At arm's length :: To keep a distance or avoid becoming too involved

She kept her colleagues at arm's length to maintain professionalism.

With open arms :: With warmth, enthusiasm, and acceptance

When he returned home after a long absence, his family welcomed him with open arms.

Call a spade a spade :: To speak plainly and directly, even if it's uncomfortable or unpleasant

She has no problem calling a spade a spade, which is why people appreciate her honesty.

Call names :: To insult or verbally abuse someone by using derogatory language

The kids on the playground called names and made fun of the new student.

Call it a day :: To decide to stop working or doing something for the rest of the day

We've been working for hours; let's call it a day and continue tomorrow.

Call to account :: To demand an explanation or hold someone responsible for their actions

The manager called the employee to account for the mistakes in the report.

Call to mind :: To remember or recall something

Seeing the old photograph called to mind memories of her childhood.

Call up :: To make a telephone call to someone

He decided to call up his friend to invite him to the party.

Eat crow :: To admit that one was wrong or accept humiliation

After boasting about his skills, he had to eat crow when he failed the test.

Eat dirt :: To suffer humiliation or defeat

He thought he could beat the champion, but in the end, he had to eat dirt.

Eat humble pie :: To apologize or admit one's faults or mistakes

After his rude behavior, he had to eat humble pie and apologize to his colleagues.

Eat one's head off :: To scold or criticize someone severely

She'll eat your head off if you're late again.

Eat one's words :: To take back what one has said or admit that one was wrong

He said she would never succeed, but now he has to eat his words.

An eye for an eye :: Retaliate or revenge, where punishment equals the harm done

The old law of "an eye for an eye" is no longer considered just.

Eye to the main chance :: Being focused on one's own advantage or opportunity

He always had an eye to the main chance, looking for ways to benefit himself.

Have one's eye on :: To be interested in or considering something

She has her eye on that promotion; she's been working hard for it.

To keep one's eyes open :: To remain alert or vigilant;

While traveling, it's important to keep your eyes open for any signs of danger.

One foot in the grave :: To be near death or very old

At ninety years old, he felt like he had one foot in the grave.

Best foot foremost :: To present oneself in the best possible way; to make a good impression

When meeting the new clients, he put his best foot foremost to win their trust.

Put his foot down :: To assert oneself firmly; to make a decision and stick to it

After much debate, he finally put his foot down and refused to compromise.

Give and take :: Compromise; both sides agree to some demands and make concessions

A successful relationship requires give and take from both partners.

Give away :: To reveal or disclose something that was intended to be kept secret

She accidentally gave away the surprise party when she mentioned it to her sister.

Give it a wide berth :: To avoid someone or something; to keep a safe distance

He decided to give the dangerous dog a wide berth and walked on the other side of the street.

Give ground :: To yield or retreat; to concede a point in an argument or conflict

After much negotiation, they finally gave ground on the issue of funding.

Give in :: To surrender or yield; to stop resisting or opposing something

Despite his initial resistance, he eventually gave in to their demands.

Give him enough rope :: To allow freedom to act as they wish, often to their own detriment.

They gave him enough rope, and he eventually got himself into trouble.

Give over :: To stop doing something; to cease or desist

Give over complaining and start finding solutions to the problem.

Give free rein to :: To allow someone complete freedom or control to do something

She gave free rein to her imagination when writing her novel.

Give the horse his head :: To allow someone complete freedom over their own actions

She gave the interns the horse's head and allowed them to develop their own project.

Give him the sack :: To dismiss or fire someone from their job

After his repeated mistakes, they had no choice but to give him the sack.

Give him the slip :: To escape, especially in a clever or cunning way

She gave him the slip by ducking into a side alley.

From hand to mouth :: Living in poverty or with barely enough money to survive

After losing his job, he was living from hand to mouth, struggling to pay bills.

Off one's hands :: No longer one's responsibility or concern

Now that the project is completed, it's off our hands.

On one's hands :: Under one's care, responsibility, or control

She has three children on her hands, so she's always busy.

Out of the hand :: Beyond control or management

The situation quickly spiraled out of hand, leading to chaos.

To keep one's hand in :: To maintain or practice a skill or activity to prevent loss of proficiency

Even after retirement, he kept his hand in by volunteering at the local charity.

To have a hand in :: To be involved in or responsible for something

He had a hand in planning the surprise party for his friend.

To put one's hands on :: To find or obtain something

I can't put my hands on the car keys; have you seen them?

Upper hand :: Superior position or advantage in a situation

After winning the first two rounds, she had the upper hand in the competition.

