spend
tax write sh off (on one’s taxes)
taxi hail a taxi
tea just one’s cup of tea
tea not for all the tea in China
tea not one’s cup of tea
don’t teach your grandmother to suck eggs.
teach teach one’s grandmother to suck eggs
Teach teach so a lesson
Teach teach so the hang of oh
Teach teach so the tricks of the trade
Teach That’ll teach so
Teach Those who can, do; those who can’t, teach.
Teach *tricks of the trade
Teach you cannot teach an old dog new tricks.
teacher experience is the best teacher.
teacher Experience is the teacher of fools.
teacher teacher’s pet
Teacup tempest in a teacup
Team make the team
Team pull together (as a team)
Team team player.
Team team up against so/so
Team team up (with so)
Team *up against oh
Teapot tempest in a teapot
Tear all tore up (about oh)
Tear blink one’s tears back
Tear blood, sweat, and tears
Tear bore so to tears
Tear break in(to) tears
Tear break out in(to) tears
Tear burst into tears
Tear cry crocodile tears
Tear It is easier to tear down than to build up.
Tear move so to tears
Tear not shed a tear
Tear put wear (and tear) on oh
Tear reduce so to tears
Tear shed crocodile tears
Tear tear a place apart
Tear tear across oh
Tear tear along
tear tear around (some place)
tear tear at so/so
Tear tear away (from so/so)
tear tear down oh
Tear tear into some place
Tear tear into so
Tear tear into oh
Tear tear loose (from so/so)
Tear tear off (from so/so)
Tear tear one’s hair (out)
Tear tear (oneself) away from so/so
Tear tear out (of some place)
Tear tear so apart
Tear tear so or some animal limb from limb
Tear tear so/so down
Tear tear so/so to pieces
Tear tear so up
Tear tear so apart
Tear tear sh away from so/so
Tear tear sh down
Tear tear sh from oh
Tear tear sh off (of) so/so
Tear tear sh on oh
Tear tear sh out of oh
Tear tear sh up
Tear That tears it!
Tear (this) vale of tears
Tear tore (up)
Tear torn between so and so else
Tear torn (up)
Tear wear and tear (on oh)
Tease tease so about so/so
Tease tease so into doing oh
Tease tease oh out
Teetee tee off
Teetee tee so off
Teetee tree off
Teetee tree (up)
Teem teem with so/so
Teeth armed to the teeth
Teeth bare one’s teeth
Teeth by the skin of one’s teeth
Teeth cut teeth
Teeth dressed to the teeth
Teeth drop one’s teeth
Teeth escape by the skin of one’s teeth
Teeth fly in the teeth of so/so
Teeth get one’s teeth into so/so
Teeth give teeth to oh
Teeth gnash one’s teeth
Teeth gnashing of teeth
Teeth gods send nuts to those who have no teeth.
Teeth grit one’s teeth
Teeth kick in the teeth
Teeth lie through one’s teeth
Teeth no skin off so’s teeth
Teeth pull so’s or oh’s teeth
Teeth put some teeth into oh
Teeth put teeth in(to) oh
Teeth scarce as hen’s teeth
Teeth scarcer than hen’s teeth
Teeth set so’s teeth on edge
Teeth show one’s teeth
Teeth sink one’s teeth into oh
Teeth take the bit between the teeth
Teeth take the bit in one’s teeth
Teeth teething troubles
Telegraph telegraph one’s punches
Telephone get on(to) the (tele)phone
Telephone on the telephone
Telephone telephone sh in (to so)
Telescope telescope into so/so
tell all told
tell Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.
tell Blood will tell.
tell Breeding will tell.
tell Can I tell her who's calling?
tell Children and fools tell the truth.
tell Could I tell him who's calling?
tell Dead men tell no tales.
tell Do tell.
tell (Do) you mean to tell me sth?
tell done told you
tell Don't make me tell you again!
tell Don't tell a soul.
tell Don't tell me what to do!
tell going to tell
tell How many times do I have to tell you?
tell I don't mind telling you (sth).
tell (I) won't tell a soul.
tell if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times
tell Kiss as and tell
tell liar is not believed (even) when he tells the truth.
tell little bird told me.
tell May I tell him who's calling?
tell my gut tells me (that)
tell Never tell tales out of school.
tell not tell a (living) soul
tell (Only) time will tell.
tell show and tell
tell tale never loses in the telling.
tell tell all
tell Tell it like it is.
tell Tell it to the marines!
tell tell its own story
tell tell its own tale
tell Tell me another (one)!
tell tell of so/sth
tell tell on so
tell tell one's bearings
tell tell one to one's face
tell tell people or things apart
tell tell shit from Shinola
tell tell so about so/sth
tell tell so about so/sth
tell tell so from so else
tell tell so off
tell tell so on so
tell tell so/off by so/sth
tell tell so what to do with so/sth
tell tell so where to get off
tell tell sth from sth
tell tell sth to so
tell tell tales out of school
tell tell the difference between so and so or sth and sth else
tell Tell the truth and shame the devil.
tell tell the (whole) world
tell tell things apart
tell tell time
tell tell which is which
tell (There's) no way to tell.
tell Time will tell.
tell What can I tell you?
tell You can't tell a book by its cover.
tell You mean to tell me sth?
tell You're telling me!
tell You're telling me!
temper hold one's temper
temper keep one's temper
temper keep one's temper (at so/sth)
temper quick temper
temper short temper
temper temper sth with sth
temperature run a temperature
temperature take so's temperature
tempest tempest in a teapot
tempest tempest in a teapot
tempt tempt so into sth
tempt tempt so to do sth
tempt tempt so with sth
ten Genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.
ten hang ten
ten He wears a ten-dollar hat on a five-cent head.
ten I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole.
ten nine times out of ten
ten not touch so/sth with a ten-foot pole
ten wouldn't touch so/sth with a ten-foot pole
tend tend to do sth
tend tend toward sth
tender tender age of...
tender tender sth for sth
tender tender sth (to so) (for sth)
tense tense up (for sth)
tent pitch a tent
tenterhooks keep so on tenterhooks
tents Possession is nine-tenths of the law.
term come to terms (about so/sth)
term come to terms (with so/sth)
term contradiction in terms
term in glowing terms
term in no uncertain terms
term in terms of sth
term on good terms (with so)
term on speaking terms (with so)
terrible I'm terrible at names.
terrify terrify so into sth
terrify terrify so or an animal out of sth
territory come with the territory
territory cover the territory
territory go with the territory
territory unfamiliar territory
terror hold terror for so
terrorize terrorize so into sth
test acid test
test cram for a test
test litmus test
test put so/sth to the test
test stand the test of time
test test for sth
test test out (of sth)
test test so/sth for sth
test test sth out
testament last will and testament
testify testify against so/sth
testify testify for sth
testify testify to sth
tether at the end of one's tether
tether at the end of one's tether
than Actions speak louder than words.
than absurd is better than none.
than Better be an old man's darling than a young man's slave.
than Better (be) safe than sorry.
than Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.
than Better late than never.
than Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know.
than bigger than life (and twice as ugly)
than bite off more than one can chew
than Blood is thicker than water.
than cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose.
than chain is no stronger than its weakest link.
than deader than a doornail
than didn't exchange more than three words with so.
than Don't bite off more than you can chew.
than easier said than done
than emptier than a banker's heart
than Example is better than precept.
than exchange no more than some number of words with so.
than Fact is stranger than fiction.
than fate worse than death
than female of the species is more deadly than the male.
than Half a loaf is better than none.
than harder than the back of God's head
than hardly exchange more than some number of words with so.
than have more luck than sense
than have more one string to one's fiddle.
than I'd rather face a firing squad than do sth.
than in less than no time
than it is better to be born lucky than rich.
than it is better to give than to receive.
than it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.
than it is better to wear out than to rust out.
than it is easier to tear down than to build up.
than it is more blessed to give than to receive.
than (It's) better than nothing.
than know better (than to do sth).
than know no more about sth than a frog knows about bed sheets.
than larger than life
than less than pleased
than meaner than a junkyard dog (with fourteen sucking pups)
than more dead than alive
than more fun than a barrel of monkeys
than more often than not
than more so/sth than one can shake a stick at
than more sth than Carter has (liver) pills
than more than one bargained for
than more than one can bear
than more than you'll ever know
than more (to sth) than meets the eye
than No more than I have to.
than more (to than than than than more than you (ll ever) know
than more than you (ll ever) know
than more (to sth) than meets the eye
than No more than I have to.
than no sooner said than done
than none other than
than not exchange more than some number of words with so.
than notch better than (so/sth)
than nuttier than a fruittake
than One's bark is worse than one's bite.
Thanksgiving

vote of thanks

thank

Thanks for the ride.

Thanks awfully.

Thanks a million.

Thanks (a lot).

thankful for small blessings

Thank you so much.

Thank you kindly.

Thank you for sharing.

Thank you for inviting me.

Thank you for your kind words.

Thank you very much.

thankful for small blessings

thanks a bunch

thank you (lots)

Thank a million.

Thank awfully.

Thanked, but no thanks.

Thanks for the lift.

Thanks for the ride.

Thanks loads.

thanks to so/so

vote of thanks

thanking bim than you ma'am
Thanksgiving Busy as a cranberry merchant (at Thanksgiving)
that Sorry (that) I asked.
that straw that broke the camel's back
that take it that...
that That ain't hay.
that That ain't no lie.
that That ain't the way I heard it.
that That (all) depends.
that That beats everything!
that that beats all to pieces.
that That brings me to the (main) point.
that That (causes) no problem.
that That does it!
that That makes two of us.
that That (really) burns me (up)!
that That's a fine how-do-you-do.
that That's a new one on me!
that That's about the size of it.
that That's all for so.
that That's all she wrote.
that That's all so needs.
that That's easy for you to say.
that That's enough!
that That's enough for now.
that That (that's) enough (of this) foolishness!
that That (that's) fine with me.
that That's for dang sure!
that That's funny.
that That's it!
that That's (just) the way it goes.
that That's (just) too much!
that That's just what you need.
that That's more like it.
that That's my boy.
that That's my girl.
that That's news to me.
that That's show business (for you).
that That's that!
that That's the pot calling the kettle black.
that That's the spirit!
that That's the stuff!
that That's the ticket!
that That's the way the ball bounces.
that That's the way the cookie crumbles.
that That's the way the mop flops.
that That (that's) the way to go!
that That's too bad.
that That's what I say.
that That's what she wrote.
that that's why!
that That sucks.
that That takes care of that.
that That takes the cake!
that That tears it!
that that there
that that very thing
that That will do.
that That'll be the day!
that That'll teach 'em!
that They went that a'way.
that this a-way and that a-way
that (To) hell with that!
that turn out (that)
that Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.
that What do you know (about that)?
that What do you think of that?
that What does that prove?
that What is that?
that Will that be all?
that You can say that again!
that You can beat that.
that You can't expect me to believe that.
that You can't mean that!
that You can't top that.
that You couldn't (do that)!
that You don't expect me to believe that.
that You wouldn't (do that)!
that thaw out
that thaw thaw so/th under
that their Birds in their little nests agree.
that their Coming events cast their shadows before.
that their Cowards die many times before their death(s).
that their If frogs had wheels, they wouldn't bump their butts.
that their in their entirety
that their Men are blind in their own cause.
that their sit on their hands
that them and them
that them daddy of them all
that them Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
that them every mother's son (of them)
that them God helps them that help themselves.
that them granddaddy of them all
that them How bout them apples?
that them How do you like them apples?
that them If you can't beat them, join them.
that them If you can't lick 'em, join 'em.
that them leave them rolling in the aisles
that them Let them eat cake.
that them pack them in
that them Put 'em up!
that them Stick 'em up!
that them Them as has, gits.
that them Them's fighting words!
that them They don't make them like they used to.
that them up and at 'em
that them (You) can't win them all.
that themelves by themselves
that themselves Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves.
that themselves God helps them that help themselves.
that themselves Listeners never hear any good of themselves.
that themselves speak for themselves
that themselves squeeze (themselves) together
that themselves squeeze (themselves) up then and then some
that then (every) now and then
that then *fat hit the fire
that then (Good-bye) until then.
that then If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.
that then If you're born to be hanged, then you'll never be drowned.
that then (I'll) see you then.
that then and then
that then now then
that then now then
that then and there
that then the fat hit the fire
that theorize theorize about so/th
that theorize theorize on so/th
that theory in theory