With heavy hand :: With severity or oppressiveness

The new government ruled with a heavy hand, imposing strict regulations.

Have to do with :: To be related to or connected with something

His sudden departure had nothing to do with the argument we had yesterday.

Hold a candle to :: To be as good as; to compare favorably with

No other singer can hold a candle to her; she's truly unique.

Hold his own :: To defend oneself or perform competently against others

Despite his smaller size, he held his own in the wrestling match.

Hold good :: To remain valid or applicable

The contract we signed last year still holds good.

Hold on :: To wait or pause; to keep a grip or grasp on something

Hold on tight; we're about to take off.

Hold his peace :: To refrain from speaking or expressing one's opinion

He decided to hold his peace rather than argue with his boss.

Hold his tongue :: To refrain from speaking, especially when one wants to criticize or argue

Despite wanting to defend himself, he held his tongue and listened to the accusations.

Hold the stage :: To captivate an audience's attention, during a performance or speech

The talented actor held the stage with his powerful performance.

Look after :: To take care of or watch over someone or something

She promised to look after her neighbor's cat while they were away.

Look down on :: To regard with contempt or disdain; to consider inferior

She always looked down on people who didn't share her views.

Look up to :: To admire or respect someone; to regard someone as a role model

He has always looked up to his older brother.

Make a clean breast of :: To confess or reveal something openly and honestly

He decided to make a clean breast of his past mistakes and seek forgiveness.

Make amends :: To do something to compensate for a wrongdoing or mistake

He apologized and tried to make amends for his rude behavior.

Make a mountain of a mole-hill :: To exaggerate or make something seem much more important or serious than it really is

She always makes a mountain of a mole-hill whenever something goes wrong.

Make believe :: To pretend or imagine that something is true

The children love to make believe they're pirates on a treasure hunt.

Make both ends meet :: To manage one's finances in a way that income equals expenses

Despite the low salary, he manages to make both ends meet by budgeting carefully.

Make bricks without straw :: To attempt something without the necessary resources

Trying to finish the project without enough staff is like trying to make bricks without straw.

Make good :: To succeed; to fulfill a promise or obligation

He promised to repay the loan, and he made good on his word.

Make haste :: To hurry; to move quickly

We need to make haste if we want to catch the train.

Make hay while the sun shines :: To take advantage of an opportunity while it lasts

The weather's perfect for gardening, so let's make hay while the sun shines.

Make head or tail of :: To understand or make sense of something

I can't make head or tail of this instruction manual; it's so confusing.

Make it tough for :: To create difficulties or obstacles for someone

The new regulations make it tough for small businesses to survive.

Make love to :: To flirt with or romantically pursue someone

He spent the evening making love to her with his charming words.

Make much of :: To treat with great importance or attention

She made much of his achievements, praising him in front of everyone.

Make no bones about :: To state something clearly and directly, without hesitation

She made no bones about her dislike for the new policy.

Make it my business :: To become involved or concerned about something

If you're having trouble, don't hesitate to tell me; it's my business to help.

Make one's mouth water :: To cause one to feel strong desire or anticipation,(about food)

The aroma of freshly baked bread made her mouth water.

Make a practice of :: To regularly do something; to make a habit of

He makes a practice of going for a jog every morning.

Make short work of :: To quickly and efficiently complete a task

With his efficiency, he made short work of the paperwork.

Make the best of :: To try to improve a difficult or unpleasant situation

Despite the rainy weather, they made the best of their vacation by exploring indoor activities.

Make my blood boil :: To make someone very angry or infuriated

His disrespectful comments made my blood boil.

Make to order :: To produce or create something exactly as requested

The tailor made the suit to order, ensuring it fit perfectly.

Make tracks :: To leave or depart, especially quickly

It's getting late; we should make tracks if we want to catch the last train.

Pull oneself together :: To regain composure or control of one's emotions

After receiving bad news, she took a moment to pull herself together before facing her family.

Pull one's leg :: To tease or joke with someone in a playful manner

He said he won the lottery; he was just pulling your leg.

Pull one's weight :: To contribute one's fair share of effort or work

Everyone needs to pull their weight if we want to finish the project on time.

Pull the wool over one’s eyes :: To deceive or trick someone

He tried to pull the wool over her eyes, but she saw through his lies.

Pull through :: To survive or recover from a difficult situation, especially an illness or crisis

With proper treatment, she's expected to pull through.

Pull together :: To work cooperatively as a team

We need to pull together if we want to win this competition.

Put across :: To communicate or explain something effectively

He struggled to put his ideas across in the presentation.

Put a good face on :: To try to appear cheerful or optimistic despite difficulties

Despite the setback, she tried to put a good face on and continue with the project.

Put down :: To criticize or belittle someone

She always puts him down in front of others, making him feel small.

Put forward :: To suggest or propose an idea or plan

He put forward a compelling argument in favor of the new policy.

Put in an appearance :: To attend an event or gathering, usually briefly

He put in an appearance at the party but left early.

Put off :: To postpone or delay something

They decided to put off the meeting until next week.

Put on airs :: To behave in a pretentious or snobbish manner

She puts on airs whenever she's around wealthy people.

Put me in a hole :: To put someone in a difficult or embarrassing situation

His reckless behavior really put me in a hole with our boss.

Put my cards on the table :: To be honest and open about one's intentions or feelings

Let me put my cards on the table—I think we need to reevaluate our strategy.

Put his hand to the plow :: To start working hard or diligently

After his vacation, he put his hand to the plow and tackled his workload.

Put his shoulder to the wheel :: To work hard and diligently

He put his shoulder to the wheel and completed the project ahead of schedule.

Put him through his aces :: To test someone's abilities or skills

The manager put him through his aces to see if he was up to the task.

Put one's thinking cap on :: To concentrate and think deeply about something

I need to put my thinking cap on to come up with a solution to this problem.

Put out :: To extinguish or suppress a fire

They quickly put out the fire before it spread to the neighboring buildings.

Put the cart before the horse :: To do things in the wrong order; to prioritize incorrectly

You're putting the cart before the horse by planning the reception before the wedding.

Put a finishing touch on :: To add the final detail or element to complete something

She put a finishing touch on the painting by adding a signature.

Put two and two together :: To understand something by combining available information

After hearing the gossip, I put two and two together and realized what was going on.

Put to death :: To execute or kill someone as a punishment

The criminal was put to death for his heinous crimes.

Put to shame :: To embarrass or outdo someone by superior performance

Her kindness and generosity put us all to shame.

Put words in his mouth :: To falsely attribute words or opinions to someone

Don't put words in his mouth; let him speak for himself.

Run across :: To encounter or meet unexpectedly

I ran across an old friend at the grocery store yesterday.

Run after :: To pursue or chase someone or something

The dog ran after the squirrel, barking loudly.

Run in the family :: To be characteristic or inherited by members of a family

Her musical talent runs in the family; both her parents are accomplished musicians.

Run out of :: To exhaust the supply of something; to have none left

We've run out of milk; we need to buy some more.

Run rings round :: To outperform or outmaneuver someone easily

He ran rings round his opponents in the debate.

Run riot :: To behave in a wild or uncontrollable manner

The children ran riot in the playground, ignoring all the rules.

Run short :: To have an insufficient supply of something

We're running short on time; we need to hurry.

Run true to form :: To behave or perform consistently as expected

Her latest actions run true to form; she's always been unpredictable.

See daylight :: To begin to understand or make progress in understanding something

After hours of studying, she finally began to see daylight in the complex subject.

See eye to eye :: To agree or have the same opinion as someone

They rarely see eye to eye on anything, always arguing over trivial matters.

See one's way :: To find a solution or way to manage a situation

I'm sure we can see our way to reaching a compromise.

See red :: To become very angry or enraged

When he insulted her, she saw red and yelled at him.

See through :: To perceive the true nature of a deception or falsehood

She could see through his excuses and knew he was lying.

Take a back seat :: To assume a position of lesser importance or authority

He decided to take a back seat and let his colleague lead the project.

Take a bow :: To receive acknowledgment or applause for one's achievements

After the successful performance, the actors took a bow on stage.

Take the lion's share :: To take the largest portion or majority of something

She always takes the lion's share of the credit, even though we all contributed equally.

Take a joke :: To be able to accept humor or teasing without getting upset

He can't take a joke; he gets offended too easily.

Take heart :: To feel encouraged or reassured

Despite the setback, they took heart from the support of their friends.

Take into account :: To consider or take into consideration

When making decisions, it's important to take into account all relevant factors.

Take into one's head :: To decide or determine without apparent reason

She took it into her head to redecorate the entire house overnight.

Take it easy :: To relax or calm down; to not exert oneself too much

After a long day at work, he likes to take it easy and watch TV.

Take it out on :: To vent one's anger or frustration on someone or something

She had a bad day at work and took it out on her husband when she got home.