theory ounce of common sense is worth a pound of theory.
there all there
there Be there or be square.
there couldn't pour water out of a boot (if there was instructions on the heel)
there Easy, there!
there go there
there Hang in there.
there here and there
there here, there, and everywhere
there if ifs and ands were pots and pans (there'd be no work for tinkers' hands).
there if there's anything you need, don't hesitate to ask.
there (I'll) be right there.
there in there
there Is so there?
there Is there any truth to sh?
there Is there anything else?
there Is there some place I can wash up?
there It's a jungle out there.
there (I've) been there(, done that).
there Keep in there!
there like there ain't no tomorrow
there like there's no tomorrow
there neither here nor there
there not all there
there Put 'er there(, pal).
there spend money like there's no tomorrow
there stand there with one's bare face hanging out there that there
there then and there
there There ain't no such thing as a free lunch.
there (There ain't) nothin' to it.
there There are plenty of (other) fish in the sea.
there There are tricks in every trade.
there There are two sides to every question.
there There are two sides to every story.
there There aren't enough hours in the day.
there There but for the grace of God (go I).
there There is a fine line between sh and sh else.
there There is a remedy for everything except death.
there There is a tide in the affairs of men.
there There is a time and a place for everything.
there There is no accounting for taste(s).
there (There is) no chance.
there There is no doing sh
there (There is) no doubt about it.
there There is no love lost (between so and so else).
there (There is) no need (to).
there There is no pleasure without pain.
there There is no rest for the weary.
They must have seen you coming.
They also serve who only stand
The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind everything.
Let the chips fall where they may.
Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
Bigger they are, the harder they fall.
Church ain't out till they quit singing.
Count one's chickens before they hatch.
Don't count your chickens before you are hatched.
If frogs had wheels, they wouldn't bump their butts.
Let the chips fall where they may.
Mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind everything.
They also serve who only stand and wait.
They don't make them like they used to.
They must have seen you coming.
They went that a'way.
They Things are seldom what they seem.
Blood is thicker than water.
Get sth into so's thick head
Get sth through so's thick skull
Grow thick-skinned
 Lay it on thick
Plot thickens.
Pour it on thick
Spread it on thick
Spread sth on thick
Thick and fast
Thick as a short plank
Thick as pea soup
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
Opportunity makes a thief.
Procrastination is the thief of time.
Set a thief to catch a thief.
There is honor among thieves.
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as thieves
Thick as two short planks
Thicken sth up
Thick-skinned
Through thick and thin
Plot thickens.
Thicken sth up
Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
There is honor among thieves.
What do you think you are doing
What do you think of this
What do you think?
*under fire
think (up)on
think (up)on
third
third
thrust for
thirst
thirst
thirsty for
thirst
work up a thirst
thirsty thirsty for
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
this
This is where I came in.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
This is it.
This doesn't quite suit me.
three Two is company, (but) three’s a crowd.
thrill thrill at so’s/th
thrill so to pieces
thrill so with sth
thrill to sth
thrilled to death
thrilled to pieces
thrive thrive (up)on sth
throat cut one’s own throat
throat die of throat trouble
throat force so’s/th down so’s throat
throat frog in one’s throat
throat have one’s words stick in one’s throat
throat jump down so’s throat
throat lump in one’s throat
throat ram so’s/th down so’s throat
throat shove so’s/th down so’s throat
throat stuff sth down so’s throat
thron on the throne
thron power behind the throne
thron power behind the throne
throng thronging around so’s/th
throng throng in (to sth)
throng throng out (of sth)
throttle at full throttle
throttle sth down
through book so through (to some place)
through bore through so
through bore through sth
through break through (stbh)
through break through (to so’s/th)
through breeze through sth
through bring so through sth
through browse through sth
through bubble up (through sth)
through buildazre through sth
through bumble through sth
through burst through sth
through carry so’s/th through sth
through carry so through (stbh)
through carry through (on sth)
through check so’s/th through (stbh)
through check so’s/bags through (to some place)
through check through sth
through circulate sth through sth
through circulate through sth
through comb through sth
through come through
through come through the ranks
through Coming through (please).
through course through sth
through crash through sth
through crowd through (stbh)
through cut through red tape
through cut through sth
through diffuse sth through sth else
through diffuse through sth
through Do we have to go through all that again?
through drag so’s/th through sth
through drag so through the mud
through drive a coach and horses
through drive through (stbh)
through eat through (stbh)
through elbow (one’s way) through (stbh)
through fall through
through fight (one’s way) through (stbh)
through fight sth through (stbh)
through filter through (stbh)
through flash through one’s mind
through flick through sth
through flip through sth
through float through sth
through flounder through sth
through follow sth through
through follow through (on sth)
through follow through (with sth)
through force so’s/th through sth
through gallop through sth
through get so’s/th through (to so’s/th)
through get so through sth
through get so through (to so’s/th)
through get sth through so’s/th’s thick skull
through get through (stbh)
through get through (to so)
through get through (to sth)
through get through (with so’s/th)
through glance through sth
through go (right) through so
through go through
through hack one’s way through sth
through hang sth through
through hunt through sth
through hunt through sth
through hurdle through sth
through jump through a hoop
through just passing through
through knock through sth
through know sth through and through
through leaf through sth
through leak through sth
through Let’s not go through all that again.
through let so’s/th through (stbh)
through lie through one’s teeth
through live through sth
through buildazre through sth
through make one’s way through sth
through move up through sth
through muddle through (stbh)
through nurse so through (stbh)
through pass through so
through pass through so’s mind
through pass through sth
through pay through sth
through pay through the nose (for sth)
through peek through (stbh)
through peep through sth
through peer through sth
through penetrate through sth
through penetrate through sth
through permeate through sth
through permeate through sth
through permit so through (stbh)
through pick one’s way through sth
through pierce through sth
through pilot so’s/th through (stbh)
through play sth through
through play through
through plod through sth
through plow through sth
through poke sth through so’s/th
through poke through (stbh)
through pour sth through sth
through pour through sth
through pull so or an animal through (stbh)
through pull so through (stbh)
through pull through (stbh)
through pulse through so’s/th
through pump sth through sth
through push sth through (stbh)
through push through (stbh)
through put one through one’s paces
through put so’s/th through (to so)
through put so through sth
through put so through the mill
through put so through the wringer
through put sth through its paces
through race through so’s/th
through race through sth
through rage through sth
through railroad sth through (stbh)
through ramp through sth
through ram sth through (stbh)
through ram sth through sth
through read sth through
through reverberate through sth
through rifle through sth
through ripple through sth
through rumpage through sth
through run a comb through sth
through run one’s fingers through one’s hair
through run one’s hand through one’s hair
through run so through sth
through run so through (with sth)
through run sth through sth
through run up sth through sth
through rush sth through (stbh)
through rush through sth
through sail (right) through sth
through saw through sth
through scrape through (stbh)
through search through sth
through see sth through
through see through so’s/th
through see through (stbh)
through see through (to sth)
through see through (to sth)
through sleep through sth
through sleep through (stbh)
through slice through sth
through slip sth through (stbh)
through slide through sth
through slip through so’s fingers
through slip through sth
through slip through the cracks
through slop through sth
through splash through sth
through smash through sth
through smuggle so’s/th through (stbh)
through soak through sth
through squeak sth through
through squeak through (stbh)
through squeeze so’s/th through (stbh)
through squeeze through sth
through squeeze through (stbh)
through steer so’s/th through sth
through steer sth through sth
through steer through sth
through stick sth through so’s/th
through strain sth through sth
through stroll through sth
through struggle through (stbh)
through stumble through sth
through swarm through sth
through sweep through (stbh)
through switch so’s/th through
through take so through (stbh)
through talk sth through
through talk through one’s hat
through think sth through
through thread one’s way through sth
through thread through sth
through through and through
through through bell and high water
through through the cracks
through through the mill
through through thick and thin
through through with so/th
through thrust so/th through sth
through thrust through sth
through thrust up through sth
through thrust through sth
through tramp through sth
through travel through sth
through trudge through sth
through tunnel through sth
through vote sth through
through wade through sth
through walk so through sth
through walk through sth
through waltz through sth
through way to a man's heart is through his stomach
through make a work through sth
through weave through sth
through whip through sth
through whiz (right) through sth
through win through sth
through wind through sth
through work (one's way) through sth
through work sth through (st)
through work through channels
through worry through sth
through zoom through (st)
throughout intersperse sth throughout sth
throughout resound throughout(out) sth
throughout reverberate throughout sth
throw don't have a pot to piss in (or a window to throw it out of)
throw Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.
throw (just) a stone's throw away (from sth)
throw (just) a stone's throw (from sth)
throw *off one's game
throw People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
throw stone's throw away
throw throw a fight
throw throw a fit
throw throw a game
throw throw a glance at so/th
throw throw a monkey wrench in the works
throw throw a party (for so)
throw throw a punch
throw throw a tantrum
throw throw an amount of light on so/th
throw throw caution to the wind
throw throw cold water on sth
throw Throw dirt enough, and some will stick.
throw throw down the gauntlet
throw throw good money after bad
throw throw in the sponge
throw throw in the towel
throw throw in with so
throw throw in with so
throw throw insults (at so)
throw throw money at sth
throw throw off one's game
throw throw one out on one's ear
throw throw one's hands up (in despair)
throw throw one's hands up in horror
throw throw one's hat in the ring
throw throw one's voice
throw throw one's weight around
throw throw oneself at so
throw throw oneself at so's feet
throw throw oneself on the mercy of some authority
throw throw oneself into sth
throw throw oneself on the mercy of some authority
throw throw people together
throw throw (some) light on sth
throw throw so
throw throw so a curve
throw throw so for a loop
throw throw so for a loss
throw throw so in the drink
throw throw so off
throw throw so out of sth
throw throw so over
throw throw so's name around
throw throw so to the dogs
throw throw so to the wolves
throw throw sth across so/th
throw throw sth across sth
throw throw sth at so/th
throw throw sth away
throw throw sth back
throw throw sth back at so
throw throw sth down
throw throw sth in
throw throw sth into sharp relief
throw throw sth in(to) so's face
throw throw sth into the bargain
throw throw sth off
throw throw sth on so/th
throw throw sth to so/th
throw throw sth together
throw throw sth up
throw throw the baby out with the bath(water)
throw throw the book at so
throw throw the bull
throw throw the crap
throw throw up
throw within a stone's throw (of sth)
thrust thrust and parry
thrust thrust out
thrust thrust so/th against so/th
thrust thrust so/th aside
thrust thrust so/th away from so/th
thrust thrust so/th back
thrust thrust so/th through sth
thrust thrust sth at so/th
thrust thrust sth down
thrust thrust sth forward
thrust thrust sth into so/th
thrust thrust through sth
thrust thrust up through sth
thud thrust against so/th
thud thrust into so/th
thud thrust into so/th
all thumbs
thumb thumb have a green thumb
thumb thumb have so under so's thumb
thumb thumb hold so under so's thumb
thumb thumb keep so under so's thumb
thumb thumb rule of thumb
thumb thumb stick out like a sore thumb
thumb thumb a ride
thumb thumb one's nose at so/th
thumb thumb through sth
thumb thumbs down
thumb thumbs up
thumb turn thumbs down (on so/th)
thumb turn thumbs up (on so/th)
thumb twiddle one's thumbs
thumb under so's thumb
thumbnail thumbnail sketch
thump thump on so/th
thump thump sth down
thump thump sth out (on the piano)
thunder steal so's thunder
thunder thunder across sth
thunder thunder past so/th
thunder thunder sth out
thunderstorm risk of thunderstorms
thyself know thyself.
thyself Physician, heal thyself.
tick full as a tick
tick make so/th tick
tick tick away
tick tick so off
tick ticked (off)
tick tight as a tick
tick what makes so tick
tick what makes sth tick
ticket buy so's wolf ticket
ticket get a ticket
ticket get one's ticket punched
ticket hot ticket
ticket just the ticket
ticket round-trip ticket
ticket That's the ticket!
ticket ticket so for some place
ticket vote a split ticket
ticket vote a straight ticket
tickle tickle so pink
tickle tickle so's fancy
tickle tickle so to death
tickle tickle sth to pieces
tickle tickle the ivories
tickle tickled pink
tide go with the tide
tide happy as a clam (at high tide)
tide swim against the tide
tide There is a tide in the affairs of men
tide tide so over (until sth)
tide tide turned
tide Time and tide wait for no man.
tide turn the tide
tidy tidy sth up
tidy tidy up
tie coat and tie
tie collar-and-tie men
tie fit to be tied
tie have one's hands tied
tie sever ties with so
tie *some loose ends
tie so's hands are tied
tie tie in (with so/th)
tie tie in with sth
tie tie in(to sth)
tie tie it on
tie tie on the nose-bag
tie tie one on
tie tie so down (to so/th)
tie tie so/th down
tie tie so/th into sth
tie tie so/th to sth
tie tie so/th up
tie tie so's hands
tie tie so to sth
tie tie so (up) in knots
tie tie sth back
tie tie sth in a knot
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tie tie sth off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tie sth onto sq/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tie sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tie the knot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tie traffic up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tie up (some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tie (with so) (for sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tied down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tied to one's mother's apron strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie tied up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie with both hands tied behind one's back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tie with one hand tied behind one's back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tiger have a tiger by the tail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tiger who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight close chever and a tight splitter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight hold (on) tight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight in a (tight) spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight keep a tight grip on sq/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight keep a tight rein on sq/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight on a tight leash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight run a tight ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight sit tight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight sleep tight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tight as a drum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tight as a tick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tight as Dick's hatband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tight as Midas's fist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tight race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tighten one's belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tighten sth on(to) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tighten sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tight tighten up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tighten tighten one's belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tighten tighten sth on(to) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tighten tighten sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tighten tighten up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tightfisted tightfisted (with money)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tightrope walk a tightrope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till Call no man happy till he dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till Church ain't out till they quit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till Count no man happy till he dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till from here till next Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till have one's finger(s) in the till</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till have one's hand in the till</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till It's not over till it's over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till Never halloo till you are out of the way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till Never trouble till trouble troubles you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till till all hours (of the day and night)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till till hell freezes over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till till kingdom come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till Till next time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till till the bitter end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till till the fat lady sings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till Till we meet again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till You never know (what you can do) till you try.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till You never miss the water till the well runs dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till at full tilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till at windmills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till sth back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>till toward sq/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>timber head for (the) tall timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>timber tall timber(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time ahead of one's time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time ahead of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time all in good time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time all the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time arrive ahead of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time arrive in the (very) nick of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time at a set time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time at all times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time at the appointed time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time at the present time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time at the same time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time at this point (in time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time at times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time bad time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time bad times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time before so's time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time behind the times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Better luck next time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time bide one's time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time buy sth on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time buy time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Catch me some other time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time catch so at a bad time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time cause lean times (ahead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Cowards die many times before their death(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time dance out of time (with sq/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time devil of a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time devil's own time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time difficult times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time do time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Don't waste my time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Don't waste your time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time downtime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time even in the best of times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time every time one turns around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time fall on hard times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time fight against time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time find time for sq/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time for the time being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time from time to time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time get out of time (with sq/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Give it time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time go down for the third time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time good time was had by all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time half the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time happen before so's time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time happen in the (very) nick of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time hard time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time hard times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time hardly have time to breathe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time hardly have time to think</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Have a good time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time have a rare old time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time have a rough time (of it)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time have a whale of a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time have an easy time of it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time have (some) time to kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time have the time of one's life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time have (too much) time on one's hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time He puts his pants on one leg at a time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time How many times do I have to tell you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time I don't have time to breathe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time I don't have time to catch my breath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (I) had a good time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time I had a lovely time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (I) had a nice time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (I) haven't seen you in a long time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (I'll) try to catch you some other time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (I'm) having a wonderful time; wish you were here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time I'm having quite a time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (I'm) having the time of my life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in due time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in good time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in less than no time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in no time (at all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in no time flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in one's spare time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in the course of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in the interest of saving time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in the meantime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in the right place at the right time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in the (very) nick of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in the wrong place at the wrong time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in times past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time in tune with the times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time invest so's time in sq/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time It's about time!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time it's high time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (It's) time for a change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (It's) time to go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (It's) time to hit the road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (It's) time to run.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (It's) time to show off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (It's) time to split.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time It's time we should be going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time I've had a lovely time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time just in time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time keep good time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time keep time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time keep up with the times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time kill time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time lean times (ahead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time leave ahead of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time legend in one's own (life)time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Life is short and time is swift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time live on borrowed time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Long time no see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time lose some amount of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time make good time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time make time for sq/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time make time make time (with so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time make up for lost time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time many (and many)’s the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time march out of time (with sq/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time mark time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Maybe some other time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time mean lean times (ahead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Moving three times is as bad as a fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (My) how time flies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time nine times out of ten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time No, no, a thousand times no!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time not able to call one's time one's own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time not give anyone the time of day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time occur before so's time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time on one's own time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time once upon a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time one-in-a-lifetime chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time once-in-a-lifetime opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time one more time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time (Only) time will tell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Other times, other manners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time Out of the mouths of babes (oft times come gems).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time out of time (with sq/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time pushed for time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>timely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tinge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tiny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tip toes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire so out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tires</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to (Are you) ready to order?

to arm to the teeth

to arrange for so to do sth

to as a duck takes to water

to ascribe sth to so/sth

to ask so out (to sth)
to ask so to sth

to aspire to sth

to assent to sth

to assign so/sth to so/sth

to assign sth to so

to attach oneself to so

to attach oneself to sth

to attach to so

to attach to sth

to attack to the salt mines

to attend to so

to attest to sth

to attract so/sth to so/sth else

to attribute sth to so/sth

to attain so/sth to so/sth else

to awaken(n) so to sth

to wake(n) to sth

to award sth (to so) (for sth)

to award sth to so/sth

to back so/sth up to so/sth

to back to basics

to back to square one

to back to the drawing board

to back to the salt mines

to back up (to so/sth)

to back up (to sth)

to back-to-back

to badger so/sth to death

to (bang) dead to rights

to bare one's soul (to so)

to bare sth to so

to Be happy to (do sth).
to be so bold as to do sth

to be the last person (to do sth)

to beam so/sth up (to some place)

to bear a resemblance to so/sth

to beat a path to so's door

to beat one's brains out (to do sth)

to beat so down to size

to beat so to sth

to beat so to the punch

to beckon to so

to beg to differ (with so)

to begin to see daylight

to begin to see the light

to behoove one to do sth

to belly up (to sth)

to belong to so/sth

to bend over backwards (to do sth)

to bequeath sth to so

to bet so dollars to doughnuts

to betroth so to so

to bid adieu to so/sth

to bind so over (to so/sth)

to bite (to eat)

to bitter pill to swallow

to bleed to death

to blind so to sth

to blow so/sth to bits

to blow so/sth to kingdom come

to blow so/sth to pieces

to blow so/sth to smithereens

to blow so to sth

to boil down to sth

to boogie down (to somewhere)

to book so through (to some place)

to bore so to death

to bore so to tears

to bored to distraction

to bound to do sth

to bow down (to so/sth)

to bow to so's demands

to bow to the porcelain altar

to break one's back (to do sth)

to break one's balls to do sth

to break one's neck (to do sth)

to break sth to pieces

to break sth to so

to break the news (to so)

to break through (to so/sth)

to breathe sth (of sth) (to so)

to bring a dog to heel

to bring one to one's feet

to bring one to one's senses

to bring one to oneself

to bring so back to reality

to bring so down to earth

to bring so or an animal back to life

to bring so/sth along (to sth)

to bring so/sth to a halt

to bring so/sth to life

to bring so/sth to light

to bring so/sth to so's attention

to bring so/sth to trial

to bring so/sth up to sth

to bring so/sth up-to-date

to bring so/sth to (to some place)

to bring so over to sth

to bring so to

to bring so up to speed on so/sth

to bring so up-to-date (on so/sth)

to bring sth around (to so/sth)

to bring sth back to life

to bring sth back to (so)

to bring sth down to sth

to bring sth home to so

to bring sth to a boil

to bring sth to a climax

to bring sth to a close

to bring sth to a dead end

to bring sth to a standstill

to bring sth to a successful conclusion

to bring sth to an end

to bring sth to fruition

to bring sth to its feet

to bring sth to light

to bring sth to mind

to bring sth to rest

to bring sth to so's aid

to bring sth to so's attention

to bring sth to the fore

to bring sth up to speed

to bring sth up to the minute

to buck sth down (to sth)

to buddy up (to so)

to buffet so/sth from so/sth to so/sth

to build sth to order

to build up to sth

to bumber to bumper

to bundle so off (to some place)

to bundle sth off (to so or same place)

to burn sth to a crisp

to Burn not your house to fright the mouse away.

to burned to a cinder

to bust a gut (to do sth)

to bust (one's) ass (to do sth)

to bust one's butt to do sth

to buy some food to go

to call a halt to sth

to call a meeting to order

to call attention to so/sth

to call in (to some place)

to call out (to so)

to call so over (to some place)

to call so's attention to sth

to call so to account

to call so to attention

to call sth down (to so)

to call sth to mind

to call sth to so's attention

to call the meeting to order

to call so

to call (up) on so (to do sth)

to called to straw

to Can I speak to so?

to can take it to the bank

to can't hold a candle to so

to can't say boo to a goose

to can't wait (for sth (to happen))

to capitulate to so/sth

to care to do sth

to care not to do sth

to carry a secret to the grave

to carry coals to Newcastle

to carry on (to sth)

to carry over (to sth)

to carry so back (to some time)

to carry so/sth over to sth

to carry sth over (until some time)

to catch on (to sth)

to catch to it

to catch up (to so/sth)

to cater to so/sth

to cause (some) eyebrows to raise

to cause (some) tongues to wag

to cave in (to so/sth)

to cede sth to so

to chain sth to sth

to chalk sth up (to sth)

to challenge so to sth

to change over (from so/sth) (to so/sth)

to change to sth

to Charge it to the dust and let the rain settle it.

to charge sth up to so/sth

to check so's bags through (to same place)

to chickens come home to roost.

to chilled to the bone

to chum up to so

to clasps so/sth to sth

to claw one's way to the top

to Cleanliness is next to godliness.

to cleave to so

to cling to so/sth

to close enough to use the same toothpick

to close one's eyes to sth

to close sth to so

to close the door to so/sth

to close to home

to close to so

to clutch so/sth to sth

to coast-to-coast

to coax so to do sth

to come across as so/sth (to so)

to come across like so/sth (to so)

to come across (to sth)

to come around (to doing sth)

to come around (to some place)

to come back to haunt one

to come back (to so)
Phrase-Finder Index

to come back (to so/sth)
to come close (to so/sth)
to come down to earth
to come down to some place
to come down to sth
to come home (to roost)
to come home to so
to come on (to so)
to come out to an amount
to come out to be
to come to
to come up to so's expectations
to come up to so's standards
to commend so/sth to so/sth
to commit oneself to so/sth
to commit so/sth to sth
to commit sth to memory
to commit to so
to common thread (to all this)
to communicate sth to so
to compare so/sth to so/sth
to compel so to do sth
to complain to so
to concede sth to so/sth
to concede to so/sth
to condemn so to sth
to condense to do sth
to condition so/sth to sth
to confess sth to so
to confess to sth
to confine so or an animal to sth
to confine sth to so/sth
to conform to sth
to connect (up) to so/sth
to connect to sth
to consecrate so/sth to God
to consent to sth
to consign sth to so/sth
to contrary to sth
to contribute sth (to so) (for so/sth)
to contribute to sth
to convey sth (from so/sth) (to so/sth)
to cook sth to perfection
to correspond to sth
to cotton up to so
to (Could I) get you something (to drink)?
to could I speak to so?
to count from sth (up) to sth
to count up to sth
to cozy up (to so)
to cracked up to be sth
to crash to the floor
to crave to do sth
to crawl back to so
to credit sth to so/sth
to credit to so/sth
to cross a bridge before one comes to it
to cross from some place to some place
to cross one's heart (and hope to die)
to cross that bridge when one comes to it
to Crosses are ladders that lead to heaven.
to crush so/sth to sth
to cry all the way to the bank
to cry oneself to sleep
to cry (so) out (to so or an animal)
to cuddle up (to so/sth)
to courtly to so
to curve to sth
to cut back to so/sth
to cut one's coat according to one's cloth
to cut one's coat to suit one's cloth
to cut one's nose off to spite one's face
to cut out to be sth
to cut so down (to size)
to cut so/sth to sth
to cut so to ribbons
to cut so to the bone
to cut so to the quick
to cut sth down to sth
to cut sth to the bone
to cut to so/sth
to cut to the chase
to Damp it to blue blazes!
to dance to a different tune
to dance to another tune
to dance to sth
to dare so (to do sth)
to dash sth to pieces
to date back (to so or some time)
to dead to the world
to debit sth to so/sth
to dedicate so/sth to so/sth
to deed sth (over) to so
to deem it (to be) necessary
to defect to sth
to defer to so/sth (on sth)
to design sth to do sth
to delegate so to sth
to delegate sth to so
to deliver so/sth to so/sth
to deliver sth up to so
to demonstrate sth to so
to denote so from sth (to sth)
to deny so/so to so/so
to deport so (from some place) (to some other place)
to descend to sth
to describe so/so to so
to desensitize so to so
to desert so/so to so/so
to detail so to so/so
to devil finds work for idle hands to do.
to devote oneself to so/so
to devote so/so to so/so
to dictate (so) to so
to dip to sth
to direct so's attention to so/so
to direct sth to so
to disclose sth to so
to disease to please
to disinclined to do sth
to dispatch so/so to so/so
to dispense sth (to so) (from sth)
to display sth to so
to Distance lends enchantment (to the view).
to distribute sth to so
to diverge to sth
to divert so/so to so/so
to divulge sth to so
to do credit to so
to Do I have to paint (you) a picture?
to Do I have to spell it out (for you)?
to Do I need to paint you a picture?
to do justice to sth
to do one's utmost (to do sth)
to do sth to excess
to Do we have to go through all that again?
to Do you expect me to believe that?
to (Do) you mean to say sth?
to (Do) you mean to tell me sth?
to (Do) you want to know something?
to (Do) you want to make something of it?
to (Do) you want to step outside?
to doesn't have enough sense to bell a cat
to doesn't have enough sense to come out of the rain
to dole sth out (to so)
to done to a T
to done to a turn
to don't amount to a bucket of spit
to Don't breathe a word of this to anyone.
to Don't forget to write.
to don't have a pot to piss in (or a window to throw it out of)
to don't know whether to eat it or rub it on
to Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs.
to Don't tell me what to do!
to doom so/so to sth
to doomed to sth
to doors open up (to so)
to door-to-door
to down to a gnats's eyebrow
to down to chili and beans
to down to the last bit of money
to down to the last detail
to downgrade so/so to sth
to down-to-earth
to down-to-the-wire
to doze off (to sleep)
to drag so/so off (from so/so)
to drag so/so over to so/so
to draw oneself up (to sth)
to draw so's attention to so/so
to draw sth to
to draw to a close
to draw like a moth to a flame
to dressed to kill
to dressed to the nines
to dressed to the teeth
to dressed up to the nines
to dress up to the nines
to drive down (to so)
to drink to excess
to drink to so/so
to drive down (to some place)
to drive out (to some place)
to drive over (to some place)
to drive so back to so
to drive so down (to some place)
to drive so on (to sth)
to drive so to despair
to drive so to distraction
to drive so to do sth
to drive so to drink
to drive so to the brink
to drive so to the edge
to drive so to the wall
to drive so up (to some place)
to drive sth down (to some place)
to drive up (to some place)
to drop in (to say hello)
to drop off (to sleep)
to duty bound (to do sth)
to dwindle away (to sth)
It is never too late to mend.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

It is easy to be wise after the event.

It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.

It is better to wear out than to rust out.

It is easier to tear down than to build up.

It is easy to be wise after the event.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

It is never too late to learn.

It is never too late to mend.
to rise to one's feet
to rise to the bait
to rise to the challenge
to rise to the occasion
to rise to the top
to risk one's neck (to do sth)
to rivet to the ground
to road to hell is paved with good intentions.
to rob Peter to pay Paul
to rock so to sth
to roll sth to so/sth
to rooted to sth
to rooted to the spot
to rotten to the core
to round off to sth
to round up to sth
to rouse so to sth
to route sth to so
to row (so/sth) out to sth
to run back to so/sth
to run counter to sth
to run down to some place
to run down to so/sth
to run from sth to sth
to run over to sth
to run so/sth to earth
to run so/sth to sth
to run sth over to so/sth
to run to bed
to run to so/sth
to run to sth
to run up to some place
to run up (to so/sth)
to rush so to sth
to rush to conclusions
to rush to so/sth
to sacrifice so/sth to so/sth
to sail from some place to some place else
to same to you.
to Say hello to so (for me).
to say sth (right) to so's face
to say sth to oneself
to say sth to so
to say sth to sth
to scale sth to sth
to scarcely have time to breathe
to scare so or an animal to death
to scared to death
to scoot down (to some place)
to scoot over to so/sth
to second nature to so
to second to none
to see eye to eye (about so/sth) (with so)
to see fit (to do sth)
to see no objection (to sth)
to see one's way (clear) (to do sth)
to see so back (to sth)
to see so down to sth
to see so to some place
to see so to sth
to see so to the door
to see so up to sth
to see (to it) that sth is done
to see to so/sth
to sell out (to so)
to send one to one's death
to send so from pillar to post
to send so off (to sth)
to send so over (to sth)
to send so to some place
to send so to bed
to send so to glory
to send so to the locker room
to send so to the showers
to send sth off (to so/sth)
to send sth over ((to) so/sth)
to send sth to so/sth
to send word to so

to sensitize so to sth
to sentence so to sth (for sth)
to serve sth to so

to Set a beggar on horseback, and he'll ride to the devil.
to Set a thief to catch a thief.
to set fire to so/sth

to set one's mind to sth
to set out to do sth
to set so/sth to work
to set sth down to sth
to set sth down to music
to set to
to shine up to so

to shoot so/sth (all) to hell

to shoulder to shoulder
to shouldn't happen to a dog

to show one to one's seat

to show so to a seat

to show so (to the door)
to show sth to good advantage

to shut one's eyes to sth

to shuttle so/sth from person to person

to sick to death (of so/sth)

to sidle up (to so/sth)

to sign of things to come

to sign sth over (to so)

to signal (to)

to since so was knee-high to a grasshopper

to sing so to sleep

to sing to so/sth

to sink to (doing) sth

to sit close to sth

to sit down to sth

to slated to do sth

to slave to sth

to slip back to (so/sth)

to slip off (to some place)

to slope down (to sth or some place)

to slope up to sth

to smell to (high) heaven

to snap to (attention)

to Snap to it!

to sneak up to so/sth

to snuggle up (to so/sth)

to spread up to so/sth

to spread out to sth or some place

to spread sth to so/sth

to so's

to sway from side to side

to sway to sth

to swear so to sth

to swear sth to so

to swear to sth

to swing around (to sth)

to swing to sth

to switch back (to sth)

to switch from sth to so/sth else

to spring back (to some place)

to spring to attention

to spring to life

to spring to one's feet

to spring to so's defense

to square up to so/sth

to squeal on so (to so)

to stack up to so/sth

to stake a claim to so/sth

to stake out a claim to sth

to stake so to sth

to stand close to so/sth

to stand so to a treat

to stand to lose sth

to stand to reason

to stand up to so/sth

to start back (to some place)

to stay to sth

to step off (to the side) with so

to step over (to) some place

to step up to sth

to step up to the plate

to stick it to so

to stick sth out to so

to stick to one's guns

to stick to one's ribs

to stick to so/sth

to stick to so's fingers

to stink to high heaven

to stroll to doing sth

to stranger to sth or some place

to stretch away to some place

to stretch out to so/sth

to strip so/sth down to sth

to strip to sth

to strive to do sth

to struggle to do sth

to struggle to the death

to subject so/sth to sth

to subject to sth

to subjugate so to so

to submit so/sth to sth

to submit to sth

to subordinate so/sth to so/sth else

to subpoena so to do sth

to subscribe to sth

to succeed to sth

to succumb to sth

to suck up to so

to suggest itself to so

to suggest sth to so

to suit one's actions to one's words

to suit so/sth to sth

to suit so to a T

to summon so to so/sth

to Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes

to supply sth (to sth) (from sth)

to Supposed to.
to supposed to do sth

to surrender so/sth to so/sth

to surrender to so/sth

to susceptible to sth

to sway from side to side

to sway so to sth

to swear so to sth

to swear sth to so

to swear to sth

to swing around (to sth)

to swing to sth

to switch back (to sth)

to switch from sth to so/sth else
there are two sides to every story.

2)
(t) best of luck (to sth)
(t) the way to go!
(t) ain’t nothin’ to it.
(t) are two sides to every question.
(t) are two sides to every story.
(t) is no need (to).
(t) is no royal road to learning.
(t) there’s more than one way to skin a cat.

to switch over (to sa/sth)
to switch sa/sth over to sth

to switch sth back (to sth)
to switch sth over (to sth)
to switch sth to sth else

to switch sth to sth

to tailor sa/sth to sa/sth

to take a backseat (to sa/sth)

to take a fancy to sa/sth

to take a liking to sa/sth

to take a shine to sa/sth

to take exception (to sth)

to take (great) pains (to do sth)

to take it to one’s grave

to take it to the street

to take it upon oneself to do sth

to take kindly to sth

to take off one’s hat (to so)

to take one back (to some time)

to take one’s hat off to so

to take down (to size)

to take sa/sth over (to sa/sth)

to take so out to dinner

to take so to court

to take so to one side

to take so to task

to take so to the cleaners

to take sth back to sa/sth

to take sth to heart

to take sth to pieces

to take sth to so/sth

to take sth up to so

to take steps (to prevent sth)

to take the initiative (to do sth)

to take the trouble (to do sth)

to take to one’s bed

to take to one’s heels

to take to sa/sth

to take to the hills

to talk back (to so)

to talk down to so

to talk of the devil (and he is sure to appear).

to talk to hear one’s own voice

to talk to so

to tattle (on so) (to so)

to teach one’s grandmother to suck eggs

to tear sa/sth to pieces

to telephone sth in (to so)

to tell it to the marines!

to tell one to one’s face

to tell so what to do with sth

to tell so where to get off

to tell sth to so

to tempt so to do sth

to tend to do sth

to tender sth (to so) (for sth)

to testify to sth

to thanks to sa/sth

to that beats sth all to pieces

to that brings me to the (main) point.

to that’s easy for you to say.

to that’s news to me.

to that’s the way to go!

to to the best of luck (to so).

to (There ain’t) nothin’ to it.

to there are two sides to every question.

to there are two sides to every story.

to there is no need (to).

to there is no royal road to learning.

to there’s more than one way to skin a cat.
to walk right up to

to work so over to

to walk-to-wall (with) to

to walk up to

to want to make something of it?

to warm up to

to wave to

to way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

to we aim to please.

to we need to talk about sth.

to wear so to a fizzle
to wed so to sth
to wedded to sth
to welcome so to sth
to welcome to our house.

to we'll have to do lunch sometime.

to well-to-do

to (we're) delighted to have you

to what do you want me to say?

to what have you been up to?

to what's coming to one

to what's it to you?

to what's (there) to know?

to what so/sth is cracked up to be

to what would you like to drink?

to when comes right down to it

to when it comes to sth

to when push comes to shove

to where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

to wherewithal (to do sth)

to which brings me to the (main) point

to whip sth over to

to whip sth written off to so

to whisk so/sth off to sth

to whittle sth down to size

to whistle sth down (to size)

to who do you think you're talking to?

to who do you want to speak to?

to who do you want (to talk to)?

to will sth to so

to win so over (to sth)

to wired sth back to so

to wise to so/sth

to wise up to (so/sth)

to wish is father to the thought.

to with a view to doing sth

to with an eye to doing sth

to with regard to so/sth

to with respect to so/sth

to with sth to spare

to with whom do you wish to speak?

to without a moment to spare

to witness to sth

to woman to woman

to word to the wise

to words to live by

to work around to so/sth

to work down the line (to) to

to work one's fingers to the bone

to work one's way up (to sth)

to work oneself up (to sth)

to work up to sth

to would like to (have) so/sth

to (would you) care to...?

to (would you) care to dance?

to (would you) care to join us?

to wouldn't want to be in so/so's shoes

to write back to so

to write down to so

to write off to (so) (for sth)

to write sth back to so

to write sth to so

to write to so

to yield so/sth (over) to (so/so/sth)

to yield so/so/sth up to (so)

to yield so/so to so

to yield to so

to you are never too old to learn.

to you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.

to you can't expect me to believe that.

to you don't expect me to believe that.

to you got to do what you got to do.

to you have to eat a peck of dirt before you die.

to you mean to tell me sth?

to you must lose a fly to catch a trout.

to (you want to) to know something?

to you want to make something of it?

to you wouldn't dare (to do sth)!

to you've got to be kidding!

to you've got to be out of your mind!

to zoom so/so (over) to so

toad biggest toad in the puddle

toad if a toady frog had wings, he wouldn't bump his ass.

toad toady (up) to so

toad ugly as a toad

toad if a toady frog had wings, he wouldn't bump his ass.

toada toady (up) to so

toada propose a toast

toada warm as toast

tobacco chew one's own tobacco

today Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today.

today here today, and gone tomorrow.

today today here, tomorrow the world.

today what's on tap for today?

toddle toddle along

toddle toddle all

toddle toddle off

toe from head to toe

toe from tip to toe

toe to keep on one's toes

toe to keep one on one's toes

toe on one's toes

toe on top toe

toe to stay on one's toes

toe to step on so's toes

toe to stub one's toe against sth

toe to the line

toe toe the mark

toe to tread on so's toes

toe to walk on so's toes

toe with bells on (one's toes)
toelain throw up one's toenails

together add sth together
together band together (against so/so/sth)
together bind so/so/sth together
together birds of a feather flock together.
together blend sth together (with sth)
tomorrow Today here, tomorrow the
world.
tomorrow Tomorrow is another day.
tomorrow Tomorrow never comes.
ton fall like a ton of bricks
ton hit like a ton of bricks
ton hit so like a ton of bricks
ton like a ton of bricks
ton tons of sht
tone tone so/sh up
tone tone sht down
tong fight so/sh hammer and tongs
tong go at hammer and tongs
tongue bite one's tongue
tongue Bite your tongue!
tongue cause (some) tongues to wag
tongue find one's tongue
tongue (Has the) cat got your tongue?
tongue hold one's tongue
tongue keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
tongue on the tip of one's tongue
tongue set tongues (a)wagging
tongue sharp tongue
tongue slip of the tongue
tongue speak with a forked tongue
tongue stick one's tongue out
tongue still tongue makes a wise head.
tongue tongue-in-cheek
tongue tongue-lashing
too be too
too didn't care too hard
too do too
too Don't be gone (too) long.
too Don't be sure.
too Don't speak too soon.
too Don't work too hard.
too eat one's cake and have it too
too go too far
too have one's cake and eat it too
too have one's finger in too many pies
too have one's hand too
too have too
too have (too much) time on one's hands
too (I) can too.
too I spoke too soon.
too it is never too late to learn.
too it is never too late to mend.
too know sht only too well
too land too poor to raise a racket on
too Life is too short.
too make (too) much of sht
too none too sht
too not to put too fine a point on it
too Not (too) much.
too not too shabby
too one too many
too push so too far
too put too fine a point on sht
too spread oneself too thin
too take much too on
too That's (just) too much!
too (That's) too bad.
too too big for one's britches
too too close for comfort
too too funny for words
too too good to be true
too too little, too late
too Too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
too Too many cooks spoil the broth.
too Too many cooks spoil the stew.
too too much
too too rich for so's blood
too Yesterday wouldn't be too soon.
too You (always) give up too easily.
too You are never too old to learn.
too You cannot have your cake and eat it too.
too You're too much!
took (You) took the words right out of my mouth.
tool Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.
tool tool around (in sht)
tool tool sht up
tool tool up
toot darn tooting
toot too one's own horn
toot You're dern tootin'!
tooth armed to the teeth
tooth bare one's teeth
tooth by the skin of one's teeth
tooth clean as a hound's tooth
tooth cut one's eyeteeth on sht
tooth cut teeth
tooth dressed to the teeth
tooth drop one's teeth
tooth escape by the skin of one's teeth
tooth eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth).
tooth fight so/sh tooth and nail
tooth fly in the teeth of so/sh
tooth get one's teeth into sht
tooth give one's eyeteeth (for so/sh)
tooth give teeth to sht
tooth gnash one's teeth
tooth gnashing of teeth
tooth go at it and nail
tooth go at one another and nail
tooth go over sht with a fine-tooth comb
tooth go through sht with a fine-tooth comb
tooth gods send nuts to those who have no teeth.
tooth grit one's teeth
tooth have a sweet tooth
tooth kick in the teeth
tooth lie through one's teeth
tooth long in the tooth
tooth no skin off so's teeth
tooth pull so's or sht's teeth
tooth put some teeth into sht
tooth put teeth in(to) sht
tooth scarce as hen's teeth
tooth scarcer than hen's teeth
tooth search sht with a fine-tooth comb
tooth set so's teeth on edge
tooth show one's teeth
tooth sink one's teeth into sht
tooth take the bit between the teeth
tooth take the bit in one's teeth
tooth teething troubles
toothpick close enough to use the same toothpick
top at the top of one's game
top at the top of one's lungs
top at the top of one's voice
top at the top of the hour
top blow one's top
top claw one's way to the top
top come out on top
top (come) on top of sth
top feel on top of the world
top from the top
top from top to bottom
top get to the top (of sth)
top (I) can’t top that.
top in top form
top keep on top of (of sth)
top on top of sth
top on top of the world
top over the top
top pop (some) tops
top (right) off the top of one’s head
top rise to the top
top (sitting) on top of the world
top stay on top of sth

top take it from the top

top thin on top
top top brass
top top notch
top top of the heap
top top sth off
top top sth up
top top sth with sth
top top story
top (You) can’t top that.
topic off topic
topple topple down
topple topple off (of) sth
topple topple over
topple topple sth down
torch carry a touch (for so)
torch carry the torch
tore all tore up (about sth)
tow (up)
torment torment so into doing sth
torn torn between so and so else
torn torn (up)
torture torture so into sth

toss It’s a toss-up.
toss toss a salad
toss toss in the sponge
toss toss one’s cookies
toss toss one’s hat into the ring
toss toss so sth for sth
toss toss so sth around
toss toss so sth aside
toss toss so sth away
toss toss so sth back
toss toss so sth off (of) sth
toss toss so sth out of sth
toss toss sth