Take kindly to :: To react positively or favorably to something

He didn't take kindly to criticism of his work.

Take notice :: To pay attention or become aware of something

It's time to take notice of the warning signs and address the issue.

Take him at his word :: To believe or trust what someone says without question

He promised to finish the project on time, so we'll take him at his word.

Take one's life in one's hand :: To put oneself in a dangerous or risky situation

He took his life in his hands when he went skydiving without proper training.

Take one's time :: To proceed slowly or at one's own pace

There's no rush; take your time and do it right.

Take shape :: To develop or become clear and definite

The plan started to take shape after several rounds of discussion.

Take stock :: To evaluate or assess a situation

It's time to take stock of our finances and make a budget.

Take the bull by the horns :: To confront a difficult situation directly and courageously

She decided to take the bull by the horns and address the issue head-on.

Take to heart :: To take something seriously or be deeply affected by it

She took his criticism to heart and felt upset for days.

Take to task :: To reprimand or criticize someone for their actions

The manager took him to task for his poor performance.

Talk away :: To talk continuously or incessantly

She can talk away for hours without pausing for breath.

Talk down :: To speak condescendingly or patronizingly to someone

He always talks down to me as if I don't know anything.

Talk one's head off :: To talk incessantly or at great length

Once he starts talking, he can talk his head off for hours.

Talk over :: To discuss something with someone in order to reach a decision or agreement

Let's talk over the details of the contract before signing anything.

Talk through one's hat :: To speak nonsense or talk on something one knows little or nothing.

He's just talking through his hat; he has no idea what he's talking about.

Think better off :: To have a higher opinion of someone or something

After seeing her performance, I think better of her abilities.

Think out loud :: To verbalize one's thoughts as they occur

She likes to think out loud, discussing ideas as they come to her.

Think through :: To consider carefully and thoroughly

Before making a decision, it's important to think through all the consequences.

Think up :: To devise or invent something

She thought up a clever solution to the problem.

Throw a wet blanket on :: To discourage or dampen enthusiasm or excitement

Her negative comments threw a wet blanket on the party.

Throw a monkey wrench into :: To disrupt or interfere with a plan or activity

His sudden resignation threw a monkey wrench into our project timeline.

Throw cold water on :: To discourage or dampen enthusiasm

Her criticism threw cold water on our excitement about the new project.

Throw down the gauntlet :: To issue a challenge in a bold or defiant manner

She threw down the gauntlet and challenged him to a debate.

Throw dust in one's eyes :: To deceive or mislead someone

He's trying to throw dust in our eyes with his vague explanations.

Throw good money after bad :: To waste more money on something that has already failed

They're throwing good money after bad by investing in that failing company.

Throw into shape :: To organize or put something in order

She worked hard to throw the project into shape before the deadline.

Throw one's hat in the ring :: To declare one's candidacy or interest in something

He decided to throw his hat in the ring and run for mayor.

Throw open :: To make something available to everyone; to open up

They threw open the doors to the public for the grand opening.

Turn a blind eye :: To ignore or pretend not to notice something, especially something wrong

The manager turned a blind eye to the employee's misconduct.

Turn a cold shoulder :: To deliberately ignore or reject someone

She turned a cold shoulder to her former friend after their argument.

Turn a hair :: To show no sign of fear or emotion

Even in the face of danger, he didn't turn a hair.

Turn colour :: To change color, especially due to shock or fear

She turned color when she saw the accident.

Turn down :: To reject or refuse an offer or request

He turned down the job offer because the salary was too low.

Turn one's back on :: To reject or abandon someone or something

He turned his back on his friends when he became successful.

Turn over a new leaf :: To start behaving in a better or more positive way

After serving time in prison, he vowed to turn over a new leaf and stay out of trouble.

Turn the tables :: To reverse a situation so that one has an advantage

She turned the tables on her opponent and won the argument.

Turn the trick :: To achieve success or accomplish something difficult

With determination and hard work, she turned the trick and passed the exam.

To add insult to injury :: To make a bad situation even worse

My car broke down in the middle of nowhere, then, to add insult to injury, it started raining.

To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth :: To be born into a wealthy or privileged family

He's never had to work for anything; he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

A bolt from the blue :: A sudden and unexpected event or piece of news

The announcement of his resignation came as a bolt from the blue.

To blow one's own trumpet :: To boast about one's own achievements or abilities

He's always blowing his own trumpet, talking about how great he is.

To beat black and blue :: To beat severely; to inflict bruises

He was beaten black and blue by the bullies.