total total sth up
total total stranger
total totally awesome
tote tote sth up
totem high man on the totem pole
totem low man on the totem pole
touch Don’t touch that dial!
touch finishing touch(s)
touch have the Midas touch
touch I wouldn’t touch it with a ten-foot pole.
touch in touch (with so)
touch in touch with so sth

touch Keep in touch.
touch keep in touch (with so)
touch keep in touch (with so sth)
touch lose one’s touch (with so sth)
touch lose touch with reality
touch lose touch with so sth
touch not to touch a drop
touch not touch so sth with a ten-foot pole
touch out of touch (with so sth)
touch put so in touch with so sth
touch put the touch on so

touch remain in touch (with so sth)
touch soft touch
touch stay in touch (with so sth)
touch touch a sore point

touch touch a sore spot
touch touch at some place
touch touch base (with so)
touch touch down
touch touch of sth
touch touch on sth
touch touch so sth off

touch touch so sth with sth
touch touch so (up) for sth
touch touch sth to sth
touch touch sth up
touch touch (up)on sth
touch touch-and-go
touch touched by so sth

touch touched in the head

touch wouldn’t touch so sth with a ten-foot pole
tough act tough on so
tough get tough (with so)
tough hang tough (on sth)
tough if the going gets tough
tough tough act to follow
tough tough as an old boot
tough tough as old (shoe) leather
tough tough break
tough tough call
tough tough cookie
tough tough cookies
tough tough customer
tough tough going
tough tough guy
tough tough luck
tough tough nut to crack
tough tough on so
tough tough row to hoe
tough tough sledding
tough tough sth out
tough tough times
tough tough sth

tough toughen so sth on
tough toughen so sth up
tough toughen up
tough when the going gets tough
tough When the going gets tough, the tough get going.
tour go on tour
tour go around sth
tour go so sth as sth
tour go sth

tow have so sth in tow
tow in tow
tow tow so sth away
tow tow so sth into sth
tow tow so sth out of sth

tow tow so sth out (of some place)
tow tow so sth out (to sth)
toward advance toward so sth

toward angle off toward so sth

toward direct sth toward so sth

toward draw so sth toward so sth

toward drift toward so sth

toward fall away toward sth

toward fall toward sth

toward go a long way toward doing sth

toward go toward so sth

toward gravitate toward so sth

toward head toward so sth

toward incline toward so sth

toward lean toward so sth

toward lean toward so sth

toward look toward so sth

toward move toward so sth

toward point toward so sth

toward predispose so sth toward so sth

toward progress toward so sth

toward pull sth toward oneself

toward push so sth toward so sth

toward push toward so sth

toward reach toward so sth

toward save (money) toward sth

toward slant sth toward so sth

toward slant toward so sth

toward slope (down) toward sth

toward steer sth toward so sth

toward steer toward so sth

toward strive toward sth

toward swim toward so sth

toward tend toward sth

toward tilt toward sth

toward trend toward sth

toward turn so sth toward so sth

toward veer toward so sth

toward well disposed toward so sth

toward work toward sth

towel throw in the towel
towel defect so sth down
towel tow so sth off
tower dwell in an ivory tower
tower in an ivory tower
tower live in an ivory tower
tower tower above so sth

tower tower head and shoulders above so sth

tower tower of strength

tower tower over so sth

tower work in an ivory tower

town all over town
town Get out of town!
town go to town
town hit town

town I’ll look you up when I’m in town.
town Look me up when you’re in town.
town man about town
town night on the town
town one-horse town
town out of town

town out of town

town paint the town (red)
town town-and-gown

toy like a kid with a new toy

toy toy with so

toy toy with sth

trace kick over the traces

trace lose trace of so sth

trace trace around sth

trace trace over sth

trace trace so sth (back) to so sth

track back on track

track cover so sth tracks (up)

track dead in so sth or animal’s tracks

track drop in one’s tracks

track follow in so sth tracks

track get on the track of so sth

track have one-track mind

track have so sth on track

track inside track

track jump the track
keep on (the) track
keep so/sth on (the) (right) track
keep so/sth on track
keep track of so/sth
lose track of so/sth
make tracks (for so/sth)
off on a sidetrack
off the beaten track
off the track
on the fast track
on the right track
on the track of so/sth
on the wrong track
on track
one-track mind
other side of the tracks
put so off the track
put so/sth on track
put sth back on track
set so/sth on track
stop dead in one's tracks
stop one or sth dead in one's or sth's
throw so off the track
track so/sth down
track sth (all) over so/sth
track sth into some place
track sth up
wrong side of the tracks
track one of all trades
track jack of all trades
trade all of sth
trade with
trade up (to sth)
trade off from sth
trade secret
trade on
trade insults (with sth)
trade at
teach
teach for
teach out in trade
the tricks of the trade
trade
know the tricks of the trade
learn the tricks of the trade
show so/the tricks of the trade
stock in trade
take sth up in trade
teach so/the tricks of the trade
There are tricks in every trade.
trade at some place
trade insults (with so)
trade on sth
trade trade secret
trade trade off for so/sth
trade sth in (for sth)
trade sth off
trade sth with so
trade up from sth
trade up (to sth)
trade sth with so/sth
trade tricks of the trade
travel travel for
travel at a good clip
travel across
travel across sth
travel at a fast clip
travel travel at a good clip
travel Travel broadens the mind.
travel by sth
travel travel for so/sth
travel travel in a body
travel travel off the beaten path
travel travel on sth
travel travel over sth
travel travel through sth
travel travel with so
travel travel with sth
travel travesty travesty of justice
tread Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
tread tread on so/sth's
tread tread (up)on so/sth
treasure One man's trash is another man's treasure.
treat Dutch treat
treat How's the world (been) treating you?
treat stand so to a treat
treat treat a case of sth
treat treat so (for sth) (with sth)
treat treat so/sth as sth
treat treat so/sth like so/sth
treat treat to sth
Treat Trick or treat
treatment red-carpet treatment
treatment royal treatment
tree As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.
tree bark up the wrong tree
tree cannot see the forest for the trees
tree cannot see the wood for the trees
tree make like a tree and leave
tree Money does not grow on trees.
tree not able to see the forest for the trees
tree not grow on trees
tree tree is known by its fruit.
tree tree as a trea
trek trek across sth
trek trek to some place
tremble in fear and trembling
tremble tremble at sth
tremble tremble from sth
tremble tremble with sth
trend trend toward sth
trespass no trespassing
trespass trespass (up)on sth
trial bring so/sth to trial
trial go to trial
trial on trial
trial send up a trial balloon
trial stand trial
trial trial and error
trial trial balloon
trial trials and tribulations
triangle eternal triangle
tribulation trials and tribulations
tribute floral tribute
tribute tribute pay tribute to so/sth
trick bag of tricks
trick do the trick
trick How's tricks?
trick know a trick or two
trick know the tricks of the trade
trick learn the tricks of the trade
trick miss a trick
trick play a trick on so
trick play tricks on so
trick pull a trick (on so)
trick show so the tricks of the trade
trick teach so the tricks of the trade
trick There are tricks in every trade.
trick Trick or treat!
trick trick so into (dong sth)
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
trouble
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tug tug at (so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tug tug away (at sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble rough-and-tumble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble along</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble from sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble into bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble into so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumble tumble so/sth down sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune call the tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune cannot carry a tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune can't carry a tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune change so's tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune dance to a different tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune dance to another tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune fine-tune sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune He who pays the piper calls the tune.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune in tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune out of tune with so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune sing a different tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune sing another tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune There's many a good tune played on an old fiddle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune to the tune of some amount of money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune tune in (on so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tune tune in (to sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tune out of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tune so/sth out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel sth in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel tuned in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel turn on, tune in, drop out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel turn see the light (at the end of the tunnel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel through sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tunnel tunnel vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surf surf and surf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turkey cold turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turkey go cold turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turkey turkey talk turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turkey turkey's nest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn at every turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn bad penny always turns up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn come to a turning point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn do so a good turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn done to a turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn Even a worm will turn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn every time one turns around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn I spoke out of turn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn in turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn It is a long lane that has no turning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn It's your turn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn leave no stone unturned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn not know where to turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn not know which way to turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn One good turn deserves another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn out of turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn reach a turning point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn soft answer turneth away wrath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn speak out of turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take a new turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take a new turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take a turn for the better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take a turn for the worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take one's turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take turns (at) doing sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take turns with so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn take turns (with sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn tide turned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn a blind eye (to so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn a deaf ear (to so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn a place upside down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn a profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn a trick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn against so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn (away) (from so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn back (from some place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn back the clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn belly up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn in(to) some place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn into so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn of fate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn of the century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn on, tune in, drop out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn one's back (on so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn one's nose up at so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn one hundred and eighty degrees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn onto sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn (over) in one's grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn some place inside out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so aside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so or an animal (away) (from sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so or an animal out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth against so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth in (to so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth inside out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth into so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth to sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth toward so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth upside down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth out of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth upside down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth over in one's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth to good account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth to one's advantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth under (sths)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn so/sth up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn sth upside down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn tail (and run)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn the clock's tick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn the corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn the heat up (on so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn the other cheek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn the other way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn the tables (on so)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn the tide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn three hundred and sixty degrees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn thumbs down (on so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn thumbs up (on so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turn (up)on so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turned off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turning point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn wait one's turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn Whatever turns you on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn worm (has) turned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn You cannot get blood from a turnip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn turtle turn turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn tussle tussle with so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twain East is East and West is West (and never the twain shall meet).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn tweak tweak sth off (of) so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twelve twelve good men and true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice big as life (and twice as ugly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice bigger than life (and twice as ugly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice He gives twice who gives quickly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice large as life (and twice as ugly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice Lightning never strikes (the same place) twice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice Once bitten, twice shy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice think twice about so/sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice think twice (before doing sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice twiddle twiddle around one's thumbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice twiddle twiddle with sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twice As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twilight twilight years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twine twine around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twinkle in the twinkling of an eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twinkle twinkle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist of fate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist (slowly) in the wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist so around one's little finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist so's arm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist so's words (around)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist sth around sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist sth into sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist sth off (of) sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist sth out of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist twist up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist in a twist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twitter in a twitter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn twist There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two alike as (two) peas in a pod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two close as two coats of paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two Don't make two bites of the cherry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two eyes like two burnt holes in a blanket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two fall between two stools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two find out a thing or two (about so/sth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two game that two can play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two have two left feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn two If two ride on a horse, one must ride behind.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1048
under under one's own steam
under under pressure
under under so's care
under under so's thumb
under under so's wing(s)
under under the aegis of so
under under the auspices of so
under under the circumstances
under under the counter
under under the gun (about sth)
under under the influence (of alcohol)
under under the sun
under under the table
under under the weather
under under the wire
under under way
under under wraps
under water under the bridge
under work sth under sth
under work under so
under work under sth
under writhe under sth
underneath seek out (from
underneath so's/th's)
understand come to an understanding
(with so)
understand give so to understand sth
understand given to understand
understand I don't understand (it).
understand reach an understanding
with so
undertake undertake to do sth
undo What's done cannot be undone.
undone What's done can not be undone.
uneasy Uneasy lies the head that
wears a crown.
unexpected unexpected always
happens.
unfamiliar unfamiliar territory
unfold unfold into sth
unfold unfold sth into sth
unforeseen Nothing is certain but the
unforeseen
unglued come unglued
unify unify so's/th into sth
union Union is strength.
union in union
unite unite against so's/th
unite unite for sth
unite unite in sth
unite unite so against so's/th
unite unite so in sth
unite unite so/sth into sth
unite unite so/sth (together)
unite unite so/sth with so/th
unite unite with so
unite United we stand, divided we fall.
unknown unknown quantity
unleash unleash so's/th against so's/th
unleash unleash so's/th (up)on so's/th
unlikely in the unlikely event of sth
unload so's/th on (to) so
unload sth from sth
unlucky Lucky at cards, unlucky in
love.
uno take care of numero uno
unpleasantness late unpleasantness
unquote quote, unquote
unsaid better left unsaid
unseen buy sth sight unseen
unsung unsung hero
until all hours (of the day and night)
until Call no man happy till he dies.
until carry sth over (until some time)
until Church ain't out till they quit
singing.
until Count no man happy till he dies.
until from here till next Tuesday
until (Good-by) until then.
until It's not over till it's over.
until keep sth until some time
until last (from sth) until sth
until make it (until sth)
until Never halloo till you are out of
the woods.
until Never trouble trouble till trouble
troubles you.
until postpone sth until sth
until stay up until a particular time
until talk until one is blue in the face
until tide so over (until sth)
until till all hours (of the day and
night)
until till hell freezes over
until till kingdom come
until Till next time.
until till the bitter end
until till the fat lady sings
until Till we meet again.
until until all hours
until until hell freezes over
until (un)til the cows come home
until Until we meet again.
until wait up (until sth)
until You never know (what you can
do) till you try.
until You never miss the water till the
well runs dry.
untimely come to an untimely end
unto Do unto others as you would
have them do unto you.
unto law unto oneself
unto Sufficient unto the day is the evil
thereof.
uturned leave no stone unturned
unwashed great unwashed
up abut (up) against sth
up act up
up add sth up
up add up (to sth)
up add up to the same thing
up (all) balled up
up (all) rolled up
up (all) dressed up
up all dressed up and nowhere to go
up (all) hot
up all shook up
up all spruced up
up all tore up (about sth)
up allow so up (from sth)
up amount (up) to sth
up ask so up
up average sth up
up back so's/th up to so's/th
up back so up
up back sth up
up back up
up bad penny always turns up.
up ball so's/th up
up ball sth up
up bandage so's/th up
up bang so up
up bang sth up
up bank sth up (against sth)
up bark up the wrong tree
up bash sth up
up batter so's/th up
up Beam me up, Scotty!
up beam so's/th up (to some place)
up beam up
up bear so's/th up
up bear so up
up bear up (against sth)
up bear up (under sth)
up beat oneself up
up beat so up
up beat sth up
up beat up on so
up beef sth up
up beer up
up belch sth up
up belly up
up belt so up
up belt up
up bid sth up
up bid so/sth up (in sth)
up bind so/sth up (with sth)
up bitch so's/th up
up blaze up
up block so up
up block sth up
up blow so's/th up
up blow sth up
up blow up
up blown (up)
up board sth up
up boil sth up
up bollies sth up
up bolster so up
up bolster sth up
up bone up (on sth)
up book sth up
up boost so up
up boost sth up
up boot up
up boot up
up booze it up
up booze up
up botch sth up
up bottle sth up
up Bottoms up!
up bounce up and down
up bound up with so's/th
up bowl up
up box so up
up box sth up
up boxed (up)
up brace so's/th up
up brace up
up Break it up!
up break so up
up break sth up
up break up
up break (up) (into sth)
up brew sth up
up brew up
up brick sth up
up brighten up
up bring so's/th up
up bring so's/th up to-date
up bring so's/th up for sth
up bring so so up on sth
up bring so so sharply
up bring so up short
up bring so to speed on so's/th
up bring so up to-date (on so's/th)
up bring sth up
up bring up the rear
up brush sth up
up brush (up) against so/sth
up brush up (on sth)
up bubble up (through sth)
up buck up
up buckle so/sth up
up buckle up
up buddy up (to so)
up buddy up (with so)
up buff sth up
up build so/sth up
up build up
up bump so/sth up
up bump (up) against so/sth
up bunch so/sth up
up bunch up
up bundle (oneself) up (against sth)
up bundle so/sth up (against sth)
up bundle so/sth up (in sth)
up bungee up
up bungee sth up
up buck (up) together
up bunk (up) with
up bunk (up) together
up bunk (up) with so
up buy so/sth up
up buy so/sth up
up burn so up
up burn sth up
up burn up
up burned up
up bust so up
up bust sth up
up bust up
up butt (up) against so/sth
up butter so up
up button sth up
up button up
up button (up) one's lip
up buttress sth up
up buy sth up
up cage so/sth up (in sth)
up call so/sth up
up call so up
up call sth up
up camp it up
up carve so/sth up
up carve sth up
up cast so/sth up
up catch so/sth up
up catch so up in sth
up catch so up (on so/sth)
up catch so up short
up catch sth up in sth
up catch up (on so/sth)
up catch up (on sth)
up catch up (to so/sth)
up catch up with so
up catch up (with so/sth)
up caught up in sth
up chain so or an animal up
up chain sth up
up chalk sth up
up charge so up
up charge sth up
up charged up
up chase so/sth up
up check up (on so/sth)
up cheer so up
up cheer up
up chew so/sth up
up chew sth up
up choke so up
up choke sth up
up choke up
up choose (up) sides
up chop so/sth (up) (in(to) sth)
up chuck sth up
up chum up to so
up chum up with so
up chum sth up
up cram up
up cram up (sth)
up clean one's act up
up clean so/sth up
up clean the floor up with so
up clean up (on sth)
up clean (up) one's plate
up clear sth up
up clear up
up climb up (sth)
up clock sth up
up clad so up
up clad sth up
up close so up
up close sth up
up close up
up cloud up
up clutch up
up clutter sth up
up cobbled sth up
up coil (itself) up
up coil sth up
up collect sth up
up come up
up come (up) from behind
up coming up a cloud
up conjure so/sth up
up connect so/sth (up) to so/sth
up connect (up) to sth
up connect (up) with so/sth
up cook sth up
up cook up a storm
up cooked up
up coop so/sth up
up cork sth up
up cotton up to so
up cough sth up
up count from sth (up) to sth
up count so/sth up
up count up to sth
up couple up (with so)
up cover so/sth up
up cover so/sth up (as so/sth)
up cover so/sth up (for sth)
up cover (up) for so
up cozy up (to so)
up crack so/sth up
up crack sth up
up crack up
up cracked up to be sth
up crank so up
up crank sth up
up create sth up
up creep up
up crinkle up
up crock so/sth up
up crop up
up cross so up
up crum sth up
up crumble sth up (into sth)
up crumble up
up crumple sth up
up crumple up
up crunch so/sth up
up crush sth up
up crush (up) against so/sth
up cuddle up (to so/sth)
up cuddle up with a (good) book
up cuddle up (with so)
up curl sth up
up curl up and die
up curl up (in(to) sth)
up curl up (with a (good) book)
up curl up with so or an animal
up cut so/sth up
up cut so up
up cut the pie up
up cut up
up dam sth up
up dead from the neck up
up deliver sth up to so
up dent sth up
up dig so some dirt up (on so)
up dig so/sth up
up Dig up!
up dig up one's tomahawk
up dim sth up
up dirty sth up
up divide sth (up) (between so/sth)
up divvy sth up (between so)
up do so/sth up
up do sth up
up doctor so up
up doll so up
up Don't give up!
up Don't give up!
up Don't give up the ship!
up Don't give up without a fight!
up Don't give up your day job.
up doors open up (to so)
up dope so or an animal up
up double up (on so/sth)
up double up (with laughter)
up double up (with pain)
up double up (with so)
up drag so up
up drag sth up
up draw oneself up (to sth)
up draw so/sth up
up draw up
up draw up
up draw (up) alongside so/sth
up dream sth up
up dredge so/sth up
up dress (oneself) up
up dress so/sth up
up dress so up (as so/sth)
up dress (up) as so/sth
up dress (up) fit to kill
up drink sth up
up Drink up!
up drive a price up
up drive so up the wall
up drive so up (to some place)
up drive up (to some place)
up drop up (some place)
up drum sth up
up dry sth up
up dry up
up dude (oneself) up
up duded up
up dummy up
up ease up (on so/sth)
up eat an animal up
up eat so up
up eat sth up
up Eat up!
up eat (en) up with sth
up end sth up
up keep sth up
up keep up an act
up keep up appearances
up keep up one's act
up Keep up the good work.
up keep up (with so/sth)
up keep up with theJoneses
up keep up with the times
up Keep your chin up.
up key so up
up keyed up (about sth)
up kick one's heels up
up kick up
up kink up
up kiss and make up
up kiss up to
up Keep your chin up.
up knock one's head (up) against a brick wall
up knock so up
up knock (up) against so/sth
up knocked up
up face so up
up face sth up
up ladle sth up
up laid up
up land up somehow
up lap sth up
up lap (up) against sth
up last roundup
up father sth up
up father up
up laugh up one's sleeve
up lay so up
up lay sth up
up lead so up sth
up lead so up the garden path
up lead up to sth
up leap up
up learn sth from the bottom up
up leave so up in the air
up leave sth up
up leg up
up let up
up level sth up
up lick sth up
up lift so/sth up
up lift up
up light so/sth up
up light sth up
up light up
up lighten sth up
up lighten up
up limber so/sth up
up line so/sth up
up line so up behind so/sth
up line so up (for sth)
up line so up (with so)
up line up
up link so/sth up (to sth)
up link up to so/sth
up liquor so up
up liquor up
up listen up
up litter sth up
up live it up
up live up to one's end of the bargain
up live up to sth
up liven sth up
up load so/sth up (with so/sth)
up load up (with sth)
up lock so or an animal (up) in (st)
up lock so/sth up (somewhere)
up log sth up
up Look me up when you're in town.
up look so/sth up
up look up
up loom up
up loosen so/sth up
up loosen so up
up loosen up
up loose so/sth up
up make one's mind up (about so/sth)
up make (oneself) up
up make so's bed (up)
up make so's mind up
up make so up
up make sth up
up make the bed (up)
up make up
up Make your mind up.
up mar sth up
up mark sth up
up marry up (with so)
up mash sth up
up match so (up) (with so)
up match up
up measure so up against so/sth
up measure up (to so/sth)
up meet up with so/sth
up mess so's face up
up mess so up
up mess sth up
up mess up
up messed up
up mist up
up mix it up (with so)
up mix so up
up mix sth up
up mixed up in sth
up mixed up with so else
up mock sth up
up mop sth up
up mop the floor up with so
up mop up (after so/sth)
up mopping-up operation
up mound sth up
up mount up
up move so/sth up
up move so up
up move up
up muck sth up
up muddle sth up
up muddled (up)
up muddy sth up
up muffle sth up
up mung sth up
up muss so/sth up
up muster sth up
up nail sth up
up need a pick-me-up
up nestle (up) against so/sth
up nick sth up
up not all sth is cracked up to be
up not get one's hopes up
up not know which end is up
up not up to scratch
up not up to snuff
up not what sth is cracked up to be
up notch sth up
up nut up
up nuzzle up against so/sth
up offer sth up (to so/sth)
up on the up-and-up
up one's number is up
up one up (on so)
up open so up
up open sth up
up open up
up open (up) one's kimono
up own up to so
up own up (to sth)
up pace up and down
up pack sth up (in sth)
up pack up
up pair up (with so)
up pal up (with so)
up parcel sth up
up pass so/sth up
up paste sth up
up patch a quarrel up
up patch so up
up patch sth up
up pay sth up
up pay up
up peck sth up
up pen so or an animal up
up pep so/sth up
up perk so up
up perk sth up
up perk up
up permit sth up (so)
up permit sth up to so
up phone so up
up pick so up
up pick sth up
up pick up
up pile sth up
up pile up
up pin sth up
up pipe up (with so)
up piped (up)
up place sth up against sth
up plaster sth up
up play so/sth up
up play sth up
up play up to so
up (Please) don't get up.
up blow sth up
up cluck sth up in so's courage
up plug sth up
up plump sth up
up point sth up
up polish sth up
up pop sth up
up pop up
up post sth up
up pot sth up
up pound sth up
up powder up
up power sth up
up power up
up pretty oneself or so sth up
up price sth up
up prick up its ears
up primp (oneself) up
up print sth up
up prop so/sth up (against so/sth)
up pry sth up
up psych so up
up psych up
up psych up
up psyched (up)
up psyched up (for sth)
up put sth up
up pucker sth up
up pucker up
up puff so/sth up
up puff up
up pull oneself up by one's (own)
up bootstraps
up pull so/sth up
up pull so up short
up pull on th up
up Pull up a chair.
up pull (up) alongside (of) so/th
up pull up
up pump so up (for th)
up pump th up
up pumped (up)
up punch th up
up purge th up
up push so/th up
up push so up against the wall
up push th (up) against so/th
up push (up) against so/th
up push up on th
up pushing up (the) daisies
up Put ‘em up!
up put money up (for th)
up put one’s feet up
up put one’s hair up
up put one’s hand up
up put so’s back up
up put so
up put th up
up put up a (brave) front
up put up a fight
up put up a struggle
up put up one’s dukes
up Put up or shut up!
up put up with so/th
up put-up job
up queue up (for th)
up race up to so/th
up rack th up
up raise so/th up
up raise up
up rake th up
up ralph th up
up reach th up to so
up read up (on so/th)
up rear up
up rein th up
up rein up
up remain up
up rest up (for th)
up rest up (from th)
up rev th up
up rev up th
up ride up (on so)
up rig th up
up right side up
up right up so’s alley
up rile so up
up ring so up
up ring th up
up ring the curtain up
up rip so/th up
up rip th up
up rise up
up rise (up) against so/th
up roll one’s sleeves up
up roll (oneself) up in th
up roll so/th (up) in th
up roll th up
up root th up
up rope so or an animal up
up rough so up
up rough th up
up round so/th up
up round th up
up round up to th
up rub th up
up rub (up) against so/th
up ruffle th up
up rumple so/th up
up run th up
up run up against so/th
up run up to some place
up run up to (so/th)
up rustle th up
up sack th up
up saddle an animal up
up saddle up
up sail up a river
up save money up (for th)
up save so/th up
up save (up) (for so/th)
up saw th (up) (in/to) so/th
up scare so/th up
up scope th up
up score th (up) against so/th
up scout so/th up
up scratch so/th up
up screw so/th up
up screw so
up screw th up
up screw up
up screwwed up
up scrounge so/th up
up scrub up
up scrunch th up
up scuff th up
up seal th (up) (with so/th)
up sealed (up)
up see so up to th
up seize th up
up seize up
up send so/th up
up send so
up send up a trial balloon
up serve th up
up set so/th up against so/th
up set so/th up as th
up set so
up set th up
up set up shop somewhere
up settle up with so
up sew so/th up
up sewed up
up shack up (with so)
up Shake it (up)!
up shake so/th up
up shake so
up shake th up
up shake shape so
up shape so
up shape up
up shine up to so
up shook up
up shoot a place up
up shoot up
up shore so
up shore th up
up show so up
up show up
up shush (up)
up shut so up
up Shut up!
up Shut up about it.
up sick (up)
up sidle up (to so/th)
up sign so up (for th)
up sign so up (with so/th)
up sign up (for so/th)
up sign (up) with so/th
up sit up
up sing up a storm
up sit up
up size so/th up
up slack up (on th)
up slice so/th up
up slick th up
up slip up
up sob up
up slope up (to th)
up slow so/th up
up slow up
up slush up
up smarten up
up smash th up
up smell th up
up smoke th up
up Snap it up!
up snap th up
up snarl so/th up
up snatch th up
up snazz th up
up sneak up on so/th
up sneak up to so/th
up snuggle (up) against so/th
up snuggle up (to so/th)
up soak th up
up sober so up
up sober up
up soften so up
up soften th up
up soften up
up (so’s) ups and downs
up something’s up
up somewhere to hang (up) one’s hat
up sop th up
up soup th up
up souped up
up spade th up
up spatter so/th up
up speak up
up speed so/th up
up speed up
up spew th up
up spice th up
up spiff th up
up spiffed up
up spindled up
up split th up
up split up
up splash so/th up
up splatter so/th up
up split people up
up split so/th up (into th)
up split up (with so)
up sponge th up
up spoon th up
up spring up
up sprout up
up spruce so/th up
up square th up
up square up (for fighting)
up square up to so/th
up square up with so
up squash so/th up
up squash up against so/th
up squeeze so/th up
up squeeze (themselves) up
up squeeze up against so/th
up stack th up
up stack up
up stand so up
up stand up
up start so up (in sth)
up start sth up
up start up
up stay up (for sth)
up stay up late
up stay up until a particular time
up steal up on so/sth
up steam so up
up steam sth up
up steam up
up steamed (up)
up step right up
up step sth up
up step up
up Stick ’em up!
up stick one’s nose up in the air
up stick so/sth up
up stick sth up
up stiffen sth up
up stiffen up
up stalk sth up
up stir so up
up stir sth up
up stir up a hornet’s nest
up stitch sth up
up stock sth (up) with sth
up stock up (on sth)
up stock up (with sth)
up stove sth up
up stop sth up (with sth)
up stop up
up store sth up
up straight up
up straighten so/sth up
up straighten up
up (strictly) on the up-and-up
up strike sth up
up strike up a conversation
up strike up a friendship
up strike up the band
up string so up
up study up on so/sth
up stuff sth up
up suck sth up
up suck up to so
up suit (oneself) up
up sum (sth) up
up summon sth up
up sunny-side up
up surge up
up swallow so/sth up
up sweep sth up
up sweep up
up sweeten so up
up sweeten sth up
up sweeten (up) the deal
up swell up
up tack sth up
up take a collection up (from so) (for so/sth)
up take so up
up take sth up
up take the slack up
up take up arms (against so/sth)
up take up one’s abode some place
up take up residence some place
up take up room
up take up (so’s) time
up take up space
up take up the challenge
up take up where one left off
up take up with so
up talk so/sth up
up talk sth up
up talk up a storm
up tally sth up
up tangle so/sth up
up tank up (on sth)
up team up against so/sth
up team up (with so)
up tear so up
up tear sth up
up teed (up)
up tense up (for sth)
up That (really) burns me (up)!
up thicken sth up
up Things are looking up.
up think sth up
up throw one’s hands up (in despair)
up throw sth up
up throw up
up thrust up through sth
up thumbs up
up tidy sth up
up tidy up
up tie so/sth up
up tie so (up) in knots
up tie sth up
up tie traffic up
up tie up (some place)
up tied up
up tighten sth up
up tighten up
up Time is up.
up tip sth up
up toady (up) to so
up toil up sth
up tone so/sth up
up tool sth up
up tool up
up top sth up
up tore (up)
up torn (up)
up toss sth up
up total sth up
up tote up sth
up touch so (up) for sth
up touch sth up
up toughen so/sth up
up toughen up
up track sth up
up trade up from sth
up trade up (to sth)
up train up to sth
up trip so up
up true sth up
up trump sth up
up trumped up
up truss sth up
up tuck sth up
up tune sth up
up tune up
up turn belly up
up turn one’s nose up at so/sth
up turn so/sth up
up turn sth up
up turn the heat up (on so)
up turn thumbs up (on so/sth)
up turn up
up twist up
up type sth up
up up a blind alley
up up a creek
up up a storm
up up a tree
up up against so/sth
up up against sth
up up against the wall
up (up and about)
up up at ’em
up up and away
up up and did sth
up up and running
up up before so
up up for auction
up up for grabs
up up for reelection
up up for sale
up up for sth
up up front
up up in arms
up up in the air (about so/sth)
up up in years
up up North
up up on so/sth
up up one side and down the other
up up stakes
up up the ante
up up the creek (without a paddle)
up up the pole
up up the river
up up the wall
up up to doing sth
up up to here (with sth)
up up to no good
up up to one’s ears (in sth)
up up to one’s eyeballs (in sth)
up up to one’s knees
up up to one’s neck (in sth)
up up to par
up up to snuff
up up to so/sth
up up to sth
up up to speed
up up to the minute
up up with so
up up-and-coming
up up-to-date
up up-to-the-minute
up use so up
up use sth up
up use vacuum sth up (from sth)
up use vomit sth up
up Wait up (a minute)!
up wait up (for so/sth)
up wait up (until sth)
up wake so or an animal up
up wake so (up) from sth
up wake so up (to sth)
up wake up
up wake up (from sth)
up wake (up) to so
up walk right up (to so/sth)
up walk up sth
up walk up to so/sth
up wall sth up
up walkz up (to so)
up want a pick-me-up
up warm so/sth up
up warm so
up warm up
up warm up
up wash so/sth up
up wash so up
up wash up (for sth)
up wash up
up washed up
up weigh sth up
up well up (from sth)
up (on) a time
upon once (up) on
upon play (up) on
upon ponder (up) on
upon pounce (up) on
upon practice (up) on
upon predicate (up) on
upon press (up) on
upon press (up) on
upon presumption (up) on
upon prevail (up) on
upon prey (up) on
upon put upon
upon rain (up) on
upon reflect (back) (up) on
upon reflect credit (up) on
upon rely (up) on
upon remark (up) on
upon report (up) on
upon resolve (up) on
upon rest (up) on
upon revenge oneself (up) on
upon ride (up) on
upon seize (up) on
upon set (up) on
upon set upon
upon shut the door (up) on
upon sit in judgment (up) on
upon smile (up) on
upon speak (up) on
upon spit (up) on
upon spring (up) on
upon say (up) on
upon spy (up) on
upon stamp (up) on
upon stand (up) on
upon strike (up) on
upon stumble (up) on
upon swear (up) on
upon swoop down (up) on
upon take it upon oneself to do
upon take sth (up) on
upon think (up) on
upon thrive (up) on
upon touch (up) on
upon trample (up) on
upon tread (up) on
upon trespass (up) on
upon turn in (up) on oneself
upon turn (up) on
upon unleash (up) on
upon upon impact
upon (up) on
upon urge (up) on
upon urge (up) on
upon vent (up) on
upon venture (up) on
upon verge (up) on
upon visit (up) on
upon vote (up) on
upon wait (up) on
upon wear (up) on
upon wear (up) on
upon wear (up) on
upon weight (up) on
upon work (up) on
upon wreak (up) on
upon wreak vengeance (up) on
upon write (up) on
upon upon impact
upper Keep a stiff upper lip.
upper upper crust
upper upper hand (on so)
upper upper story
upright empty sack cannot stand upright
upright sit bolt upright
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wagon on the wagon</td>
<td>waiting for someone to wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait can’t wait (for sth to happen)</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait can’t wait (to do sth)</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait Everything comes to him who waits.</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait Good things come to him who waits.</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait hurry up and wait</td>
<td>impatience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait I felt like a penny waiting for change.</td>
<td>impatience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait It’s ill waiting for dead men’s shoes.</td>
<td>impatience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait Just (you) wait (and see)!</td>
<td>impatience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait lie in wait (for so/so)</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait moment everyone has been waiting for</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait not able to wait</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait on the waiting list</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait They also serve who only stand and wait.</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait Time and tide wait for no man.</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait (around) (for so/so)</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait at sth (for so/so)</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait for the next wave</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait for the other shoe to drop</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait on so hand and foot</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait (on) tables</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait wait one’s turn</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait sth out</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait up (minute)</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait up (for so/so)</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait up (until sth)</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait wait (up)on so</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait-and-see attitude</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait waiting in the wings</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait You (just) wait (and see)!</td>
<td>waiting for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake awake(n) from sth</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake awake(n) so from sth</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake awake(n) so to sth</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake (in the wake of)</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake wake so or an animal up</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake wake so (up) from sth</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake wake sth up (to sth)</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake wake the dead</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake wake up</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake wake up (from sth)</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake wake (up) to sth</td>
<td>wake up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake walk all walks of life</td>
<td>waking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake walk cock of the walk</td>
<td>waking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake walk every walk of life</td>
<td>waking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake *in (a) single file walk</td>
<td>waking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake one’s walking papers</td>
<td>waking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk Speak of the devil (and in he walks).</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk Take a long walk off a short pier.</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk take a walk</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk a tightrope</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk across sth</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk ahead of so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk all over so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk along</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk arm in arm</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk around</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk away from so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk away with so or an animal</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk away with sth</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk back ((to) sth)</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk down sth</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk hand in hand</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk in (a) single file</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk in on so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk in(to sth)</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk on</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk off</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk out of (of sth)</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk out on (on so)</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk out on (on sth)</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk out with so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk over to so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk right in</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk (right) into a trap</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk (right) into so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk right up to so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk walk soft</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk so out</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk so over to so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk so’s feet off</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk so through sth</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk tall</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk the floor</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk the plank</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk through sth</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk together</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk up sth</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk up to so/so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk with so</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk walk with sth</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk We must learn to walk before we can run.</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk within walking distance</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk worship the ground so walks on</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall bang one’s head against a brick wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall beat one’s head against the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall between you and me and these four walls</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall climb the wall(s)</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall drive so to the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall drive so up the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall force so to the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall go over the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall go to the wall (on sth)</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall go up the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall have one’s back to the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall hole in the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall knock one’s head (up) against a brick wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall nail so’s hide to the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall off-the-wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall over the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall press so to the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall push so to the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall push so up against the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall read the handwriting on the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall run into a stone wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall run one’s head against a brick wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall see the (hand)writing on the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall send so up the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall up against the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall up the wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall wall so/so in</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall wall so/so off</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall wall sth off (from so/so)</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall wall sth up</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall Walls have ears.</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall wall-to-wall (with) sth</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall pack a wall</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall allow wallow (around) in sth</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall allow wallow in sth</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walltzt wallzt around sth</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walltzt walltzt in(to some place)</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walltzt walltzt off</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walltzt walltzt through sth</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walltzt walltzt up (to so)</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wander wander about</td>
<td>wall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
wander wander away (from so/sth)
want want
wander wander from sth
wander wander in(to sth)
wander wander off (from so/sth)
wane on the wane
wane wax and wane
wangle wangle out of sth
wangle wangle sth from so
wanna Wanna make sumpin’ of it?
want (Do you) want to know something?
want (Do you) want to make something of it?
want You want to make something of it?
want act of war
want All's fair in love and war.
want all-out war
want Councils of war never fight.
want declare war against so/sth
want go to war (over so/sth)
want If you want peace, (you must) prepare for war.
want make war (on so/sth)
want war against so/sth
want war over so/sth
want war with so
ward ward so/sth off
warhorse old warhorse
warhorse perform an old warhorse
warhorse play an old warhorse
warm Cold hands, warm heart.
warm feel like death warmed over
warm like death warmed over
warm look like death warmed over
warm warm as toast
warm warm body
warm warm so/sth up
warm warm so up
warm warm sth over
warm warm the bench
warm warm the cockles of so's heart
warm warm up
warm warmed over
warm warm so about so/sth
warm warn so against so/sth
warm warn so away from so/sth
warm warn so of sth
warm warn so off
warpath on the warpath
warrant put out a warrant (on so)
warrant sign one's own death warrant
wart warts and all
wart worrywart
was as I was saying
was couldn't pour water out of a boot... if there were instructions on the thing!
was For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the man was lost.
was good time was had by all.
was (had) known it was coming
was (I was) just warning.
was I was up all night with a sick friend.
was I wasn't brought up in the woods to be scared by owls.
was if it was a snake it would bit you.
was knew it was coming
was like I was saying
was like it was going out of style
was (Now), where was I?
was Rome was not built in a day.
was since so was knee-high to a grasshopper
was time was (when)
was was had
was What was the name again?
was Who was it?
wash chief cook and bottle washer
wash come out in the wash
wash Do not wash your dirty linen in public.
wash great unwashed
wash I have to wash a few things out.
wash Is there some place I can wash up?
wash It won't wash!
wash It'll all come out in the wash.
wash wash away
wash wash off ((of) so/sth)
washwash one's dirty linen in public
washwash one's hands of so/sth
washwash wash out
washwash wash over so
washwash wash overboard
washwash so/sth away
washwash so/sth off
washwash so/sth overboard
washwash so/sth up
washwash so out
washwash so up
washwash sth away
washwash sth down sth
washwash sth down (with sth)
washwash sth of sth
washwash sth off (of) so/sth
washwash bush sth
washwash wash up (for sth)
washwash washed out
washwash washed up
washWhere can I wash up?
waste Don't waste my time.
waste Don't waste your breath.
waste Don't waste your time.
waste go to waste
waste Haste makes waste.
waste lay sth to waste
waste lay waste to sth
waste time's-a-wastin'
waste waste away
waste Waste not want not.
waste waste of space
waste waste one's breath
waste waste so
waste waste sth away
waste waste sth on so/sth
waste You're (just) wasting my time.
waste wasting time's-a-wastin'
waste watch about as exciting as watching (the) paint dry
wash bear watching
wash clock-watcher
wash exciting as watching (the) paint dry
wash keep a close watch on so/sth
wash keep close (close) watch (on so/sth)
wash keep close (close) watch (over so/sth)
wash keep close watch on so/sth
wash keep close watch over so/sth
wash on so/sth
wash watch on the watch for so/sth
wash watch for so/sth
wash watch it!
wash Watch my lips!
watch watch one's step
watch watch out for so
watch watch over so/sth
watch watch so/sth like a hawk
watch watch the store
watch Watch your mouth!
watch watched pot never boils.
watch (You) (just) watch!
wash as a duck takes to water
wash big drink of water
wash Blood is thicker than water.
wash blow so/sth out of the water
wash bread and water
wear none the worse for wear
look none the worse for wear
It is better to wear out than to wear
If the shoe fits (wear it).
wear I don't want to wear out my wear
wear Don't let the bastards wear you wear
Constant dropping wears away a wealth of wealth
Early to bed and early to rise, weak
weakest weak as a kitten weak
spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak
we When do we eat? we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time.
(We) don't see you much around we
we Until we meet again. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
we We had a lovely time. we
we United we stand, divided we fall. we
we We'll try again some other time. we
we We were just talking about you.
sopping (wet)