To cast an aspersion :: To make a derogatory or slanderous remark about someone

She cast aspersions on his character without any evidence.

To cry over spilt milk :: To lament or regret over something already happened.

There's no use crying over spilt milk; we need to focus on finding a solution.

To cut a sorry figure :: To appear embarrassed or inadequate

He cut a sorry figure at the party, unable to dance or engage in conversation.

To die in harness :: To die while still actively working or engaged in one's duties

He always said he would die in harness, and he did, working until his last breath.

To end in smoke :: To come to nothing; to fail to produce the expected results

Their ambitious plan to start a business ended in smoke when they couldn't secure funding.

To go to the dogs :: To deteriorate or decline in quality or prosperity

The once-thriving neighborhood has gone to the dogs since the factory closed down.

To hang in the balance :: To be uncertain or undecided

The outcome of the election hangs in the balance as the votes are counted.

To hit the nail on the head :: To accurately describe or identify the central issue

She hit the nail on the head when she said we need better communication in the team.

To hold water :: To be valid or sound; to withstand scrutiny

His explanation didn't hold water under questioning.

To live from hand to mouth :: To live with only enough money for immediate needs

After losing his job, he had to live from hand to mouth until he found a new one.

To make up one's mind :: To decide; to reach a conclusion

He finally made up his mind to pursue his passion for photography.

To see eye to eye with :: To agree completely with someone

They rarely see eye to eye on politics, but they respect each other's opinions.

To play ducks and drakes :: To behave recklessly with money or resources

He's been playing ducks and drakes with his inheritance, spending it on frivolous things.

To have too many irons in the fire :: To be involved in too many activities or projects at once

She's overwhelmed because she has too many irons in the fire.

To read between the lines :: To understand the hidden or implied meaning

She read between the lines of his message and realized he was unhappy.

To turn over a new leaf :: To make a fresh start; to change one's behavior for the better

After his arrest, he decided to turn over a new leaf and get his life back on track.

To take the bull by horns :: To confront a difficult situation head-on

She decided to take the bull by the horns by directlyaddress the problem.

To win laurels :: To receive praise or honor for one's achievements

She won laurels for her outstanding performance in the competition.

Black and white :: Clearly defined; without ambiguity

The instructions were written in black and white, leaving no room for interpretation.

By leaps and bounds :: Rapidly; with great progress

His skills improved by leaps and bounds after he started practicing regularly.

In cold blood :: Calmly and deliberately; without emotion

The crime was committed in cold blood, shocking everyone in the community.

Laid up with :: Unable to work or go about one's usual activities due to illness or injury

He was laid up with a broken leg for weeks.

Ins and outs :: The intricate details or workings of something

She knows all the ins and outs of the business after working there for years.

A black sheep :: An odd or disreputable member of a group

He's the black sheep of the family; always getting into trouble.

A cock and bull story :: A far-fetched or implausible tale

His excuse for being late was just a cock and bull story; nobody believed him.

A gala day :: A festive or joyous occasion

The wedding was a gala day, with music, dancing, and celebrations.

A hard nut to crack :: A difficult problem to solve or person to deal with

The puzzle was a hard nut to crack, but she finally solved it.

A turn coat :: A person who switches allegiance or loyalty

He was branded a turncoat for betraying his colleagues.

A fool's paradise :: A false sense of security or happiness based on illusion

He's living in a fool's paradise if he thinks he can get away with cheating.

Beat a retreat :: To withdraw or retreat from a situation

They beat a retreat when they realized they were outnumbered.

To be on the horns of a dilemma :: Forced to choose from two equally undesirable options.

She's on the horns of a dilemma; she can either lose her job or betray her friend.

To beat about the bush :: To avoid addressing an issue directly; to speak evasively

Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you really think.

Bury the hatchet :: To make peace; to reconcile after a dispute

After years of feuding, they finally decided to bury the hatchet and move on.

By fits and starts :: Irregularly or intermittently

His progress on the project was by fits and starts;

Capital punishment :: The legally authorized killing of someone as punishment for a crime

The debate over capital punishment is ongoing.

By hook or by crook :: By any means necessary, even if they are dishonest or unethical

He was determined to win the competition by hook or by crook.

Hit below the belt :: To act unfairly or cruelly, by saying something deliberately hurtful

Bringing up her past mistakes was hitting below the belt.

In apple pie order :: Neatly organized or arranged

She keeps her desk in apple pie order, with everything in its proper place.

Leave one in the lurch :: To abandon or leave someone in a difficult situation

He left me in the lurch when he didn't show up to help with the project.