mad as a wet hen

wet

get wet

wet mad as a wet hen

wetopping (wet)

wet behind the ears

wet wet blanket

wet wet one's whistle

wet wet so/sh down

whack give a whack at sh

whack have a whack at sh

whack out of w(h)ack

whack take a whack at sh

whack whack at sh

whack whack so/sh up

whack whack sh off

whack whack sh up

whack whacked (out)

whale have a whale of a time

whale whale into so or an animal

whale whale the tar out of so

wham whom bam thank you ma'am

wham what double whammy

what A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do.

what and what have you

what Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see.

what come what may

what Do what?

what (Do you) know what?

what (Do you) know what I mean?

what (Do you) know what I'm saying?

what Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today.

what Don't tell me what to do!

what good for what ails you

what Guess what!

what have what it takes

what Here's your hat, what's your hurry?

what I hear what you're saying.

what I know (just) what you mean.

what if one knows what's good for one

what If you don't see what you want, please ask (for it).

what if you know what's good for you

what (It's) just what you need.

what just what the doctor ordered

what know one for what one is

what Welsh is Welsh

what know what

what know what's what

what left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.

what Look (at) what the cat dragged in!

what no matter what (happens)

what not I know what so/sh

what not what sh is cracked up to be

what Now what?

what or what?

what Practice what you preach.

what recognize one for what one is

what recognize so/sh for what it is

what Say what?

what So (what)?

what (So) what else is new?

what tell so what to do with sh

what That's just what you need.

what That's what I say.

what That's what she wrote.

what Things are seldom what they seem.

what (Well,) what do you know?

what What (a) nerve!

what What a pity!

what What a shame!

what What about (doing) so/sh?

what What about (having) sh?

what What about it?

what What about you?

what What are you drinking?

what What are you driving at?

what What are you having?

what What brings you here?

what What can I do for you?

what What can I say?

what What can I tell you?

what What can't be cured must be endured.

what What difference does it make?

what What do you know?

what What do you know (about that)?

what What do you know for sure?

what What do you say?

what What do you think?

what What do you think of that?

what What do you think of this weather?

what What do you think you are doing here?

what What do you want me to say?

what What does that prove?

what What else can I do?

what What else can I do for you?

what what

what What gives?

what What goes up must come down.

what What happened?

what What have you been up to?

what What if...?

what What in the devil?

what What in the dickens?

what What in the hell?

what What in (the) Sam Hill?

what What is it?

what What makes so tick

what what makes tick

what What makes you think so?

what What more can I do?

what What must be, must be.

what What now?

what What number are you calling?

what What of it?

what What one doesn't know won't hurt one.

what What price sh?

what What's buzzin' (cousin)?

what What's coming off?

what What's coming to one

what What's cooking?

what What's done cannot be undone.

what What's done is done.

what What's eating so?

what What's going down?

what What's going on (around here)?

what What's got(ten) into so?

what What's happening?

what what's his face

what what's his name

what What's in a name?

what What's in it for me?

what What's it to you?

what What's keeping so?

what What's new?

what What's new with you?

what What's on tap for today?

what What's poppin'?

what What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

what What's shakin' (bacon)?

what what's that?

what what's the (big) idea?
what What’s the catch? 
what What’s the damage? 
what What’s the deal? 
what What’s the drill? 
what What’s the good of sh? 
what What’s the (good) word? 
what What’s the matter (with you)? 
what What’s the problem? 
what What’s the scam? 
what What’s the scoop? 
what What’s (there) to know? 
what What’s up? 
what What’s up, doc? 
what What’s with so/sh? 
what What’s wrong? 
what What’s your age? 
what What’s yours? 
what What’s yours is mine, and what’s mine is mine. 
what What say? 
what what so/sh is cracked up to be 
what What so’s said. 
what What the deuce? 
what What the devil? 
what What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over. 
what What the fuck? 
what What the heck! 
what What the hell? 
what What the name again? 
what What will be, will be. 
what what with sh 
what What would you like to drink? 
what What would you say if...? 
what What you don’t know won’t hurt you. 
what Where What you see is what you get. 
what What’ll it be? 
what What’s worth of a thing is what it will bring. 
what You and what army? 
what You cannot lose what you never had. 
what Where You get what you pay for. 
what You got to do what you got to do. 
what You know what I mean? 
what You never know (what you can do) till you try. 
whatever for what(ever) it’s worth 
whatever what(ever) goes around, comes around. 
whatever Whatever turns you on. 
whatever Whatever will be, will be. 
whatseede wheedle so into sh 
whatseede wheedle so/sh away from so 
wheel at the wheel 
wheel die behind the wheel 
wheel fifth wheel 
wheel have one’s shoulder to the wheel 
wheel if frogs had wheels, they wouldn’t bump their butts. 
wheel keep one’s shoulder to the wheel 
wheel pit one’s shoulder to the wheel 
wheel reinvent the wheel 
wheel set of wheels 
wheel spin one’s wheels 
wheel squeezing wheel gets the oil. 
wheel wheel and deal 
wheel wheel around 
wheel wheel so/sh around 
wheel wheel so/sh away 
wheel wheel so/sh into sh 
wheel wheel so/sh off 
wheel wheel so/sh out of sh 
wheeze wheeze sh out 
when Come back when you can stay longer. 
when cross that bridge when one comes to it 
when *fat hit the fire 
when Hoist your sail when the wind is fair. 
when I’ll look you up when I’m in town. 
when It’ll be a cold day in hell when shh happens. 
when know when one is not wanted 
when liar is not believed (even) when he tells the truth. 
when Look me up when you’re in town. 
when Needs must when the devil drives. 
when Say when. 
when Since when? 
when Smile when you say that. 
when Some people (just) don’t know when to quit. 
when time flies (when you’re having fun) 
when time was (when) 
when when all is said and done 
when When do we eat? 
when When in Rome(, do as the Romans do). 
when when it comes right down to it 
when when it comes to sh 
when when least expected 
when When one door shuts, another opens. 
when when one is good and ready 
when when one’s ship comes in 
when when poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window. 
when when push comes to shove 
when When the cat’s away, the mice will play. 
when when the chips are down 
when when the dust settles 
when when the fat hit the fire 
when when the fat lady sings 
when when the going gets tough 
when When the going gets tough, the tough get going. 
when when the shit hits the fan 
when when the time is ripe 
when When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window. 
when when you get a chance 
when when you get a minute 
when Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap? 
when Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free? 
when zigged when one should’ve zerged 
where Cross the stream where it is shallowest. 
where Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. 
where from where I stand 
where Give credit where credit is due. 
where hit one where one lives 
where Home is where the heart is. 
where know where all the bodies are buried. 
where know where it’s at 
where know where one is coming from 
where know where so stands (on so/sh) 
where know where sh is at 
where Let’s go somewhere where it’s (more) quiet. 
where Let the chips fall where they may. 
where not know where to turn 
where (Now,) where was it? 
where put one’s nose in (where it’s not wanted) 
where Put your money where your mouth is! 
where stick one’s nose in (where it’s not wanted) 
where take up where one left off 
where tell so where to get off. 
where This is where I came in. 
where Where can I wash up? 
where Where do (you think) you get off? 
where Where have you been all my life? 
where Where (have) you been hiding (yourself)? 
where Where (have) you been keeping yourself? 
where Where ignorance is bliss, ‘tis folly to be wise. 
where Where in the world...? 
where Where is the restroom? 
where where it’s at 
where Where on (God’s) green earth? 
where where one is coming from 
where Where’s the beef? 
where Where’s the fire? 
where where so is at 
where where so’s lives 
where where so’s head is at 
where where the action is 
where where the rubber meets the road 
where where the sun don’t shine 
where Where there’s a will, there’s a way. 
where Where there’s life there’s hope. 
where Where there’s smoke there’s fire. 
where Where will I find you? 
where You don’t know where it’s been. 
wherefore whys and wherefores of shh 
wherefore know whereof one speaks 
wherewithal wherewithal (to do shh) 
whet what so’s appetite 
whether don’t know whether to eat it or rub it on 
whether not know whether one is coming or going 
whether whether or not 
which ever(y) which way 
which Happy is the country which has no history. 
which know which is which 
which know which side one’s bread is buttered on 
which not know which end is up 
which not know which way to turn
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase-Finder Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>which</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>which</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>which</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whiff</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whiff</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whiff</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whistle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whiz</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whiz</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whiz</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>who</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whoa</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whoa</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whole</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>woo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whoop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>whoop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>why</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>why</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>why</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>why</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>why</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>why</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>why</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wicked</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wide</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
will run wild
wild send so on a wild-goose chase
wild sow one's wild oats
wild wild about so/sh
wild wild and woolly
wild Wild horses couldn't drag so away (from sh).
wild wild-goose chase
wildfire spread like wildfire
will not (I) won't breathe a word (of it).
will not I won't give up without a fight.
will not (I) won't tell a soul.
will not (It) won't bother me any.
will not (It) won't bother me at all.
will not It won't wash!
will not What one doesn't know won't hurt one.
will not What you don't know won't hurt you.
will not won't hold water
will not Won't you come in?
will Accidents will happen.
will against so's will
will The things will pass.
will at will
will Blood will have blood.
will Blood will tell.
will Boys will be boys.
will Breeding will tell.
will drowning man will clutch at a straw.
will Even a worm will turn.
will Everything will be all right.
will Everything will be great.
will Everything will be just fine.
will Everything will be okay.
will Everything will work out (all right).
will Everything will work out for the best.
will Faith will move mountains.
will Flattery will get you nowhere.
will Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.
will He will get his.
will heads will roll.
will How will I know you?
will How will I recognize you?
will If anything can go wrong, it will.
will If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.
will If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.
will If you run after two hares, you will catch neither.
will I'll will.
will It will be your ass.
will It will take some doing.
will Keep your shop and your shop will keep you.
will last will and testament
will Love will find a way.
will Murder will out.
will no salesman will call
will Oh, sure (so/sh) will!
will (Only) time will tell.
will put sh in will-call
will remember so in one's will
will She will get hers.
will So will be with you in a minute.
will Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.
will Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach.
will That will do.
will There's none so blind as those who will not see.
will There's none so deaf as those who will not hear.
will There will be hell to pay.
will There will be the devil to pay.
will Things will work out (all right).
will Throw dirt enough, and some will stick.
will Time will tell.
will truth will out.
will What will be, will be.
will Whatever will be, will be.
will When the cat's away, the mice will play.
will Where there's a will, there's a way.
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
will Where will I find you?
fall in love (with)
fall behind (with)
face explode with
experiment with
equip with
equate with
entrust with
entrap with
enthrall with
with (Do) you eat with that mouth?
with (Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth?
done with mirrors
done with
Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.
dose so or an animal with
dot sth with
double up (with laughter)
double up (with pain)
double up (with)
douse sth

dovetail with

down with a disease
down (with)
Down with so/sth

drape so/sth with


drift with

drip with

drown with

eat(en) up with

echo with

economical with the truth
edge sth with
elope with
embarrass so with
embellish with
embazon sth with
empathize with
enchant so with
encumber so/sth with
end up with all the marbles
end up with so/sth
end up with the short end of the stick
end with
endow so/sth with
engage (itself) with
engrave sth with
enrich so/sth with
entangle so/sth with
entertain so with
enthral so with
entice so or an animal with
entrapt so (in sth) (with sth)
entrust so with
equate so/sth with
equip sth with (for sth)
equip sth with
even (with so)
exchange no more than some number of words with so
exchange sth with
experiment with so/sth
explode with
face so with
face sth with
fall behind (with sth)
fall head over heels in love (with so)
fall in love (with each other)
fall in love (with so)
fall in love (with sth)
with go with slh
with go with the flow
with go with the territory
with go with the tide
with God's in his heaven; all's right with the world.
with gone with the wind
with gorge s/s/th with slh
with grace s/s/th with one's presence
with grace slh with slh
with graced with slh
with graduate (in slh) (with slh)
with grapple (with so) (for slh)
with grapple with slh
with green with envy
with greet
with green with envy
with grapple with
with grace
with green with envy
with greet
with groan with slh
with grow disgusted with so/th
with grow dissatisfied with so/th
with gush with slh
with haggle (with so) over so/th
with hand in glove (with so)
with hang around
with hand so with kid gloves
with hang around (with so)
with hang out (with so/th)
with hang so/th with slh
with hang with so
with hardly exchange more than some number of words with so
with harmonize with so/th
with has the world by the tail (with a downhill drag)
with hash slh over (with so)
with have a bone to pick (with so)
with have a brush with slh
with have a run-in (with so/th)
with have a score to settle (with so)
with have a scrape (with so/th)
with have a set-to (with so)
with have a thing going (with so)
with have a way with so/th
with have a way with words
with have an affair (with so)
with have an argument (with so)
with have intimate relations with so
with have no truck with slh
with have nothing to do with so/th
with have one's hands full (with so/th)
with have one's way with so
with have to live with so/th
with have relations with so
with have something going (with so)
with have slh in common (with so/th)
with have slh out (with so)
with have slh to do with slh
with have to do with slh
with have to live with slh
with have words with so (over so/th)
with He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin.
with He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon.
with head over heels in love (with so)
with heap slh with slh
with help out (with slh)
with help s/s/th with slh
with help so off with slh
with help so on with slh
with help so/th out with so/th
with help s/s/th with slh
with hit it off (with so)
with hit it off with slh
with hobnob with so/th
with hoist with one's own petard
with honor so with slh
with hook so up (with so)
with hook up with so
with horse around (with so/th)
with How goes it (with you)?
with How's (it) with you?
with howl with slh
with How're things (with you)?
with hum with activity
with I can live with that.
with I can't argue with that.
with (I have) no problem with that.
with I was up all night with a sick friend.
with I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole.
with I'd like (to have) a word with you.
with identify (oneself) with so/th
with identify so/th with so/th
with if you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.
with if you play with fire, you get burned.
with (I'll) be right with you.
with illuminate slh with slh
with illustrate slh with slh
with I'm not finished with you.
with I'm (really) fed up (with so/th).
with I'm with you.
with imbue so with slh
with impregnate slh with slh
with impress so with so/th
with imprint slh with slh
with in accord (with so/th) (about so/th)
with in accordance with slh
with in agreement (with so/th)
with in bad (with so)
with in cahoots (with so/th)
with in concert (with so/th)
with in contact (with so/th)
with in Dutch (with so/th)
with in (good) (so/th)
with in harmony (with so/th)
with in hot water (with so) (about so/th)
with in keeping (with slh)
with in league (with so)
with in line with slh
with in love (with so/th)
with in over one's head (with so/th)
with in over all with slh
with in step (with so/th)
with in step (with so/th)
with in step (with slh)
with in step (with slh)
with in time (with slh)
with in touch (with so)
with in touch with so/th
with in tune with so/th
with in tune with the times
with in with so
with in (with so)
with inculcate so with slh
with indoctrinate so with slh
with indulge so with slh
with infatuated with so/th
with infect so with slh
with infested with slh
with inflate slh with slh
with infuse so with slh
with infuse slh with slh
with ingratiate oneself (so with slh)
with inlay slh with slh
with inoculate so with slh
with inscribe slh with slh
with inspire so with slh
with instill so with slh
with insure so/th with slh
with integrate so with so
with integrate slh with slh
with interact so with slh
with interact with slh
with intercede (for so) (with so/th)
with interchange so with so else
with interchange slh with slh
with interface so/th with slh
with interface with so/th
with interfere with so/th
with interfere with slh
with intermarry with so
with intermingle slh with slh
with intermingle with so
with intersperse slh with slh
with intertwine slh with slh
with intertwine with slh
with interview with so/th
with intimate so with slh
with intimate with so/th
with intoxicate so with so/th
with intoxicate so with slh
with intrigue so with so/th
with intrigue (with so) (against so)
with inundate so/th with slh
with invest so with slh
with involve so with so/th
with involved (with so)
with involved with slh
with issue so with slh
with (It) don't cut no ice (with so/th)
with (It) don't cut no squares (with so/th)
with it is all over with so/th
with I've had it up to here (with so/th)
with jab so with slh
with jam slh (up) with slh
with jam with so
with jest with so
with jibe with so
with join forces (with so)
with join in (with so)
with join in with (slh)
with join in (with slh)
with join so with so else
with join slh with slh else
with join up (with so/th)
with join up with slh
with joke (with so) (about so/th)
with jostle with so
with jump in with both feet
with jump with slh
with jump with so
with jump with slh
with jump with so
with keep company (with so/th)
with keep faith with so
with keep good in slh with slh
with keep in step (with so)
with keep in touch (with so/th)
with keep on with slh
with keep pace (with so/th)
with keep so/th in so/th
with keep slh with slh
with keep up (with so/th)
with keep up with the Joneses
with keep up with the times
with kid around (with so)
with kill so with kindness
with kill two birds with one stone
with knock about (same place) (with slh)
with knock around (same place) (with so)
with make time (with so)
with make up (with so)
with make with
with manage with sq/ith
with march in step (with so)
with march out of time (with sq/ith)
with mark sq/ith with sq/ith
with marry up (with so)
with mash sq/ith with sq/ith
with match so (up) (with so)
with match wits (with so)
with mate so with so
with mate with an animal
with mate with so
with meaner than a junkyard dog
(with fourteen sucking pups)
with meddle with sq/ith
with meet up with sq/ith
with meet with so
with meet with sq/ith
with merge sq/ith with sq/ith
with mesh with sq/ith
with mess about (with sq/ith)
with mess around (with sq/ith)
with mess with sq/ith
with mill cannot grind with water that
is past.
with mingle in (with so)
with mingle so with so else
with mingle with so
with mix in (with sq/ith)
with mix it up (with so)
with mix so up with so else
with mix sq/ith up (with so)
with mix sq/ith up with sq/ith else
with mix with sq/ith
with mixed up with so else
with moan with sq/ith
with monkey with sq/ith
with mop sq/ith up with sq/ith
with mop the floor up with so
with move forwarad with sq/ith
with move in with so
with move off (to the side) with so
with neck with so
with negotiate (with sq/ith) (over sq/ith)
with niggles (over sq/ith) (so)
with not agree with so
with not enlarge more than some
number of words with so
with not have anything to do with sq/ith
with not have anything to do with so
with not hold with sq/ith
with not in the same league with sq/ith
with not playing with a full deck
with not touch sq/ith with a ten-foot
pole
with not with it
with Now you’re cooking (with gas)!
with number so with sq/ith
with oblige so with sq/ith
with obsessed with sq/ith
with occupy so with sq/ith
with off on the right foot (with sq/ith)
with off to a good start (with sq/ith)
with off (to the side) with so
with Off with you!
with offend so with sq/ith
with on a first-name basis (with so)
with on good terms (with so)
with on par (with sq/ith)
with on speaking terms (with so)
with on the outs (with so)
with on with so
with one’s (own) way (with sq/ith)
with ooze with sq/ith
with open up (about sq/ith) (with so)
with open up (with so)
with open with sq/ith
with open with sq/ith (origin)
with ornament sq/ith with sq/ith
with out of favor (with so)
with out of keeping (with sq/ith)
with out of line (with sq/ith)
with out of step (with sq/ith)
with out of time (with sq/ith)
with out of touch (with sq/ith)
with out of tune (with sq/ith)
with over (and done) with
with over (with)
with overflow with sq/ith
with pair up (with so)
with pal around (with so)
with pal up with sq/ith
with pally (with so)
with parley with so
with part company (with so)
with part with sq/ith
with participate (in sq/ith) (with sq/ith)
with pass the time of day (with so)
with patch sq/ith together (with so)
with pave the way (for sq/ith) (with sq/ith)
with pay so (for sq/ith) (with sq/ith)
with pelt sq/ith with sq/ith
with penetrate sq/ith with sq/ith
with people sq/ith with so
with person with sq/ith
with permeate sq/ith with sq/ith
with persevere with sq/ith
with persist with sq/ith
with pester so with sq/ith
with physical (with so)
with pick a fight (with so)
with pick a quarrel (with so)
with pipe up (with sq/ith)
with pitch in (and help) (with sq/ith)
with place so with sq/ith
with place sq/ith with sq/ith
with plague sq/ith with sq/ith
with plaster sq/ith with sq/ith
with play about (no with sq/ith)
with play along (with sq/ith)
with play around (with sq/ith)
with play ball with so
with play cat and mouse with so
with play fast and loose (with sq/ith)
with play games (with so)
with play hardball (with sq/ith)
with play havoc with sq/ith
with play hell with sq/ith
with play hob with sq/ith
with play so with sq/ith
with play the devil with sq/ith
with play with a full deck
with play with fire
with play with sq/ith
with plead with so
with pleased with sq/ith
with plot with so
with ply so with sq/ith
with pick sq/ith with sq/ith
with poison so or an animal with sq/ith
with poison sth with sth
with pollute sth with sth
with pour with rain
with prepare sth with sth
with present so with sth
with prime sth with sth
with proceed with sth
with progress with sth
with provide so with sth
with punctuate sth with sth
with punish so with sth
with push ahead (with sth)
with push on (with sth)
with put so in touch with so/sth
with put so or sth with so
with put so up with so
with put to bed with a shovel
with put up with so/sth
with quake with sth
with quarrel (with so) (about so/sth)
with quarrel (with so) (over so/sth)
with quarrel with sth
with quibble (about so/sth) (with so)
with quiver with sth
with race with so/sth
with racked with pain
with raise havoc with so/sth
with raise hell (with sth)
with raise a Hob with so/sth
with raise sth with so
with raise the devil (with so)
with raise the devil (with sth)
with raise the dickens (with so/sth)
with rank so with so
with rank with so/sth
with rap with sth
with rate so/sth with so/sth else
with rate with so
with ravished with delight
with reach an accord (with so)
with reach an agreement (with so)
with reach an understanding with so
with reach base (with so/sth)
with reason with so
with receive so with open arms
with reckon with so/sth
with reconcile sth with sth
with reek with sth
with refresh so with sth
with refresh sth with sth
with regale so with sth
with regard so/sth with sth
with register sth with so/sth
with register with so
with reinforce so/sth with sth
with remain in touch (with so/sth)
with reminisce with so
with remonstrate (with so) (about so/sth)
with repay so with sth
with replenish sth with sth
with reproach so with sth
with resonate with so
with resound with sth
with rest with so/sth
with return with sth
with reunite so/sth with so/sth
with reverberate with sth
with reward so with sth
with rhyme sth with sth
with rhyme with sth
with rich with sth
with riddle so/sth with sth
with ride with so
with ring with sth
with rinse so’s mouth out (with soap)
with rinse sth down (with sth)
with rinse sth with sth
with road to hell is paved with good intentions
with roll with the punches
with room with so
with round sth off (with sth)
with rub elbows (with so)
with rub shoulders with so
with rub so/sth with sth
with rule with a velvet glove
with rule with an iron fist
with run around like a chicken with its head cut off
with run around with so
with run away with so
with run away with sth
with run off (with so)
with run over so/sth
with run over with sth
with run so through (with sth)
with run with so/sth
with run with sth
with run with the hare and hunt with the hounds
with saddle so with so/sth
with saddled with so/sth
with salt sth with sth
with salute so with sth
with satiate so or an animal with sth
with satisfy so or an animal with sth
with satiate so/sth with sth
with scarcely exchange more than some number of words with so
with score so or a group
with scrape by (with sth)
with scream with sth
with screw around with so/sth
with scuffle with so/sth
with seal sth (up) (with sth)
with sealed with a kiss
with seam sth with sth
with search sth with a fine-tooth comb
with season sth with sth
with see eye to eye (about so/sth) (with so)
with see with the naked eye
with seeeth with so/sth
with seetheth with sth
with seize so/sth with sth
with seized with sth
with send so away with sth
with serve so with sth
with serve with so
with set sth up (with so)
with settle a score with so
with settle the score (with so)
with settle up with so
with sever ties with so
with shake up (with so)
with shake sth with sth
with shake hands (with so)
with short with so
with shot through with sth
with shower so/sth with sth
with side with so
with sign on (with so/sth) (as sth)
with sign so up (with so/sth)
with sign up (up) with so/sth
with sing along (with so/sth)
with sit right with so
with sit up with so
with sit well with so
with sit with so
with skip off (with sth)
with skip out with sth
with skirmish with so/sth
with sleep around (with so)
with sleep over (with so) (some place)
with sleep with so
with smear so/sth with sth
with smite so with sth
with smoother so/sth with sth
with snow so/sth under with sth
with snuggle down (with so)
with snuggle down (with sth)
with soak so/sth with sth
with so will be with you in a minute.
with spar with so
with sparkle with sth
with sputter sth with sth
with speak with a forked tongue
with speak with so (about so/sth)
with splash so/sth with sth
with split one’s sides (with laughter)
with split so/sth with so/sth
with split up (with so)
with sport with sth
with spray so/sth with sth
with spread sth with sth
with sprinkle so/sth with sth
with squabble with so
with squabble with sth
with square accounts (with so)
with square sth with sth
with square up with so
with square with so/sth
with square with sth
with square with sth
with squeal with sth
with squirm with sth
with start with sth
with start (off) with a bang
with start (off) with a clean slate
with start (off) with so/sth
with start out with so/sth
with start out (over) with a clean slate
with start sth up with sth
with start up with so/sth
with start up with so/sth
with stay in touch (with so/sth)
with stay with so/sth
with step off (to the side) with so
with stick so with so/sth
with stick with so/sth
with stick with it
with stick with so/sth
with sting so with sth
with stink with sth
with stinking with sth
with stock sth (up) with sth
with stock up (with sth)
with stop sth up (with sth)
with strew sth with sth
with stricken with sth
with strike a chord (with so)
with strike home with so/sth
with strike so/sth with sth
with string along (with so)
with struggle along (with so/that)
with struggle on with
with struggle with so for
with struggle with so/that
with stuck with so/that
with stuff so/that with
with stuff so’s head with
with suffuse sth with sth
with supply so/that with
with surprise so with
with surround so/that with so/that
with swamp so/that with
with swap so/that with so
with swap with so
with swarm with so/that
with swathe so/that with
with swell with sth
with swim with sth
with swimming with so/that
with swing with so/that
with switch (around) (with so/that)
with sympathize with so (about so/that)
with synchronize sth with sth else
with taint sth with
with take a hard line (with so)
with take issue with so
with take issue with sth
with take it with
with take liberties with so/that
with take pains with so/that
with take so/that with one
with take sth home (with oneself)
with take sth up (with so)
with take sth with a pinch of salt
with take sth with one
with take sth with sth
with take the bitter with the sweet.
with Take the rough with the smooth.
with take turns with so
with take turns (with sth)
with take up with so
with taken with so/that
with talk (or talk) (with so)
with talk so (about so/that)
with talk with sth
with tally with sth
with tamper with so/that
with tangle with so/that (over so/that)
with tap sth with
with tarred with the same brush
with tease sth with sth
with tax so/that with sth
with team up (with so)
with teem with so/that
with tell so what to do with sth
with temper sth with sth
with tempt so with sth
with That’s (fine with me.
with threaten so with so/that
with thrill so with sth
with through with so/that
with throw in with so
with throw the baby out with the bath (water)
with top sth off (with sth)
with top sth with sth
with touch base with (so)
with touch so/that with sth
with toy with so
with toy with sth
with trade insults (with so)
with trade sth with so
with trouble sth with so
with trouble with sth
with travel with so
with travel with sth
with treat sth (for so) (with sth)
with tremble with sth
with trifle with so/that
with trim sth with sth
with up to here (with sth)
with up with so
with use sth with sth
with vaccinate so or an animal with sth
with vary with sth
with verify sth with so
with vest so with sth
with vie (with so) (for so/that)
with visit with so
with vote with one’s feet
with walk away with so or an animal
with walk away with sth
with walk off with sth
with walk out with so
with walk with so
with walk with sth
with wall-to-wall (with) sth
with waltz off (with sth)
with war with so
with wash sth down (with sth)
with wash sth with so/that
with weight so/that down (with sth)
with welcome so with open arms
with welcome so with sth
with well up with sth
with welsh on sth (with so)
with What’s new with you?
with What we matter (with you)?
with What’s so/that?
with what with sth
with wind up with so/that
with wipe so/that (off) (with sth)
with wipe the floor up with so
with a heavy heart
with With a vengeance
with With a view to doing sth
with with a will
with advance notice
with with all one’s heart (and soul)
with with all the fixing(‘s)
with with all the trimmings
with with an eye to doing sth
with with bated breath
with with bells on (one’s) toes
with with both hands tied behind one’s back
with with child
with with each passing day
with with ease
with with every (other) breath
with with everything (on it)
with with fits and starts
with with flying colors
with (with) hat in hand
with with impunity
with with it
with with my blessing
with with no strings attached
with with one hand tied behind one’s back
with with one’s eyes (wide) open
with with one’s tail between one’s legs
with With or without?
with With pleasure.
with with reference to so/that
with with regard to so/that
with with relish
with with respect to so/that
with with so/that for some time
with with so/that to spare
with with the best will in the world
with with the naked eye
with With whom do you wish to speak?
with With you in a minute.
with word with so (about so)
with work sth out (with so)
with work with so/that
with work wonders (with so/that)
with wouldn’t touch so/that with a ten-foot pole
with wrangle (with so) (about so/that)
with wrangle (with so) (over so/that)
with wrap so/that (up) (with sth)
with wrapped up (with so/that)
with wreak havoc (with sth)
with wreath with so/that
with wrangle with sth
with write sth with
with You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.
with (You) can’t take it with you.
with You could have knocked me over with a feather.
with You’ll never get away with it.
with You’re secret is safe with me.
withdraw withdraw from sth
withdraw withdraw into oneself
withdraw withdraw into sth
withdraw withdraw so from sth
withdraw withdraw sth from so/that
withdraw withdraw sth into sth
wither wither away
wither wither on the vine
wither wither up
wither withhold sth from so or an animal
wither within act within one’s rights
wither within apply within
wither within bring so/that within range (of so/that)
wither within bring sth within a range
wither within come within a hair (‘s) breadth
wither within come within an inch of sth
wither within come within an inch of doing sth
wither within come within an inch of so/that
wither within come within earshot (of sth)
wither within come within range
wither within come within sth
wither within confine so or an animal within sth
wither within encompass so/that (with) in sth
wither within encompass so/that (with) in sth
wither within encompass sth
wither within encompass sth
wither within encompass sth
wither within encompass sth
without You cannot make bricks
without straw.

witness on the (witness) stand
witness witness for so/so
witness witness to so
wives old wives' tale
wobble wobble about
woe tale of woe
woe Woe is me!
wolf buy so's wolf ticket
wolf cry wolf
wolf cut one's wolf loose
wolf growing youth has a wolf in his belly.
wolf keep the wolf from the door
wolf The wolf is at the door.
wolf throw so to the wolves
Wolf When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of the window.

wolf wolf in sheep's clothing
wolf wolf so down
woman God's gift (to women)
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.
woman make an honest woman of so
woman Men make houses, women make homes.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman God's gift (to women)
woman woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman woman of ill repute
woman woman to woman
woman Hell hath no fury like a woman
woman's work is never done.
woman wom
word

word

word

word

word

word

word

word

word

word

word

word

word

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work

work
worth of a thing is what it will
tongue its weight in gold
worth of a thing is what it will
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worth
worlth
That's what she wrote.

wrote

Wrong number

Wrong side of the tracks

Wrote That's all she wrote.

Write That's what she wrote.

Write about so/th

Write against so/th

Write away

Write back to so

Write down to so

Write for so

Write in (to so) (for so)

Write of so/th

Write so/th about so/th

Write so/th off

Write so/th up

Write so/th against so/th

Write so/th back to so

Write so/th down

Write so/th in

Write so/th into so/th

Write so/th off

Write so/th out

Write so/th to so

Write so/th to so

Write so/th up

Write to so

Write (up) on so/th

Write's block

Write written in stone

Wrote the book on so/th

Writhe the write in so/th

Writhe write under so/th

Writhe write with so/th

Written It's written all over one's face.

Written not worth the paper it's written on

Written written in stone

Wrong back the wrong horse

Wrong bark up the wrong tree

Wrong born on the wrong side of the blanket

Wrong dead wrong

Wrong dial the wrong number

Wrong fall into the wrong hands

Wrong get it wrong

Wrong get so (all) wrong

Wrong get up on the wrong side of bed

Wrong go wrong

Wrong If anything can go wrong, it will.

Wrong in the wrong

Wrong off on the wrong foot

Wrong on so/th wrong side

Wrong on the wrong side of so

Wrong on the wrong track

Wrong rub so/th fur the wrong way

Wrong start off on the wrong foot

Wrong step off on the wrong foot

Wrong take so/th wrong

Wrong take so/th the wrong way

Wrong Two wrongs do not make a right.

Wrong What's wrong?

Wrong wrong number

Wrong wrong side of the tracks

Wrote That's all she wrote.

Wrote That's what she wrote.

Wrote the book on so/th

Wrotth wax wrotth

Wrought wrought up

X Generation X

X X marks the spot.

X X so/th out

X X'd out

Ya See ya.

Ya See ya, bye-bye.

Yack yack one's head off

Yack yack sh up

Yammer yammer (away) about so/th

Yank yank at so/th

Yank yank on so/th

Yank yank so/th around

Yank yank so/th

Yank yank so/th's chain

Yank yank so/th off

Yank yank sh up

Yap yap about so/th

Yap yap at so

Yard all wool and a yard wide

Yard Give so/th inch and he'll take a yard.

Yard meaner than a junkyard dog (with fourteen sucking pups)

Yard whole nine yards

Yarn spin a yarn

Ye Abandon hope, all ye who enter here.

Ye Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.

Ye Judge not, lest ye be judged.

Ye Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Ye Oh, ye of little faith.

Ye Seek and ye shall find.

Ye Ye gods (and little fishes)!

Yeah Oh, yeah?

Year advanced in years

Year all year round

Year along in years

Year by the year

Year Christmas comes but once a year.

Year first hundred years are the hardest

Year for (some) years running

Year frighten so/th out of a year's growth

Year get on (in years)

Year (I'll) see you next year.

Year in an age of years

Year Keep a thing seven years and you'll (always) find a use for it.

Year Never in a thousand years!

Year Not in a thousand years!

Year of mature years

Year on in years

Year one's sunset years

Year put (some) years on so/th

Year ring in the new year

Year seven-year itch

Year take years off (of) so/th

Year twilight years

Year up in years

Year well up in years

Year year after year

Year year in, year out

Year years running

Year years for so/th

Yell yell at so/th

Yell yell bloody murder

Yell yell one's guts out

Yell yell one's head off

Yell yell out

Yell yell sh at so/th

Yell yell sh out (at so/th)

Yellow have a yellow belly

Yellow have a yellow streak down one's back

Yellow yellow streak (down so/th's back)

Yen yen for so/th

Yes Yes indeed (y do)!

Yes Yes sire(s, Bob)!

Yesterday I need it yesterday.

Yesterday need sh yesterday

Yesterday not born yesterday

Yesterday Yesterday wouldn't be too soon.

Yet mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small.

Yet will be the death of so/th (yet)

Yet You ain't seen nothing yet!

Yield *right-of-way

Yield yield so/th (over) (to so/th)

Yield yield so/th up (to so)

Yield yield sh to so

Yield yield to

Yoke yoke around so/th's neck

Yoke yoke people or things together

Yokel local yokel

Yon either, thither, and yon

Yon thither and yon

You After you.

You All right for you!

You Am I glad to see you!

You and what have you

You And you?

You Anything you say.

You Anytime you are ready.

You (Are) things getting you down?

You (Are you) doing okay?

You (Are you) feeling okay?

You (Are you) going my way?

You (Are you) leaving so soon?

You (Are you) ready for this?

You (Are you) sorry you asked?

You (Are you) sorry you asked?

You As you make your bed, so you must lie (up)on it.

You As you sowl, you shall reap.

You Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.

You Be just before you're generous.

You before you can say Jack Robinson

You before you know it

You Behind you!

You Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see.

You Believe you me!

You Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know.

You between you (and) me and the bedpost

You between you and me and these four walls

You Bully for you!

You Can I help you?

You Can I see you again?

You Can I see you in my office?

You Can you excuse us, please?

You Can you hold?

You Can you imagine?

You Can you keep a secret?

You Come back when you can stay longer.

You (Could I) buy you a drink?

You Could I call you?
you (Could I) get you something (to drink)?
you (Could I) give you a lift?
you Could I have a word with you?
you Could I have so call you?
you Could I help you?
you Could I join you?
you Could I see you again?
you Could I see you in my office?
you Could you excuse us, please?
you Could you hold?
you Could you keep a secret?
you Damned if you do, damned if you don’t.
you Did you hear?
you Do as you would be done by.
you Do I have to paint (you) a picture?
you Do I have to spell it out (for you)?
you Do I need to paint you a picture?
you Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
you (Do you) care if I join you?
you (Do you) eat with that mouth?
you Do you expect me to believe that?
you Do you follow?
you (Do you) get my drift?
you (Do you) get the picture?
you (Do you) hear?
you (Do you) kiss your mamma with that mouth?
you (Do you) know what?
you (Do you) know what I mean?
you (Do you) know what I’m saying?
you (Do you) mean to say shit?
you (Do you) mean to tell me shit?
you Do your mind?
you (Do you) mind if...?
you (Do you) mind if I join you?
you (Do you) read me?
you (Do you) want to know something?
you (Do you) want to make something of it?
you (Do you) want to step outside?
you Does it work for you?
you done told you
you Don’t bite off more than you can chew.
you Don’t call us, we’ll call you.
you Don’t cry before you are hurt.
you Don’t I know you from somewhere?
you Don’t let so/shit get you down.
you Don’t let the bastards wear you down.
you Don’t make me tell you again!
you Don’t put off for tomorrow what you can do today.
you Don’t you know it?
you Don’t you wish!
you Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage.
you Dream of a funeral and you hear of a wedding.
you Fancy meeting you here!
you fine how do you do
you Flattery will get you nowhere.
you Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.
you Forget you!
you Fuck you!
you Get along with you!
you Give it all you’ve got!
you Go on (with you)!
you good for what ails you
you Good for you!
you Have I got something for you!
you (Have you) been keeping busy?
you (Have you) been keeping cool?
you (Have you) been keeping out of trouble?
you (Have you) been okay?
you (Have you) changed your mind?
you Have you heard?
you Have you met so?
you Haven’t I seen you somewhere before?
you Here’s looking at you.
you Here’s to you.
you Here you go.
you How about you?
you How (are) you doing?
you How (are) you feeling?
you How are you getting on?
you How can I serve you?
you How could you (do shit)?
you How do you do?
you How do you know?
you How do you like school?
you How do you like that?
you How do you like them apples?
you How do you like this weather?
you How does that grab you?
you How dumb do you think I am?
you How goes it (with you)?
you How (have) you been?
you How many times do I have to tell you?
you How may I help you?
you How’s by you?
you How’s (it) with you?
you How’s the world (been) treating you?
you How will I know you?
you How will I recognize you?
you How’re things (with you)?
you (I) can’t thank you enough.
you I couldn’t ask you to do that.
you I didn’t hear you.
you I don’t mind telling you (shh).
you I don’t want to alarm you, but
you I don’t want to upset you, but
you (I) haven’t seen you in a long time.
you (I) haven’t seen you in a month of Sundays.
you I hear what you’re saying.
you I hear you.
you (I) hope to see you again (sometime).
you I kid you not.
you I know (just) what you mean.
you (I) never thought I’d see you here!
you I owe you one.
you I promise you!
you (I) read you loud and clear.
you I would like you to meet so.
you (I) wouldn’t if I were you.
you you’d like (for) you to meet so.
you I’d like (to have) a word with you.
you If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.
you if I were you
you if it was a snake it woulda bit you.
you if I’ve told you once, I’ve told you a thousand times
you if there’s anything you need, don’t hesitate to ask.
you if you can’t be good, be careful.
you if you can’t beat them, join them.
you if you can’t lick ‘em, join ‘em.
you if you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.
you if you don’t like it, (you can) lump it.
you if you don’t make mistakes, you don’t make anything.
you if you don’t mind!
you if you don’t see what you want, please ask (for it).
you if you get my drift
you if you know what’s good for you
you if you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.
you if you must
you if you play with fire, you get burned.
you if you please
you if you run after two hares, you will catch neither.
you if you want a thing done well, do it yourself.
you if you want peace, (you must) prepare for war.
you if you would be well served, serve yourself.
you if you would(, please)
you if you’ll pardon the expression
you if you’re born to be hanged, then you’ll never be drowned.
you if you’ve a mind to do shit
you (I’ll) be right with you.
you (I’ll) be seeing you.
you (I’ll) catch you later.
you (I’ll) get back to you (on that).
you (I’ll) have to) let you go.
you (I’ll) look you up when I’m in town.
you (I’ll) see you in a little while.
you (I’ll) see you later.
you (I’ll) see you next year.
you (I’ll) see you (real) soon.
you (I’ll) see you then.
you (I’ll) see you tomorrow.
you (I’ll) talk to you soon.
you (I’ll) thank you to keep your opinions to yourself.
you (I’ll) thank you to mind your own business.
you (I’ll) try to catch you later.
you (I’ll) try to catch you some other time.
you (I’m) delighted to have you (here).
you (I’m) glad you could come.
you (I’m) glad you could drop by.
you (I’m) having a wonderful time; wish you were here.
you I’m like you
you I’m not finished with you.
you (I’m) pleased to meet you.
you (I’m) sorry you asked (that).
you (I’m) (very) glad to meet you.
you I’m with you.
you (Is it) cold enough for you?
you (Is it) hot enough for you?
you (It) just goes to show (you) (shh).
you (It’s been) good talking to you.
you It’s for you.
you (It’s) good to have you here.
you (It’s) good to see you (again).
Thank you for a lovely evening.
Thank you for calling.
Thank you for having me.
Thank you for inviting me.
Thank you for sharing.
Thank you kindly.
Thank you so much.
Thank you very much.
That’s a fine how-do-you-do.
That’s easy for you to say.
That’s just what you need.
That’s show business (for you).
The hell you say!
There you are.
There you go.
They must have seen you coming.
thing you don’t want is dear at any price.
Three strikes and you are out.
time flies (when you’re having fun).
(We) don’t see you much around here anymore.
We were just talking about you.
(Well,) what do you know!
(We’re) delighted to have you (here).
(We’re) glad you could come.
Were you born in a barn?
(We’re) delighted to have you.
(We) don’t see you much around.
We were just talking about you.
(We) don’t see you much around.
We were just talking about you.
You and who else?
You and what army?
You and who else?
You are more than welcome.
You are never too old to learn.
You are something else (again)!
You are welcome.
You asked for it!
You been keeping busy?
You been keeping cool?
You been keeping out of trouble?
You been okay?
You bet!
You bet your boots!
You been okay?
You been keeping cool?
You been keeping out of trouble?
You been okay?
You bet!
You bet your (sweet) life!
You betcha!
You called?
You can bet the farm (on so/so).
You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.
You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.
You can say that again!
You cannot get a quart into a pint pot.
You cannot get blood from a stone.
You cannot have your cake and eat it (too).
You cannot lose what you never had.
You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear.
You cannot make an omelet without breaking eggs.
You cannot make bricks without straw.
You cannot please everyone.
You cannot put new wine in old bottles.
You cannot serve God and mammon.
You cannot teach an old dog new tricks.
(additional phrases removed for brevity)
you (You) can't get there from here.
you You can't mean that!
you (You) can't take it with you.
you You can't tell a book by its cover.
you (You) can't top that.
you (You) can't win them all.
you You changed your mind?
you (You) could have fooled me.
you You could have knocked me over with a feather.
you You couldn't (do that)!
you You doing okay?
you You don't expect me to believe that.
you You don't get something for nothing.
you You don't know the half of it.
you You don't know where it's been.
you You don't say.
you You first.
you You get what you pay for.
you You got it?
you You got me beat.
you You got me there.
you You got to do what you got to do.
you You have to eat a peck of dirt before you die.
you You hear? 
you You heard so.
you You just don't get it?
you You (just) wait (and see)!
you (You) (just) watch!
you you know
you You leaving so soon?
you You make a better door than you do a window.
you You make me laugh!
you You mean to tell me shit?
you You must lose a fly to catch a trout.
you You never know (what you can do) till you try.
you You never miss the water till the well runs dry.
you You pays your money and you takes your chance(s).
you You (really) said a mouthful.
you You said it!
you You scared the crap out of me.
you You scared the devil out of me.
you You scared the hell out of me.
you You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
you You think you're so smart!
you (You) took the words right out of my mouth.
you You (You) want a piece of me?
you (You want to) know something?
you You want to make something of it?
you You win some, you lose some.
you You wouldn't dare (to do shit)!
you You wouldn't (do that)!
you You("d) better believe it! 
you (You"d) better get moving.
you You'll be sorry you asked.
you You'll get onto it.
you You'll get the hang of it.
you You'll never get away with it.
you You're dern tootin'!
you You're excused.
you You're (just) wasting my time.
you You're out of your mind!
you You're telling me!
you You're the doctor.
you You're too much!
you You're welcome.
you You've got another think coming.
you (You've) got me stumped.
you You've got to be kidding!
you You've got to be out of your mind!
you You act young at heart
young Be an old man's darling than a young man's slave.
you You good die young.
you keep so young at heart
you not as young as one used to be
you stay young at heart
you Whom the gods love die young.
you young Young men may die, but old men must die.
you Act your age!
you Anything new down your way?
you As you make your bed, so you must lie (up)on it.
you Bag your face!
you Bite your tongue!
you Blow it out your ear!
you Burn not your house to fright the mouse away.
you Can I take your order (now)?:
you Can I use your powder room?
you Could I take your order (now)?
you Could I use your powder room?
you cut your peaches
you Do not let the sun go down on your anger.
you Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.
you Do not wash your dirty linen in public.
you (Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth?
you Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.
you Don't get your bowels in an uproar!
you Don't give me any of your lip!
you Don't get your bowels in an
you Don't hold your breath.
you Don't hold your breath.
you Don't quit your day job.
you Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
you Don't scratch your ear with
you Don't spend your time.
you Don't waste your breath.
you Don't waste your time.
you Don't worry your (pretty little) head about it.
you Enjoy your meal.
you First catch your hare.
you for your information
you Get your ass over here!
you Get your nose out of my business.
you Go to your room!
you Hang on to your hat!
you (Has the) cat got your tongue?
you Have it your way.
you (Have you) changed your mind?
you Here's mud in your eye.
you Here's your hat, what's your hurry?
you Hitch your wagon to a star.
you Hoist your sail when the wind is fair.
you Hold on to your hat!
you Hold your horses!
you Hold your tater!
you Hold your tongue!
you How's your family?
you Hurry your mouth!
you (I) beg your pardon, but...
you I'll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself.
you I'll thank you to mind your own business.
you (I'm) delighted to make your acquaintance.
you (It's) good to hear your voice.
you (It's) none of your business!
you It's your funeral.
you It's your move.
you It's your turn.
you It will be your ass!
you Keep your chin up.
you Keep your head down.
you Keep your mouth shut (about so/sth).
you Keep your nose out of my business.
you Keep your opinions to yourself!
you Keep your pants on!
you Keep your powder dry.
you Keep your shirt on!
you Keep your shop and your shop will keep you.
you lend your ear to so/sth
you Lend your money and lose your friend.
you Like tryin' to scratch your ear with your elbow
you Make your mind up.
you May I take your order (now)?
you May I use your powder room?
you Mind your own beeswax.
you Mind your own business.
you My house is your house.
you Name your poison.
you None of your lip!
you On your bike!
you On your mark, get set, go
you Our house is your house.
you Mind your own beeswax.
you Our house is your house.
you Penny for your thoughts!
you pick on somebody your own size
you pick on someone your own size
you Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
you Put your money where your mouth is!
you Put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.
you Shut your cake hole!
you So's your old man!
you Stretch your arm no further than your sleeve will reach.
you Take your seat.
you use your head for more than a hatrack
you use your head for more than something to keep your ears apart
you Watch your mouth!
you What's your age?
you What's yours?
you What's yours is mine, and what's mine is mine.
you Who's your friend?
your without (so much as) a (for or) by your leave
your You bet your boots!
your You bet your (sweet) life!
your You cannot have your cake and eat it (too).
your You changed your mind?
your You pays your money and you takes your chance(s).
your You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
your Your guess is as good as mine.
your Your place or mine?
your Your secret is safe with me.
your You're out of your mind!
your yours truly
your You've got to be out of your mind!
your Zip (up) your lip!
yourself by yourselves
yourself Come in and make yourself at home.
yourself Go chase yourself!
yourself Help yourself.
yourself If you want a thing done well, do it yourself.
yourself If you would be well served, serve yourself.
yourself I'll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself.
yourself Keep this to yourself.
yourself Keep your opinions to yourself!
yourself Make yourself at home.
yourself Suit yourself.
yourself Take care (of yourself).
yourself Where (have) you been hiding (yourself)?
yourself Where (have) you been keeping yourself?
yourself Why keep a dog and bark yourself?
yourself Yourself?
yourself yourselves by yourselves
youth growing youth has a wolf in his belly.
youth Youth must be served.
Z catch some Zs
Z cop some Zs
Z cut some Zs
Z everything from A to Z
Z from A to Z
zagged zigged when one should've zagged
zeek zeek out
zenith at the zenith of sth
zerked zerked (out)
zero zero in (on so/sth)
zero zero tolerance
zigged zigged when one should've zagged
ziggety Hot ziggety!
zip zip along
zip Zip it up!
zip zip past so/sth
zip zip sth on
zip Zip sth up
zip Zip (up) your lip!
zone zone sth as sth
zone zone sth for sth
zone zone sth off
zonk zonk out
zonk zonk so out
zonk zonked (out)
zoom zoom across (sth)
zoom zoom along
zoom zoom in (on so/sth)
zoom zoom off
zoom zoom out
zoom zoom over so/sth
zoom zoom past so/sth
zoom zoom so/sth (over) to so
zoom zoom through (sth)
zoom zoom up
zonk zonked (out)