To make a clean breast of :: To confess fully and honestly

She made a clean breast of her involvement in the scandal.

To nip the evil in the bud :: To stop a problem before it gets worse

They acted quickly to nip the evil in the bud before it spread.

Pick holes in another's coat :: To find fault with someone or something

He always picks holes in another's coat, criticizing without offering solutions.

Scot free :: Without suffering any punishment or consequence

He got away scot-free after cheating on the exam.

Smell a rat :: To suspect that something is wrong or suspicious

She smelled a rat when he started acting strangely.

Through thick and thin :: In good times and bad; during both success and adversity

They promised to stand by each other through thick and thin.

True to one's salt :: Faithful or loyal

He remained true to his salt, even when tempted with bribes.

To turn the corner :: To begin to recover or improve after a difficult period

After months of struggling, the company finally turned the corner and started making profits.

With a grain of salt :: With skepticism or doubt; not taking something too seriously

Take his promises with a grain of salt; he's known for exaggerating.

Worship the rising sun :: To support or show loyalty to those in power and authority

He's always worshiping the rising sun, trying to align himself with those in authority.

A Herculean task :: A task requiring great strength, effort, or determination

Cleaning out the garage was a Herculean task, but they managed to finish it.

A fish out of water :: Someone who is uncomfortable or awkward in a particular situation

As an introvert at the party, he felt like a fish out of water.

A leap in the dark :: An action taken without knowing the full consequences or risks

Starting a business was a leap in the dark, but it paid off in the end.

A thorn in one's side :: A persistent source of annoyance or trouble

Her noisy neighbors were a thorn in her side, disrupting her peace and quiet.

To be at one's beck and call :: To be constantly responsive to someone's demands

As his personal assistant, she was at his beck and call day and night.

Bread and butter :: The main source of income or livelihood

Teaching is her bread and butter; it's how she earns a living.

Burn one's fingers :: To suffer harm or loss as a result of one's actions

He burned his fingers by investing in that risky business venture.

Burn the candle at both ends :: To work excessively discarding one's health or well-being

She's been burning the candle at both ends in trying to meet her deadlines.

To cut the Gordian knot :: To solve a complex problem in a direct and decisive manner

They decided to cut the Gordian knot by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy.

Feather one's own nest :: To act in one's own interest, especially by making money for oneself

He was accused of feathering his own nest by taking bribes.

To fish in troubled waters :: To take advantage of a chaotic situation

He always tries to fish in troubled waters to gain an advantage.

To give oneself airs :: To act pretentiously or arrogantly

She's always giving herself airs, acting like she's better than everyone else.

To give the devil his due :: To acknowledge one's good qualities, even if you don't like them.

I don't like him, but I have to give the devil his due; he's a hard worker.

To hang by a thread :: To be in a precarious or dangerous situation

His job was hanging by a thread after the company's financial troubles.

A henpecked husband :: A man who is excessively dominated or controlled by his wife

He's such a henpecked husband; he can't make any decisions without his wife's approval.

Hush money :: Money paid to keep someone silent or prevent the disclosure of information

He offered her hush money to keep her from talking about their affair.

Kick up a row :: To create a disturbance or cause trouble

His rude behavior kicked up a row at the party.

To let the cat out of the bag :: To reveal a secret

She accidentally let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.

Null and void :: Invalid; having no legal force

The contract was declared null and void because of a breach of agreement.

On the spur of the moment :: Suddenly or impulsively

She decided to go on vacation on the spur of the moment.

Pay one back in one's own coin :: To retaliate or treat someone the same way they treated you

He insulted me, so I paid him back in his own coin by insulting him back.

Put in cold storage :: To postpone or set aside for a later time

The project was put in cold storage until they could secure more funding.

Pull wires :: To use influence or connections to achieve something

He pulled wires to get his son a job at the company.

Sit on the fence :: To remain neutral or undecided in a dispute

She didn't want to take sides, so she chose to sit on the fence.

A square deal :: A fair or honest arrangement

They promised to give him a square deal in the negotiations.

Sword of Damocles :: A constant threat or source of danger

The possibility of losing his job hung over him like the sword of Damocles.

To take up the gauntlet :: To accept a challenge

He took up the gauntlet and agreed to compete in the race.

To eat one's heart out :: To feel intense sadness or longing

She ate her heart out after her pet ran away.

Between the devil and the deep sea :: Facing two equally difficult or unpleasant choices

He was between the devil and the deep sea; either lose his job or work overtime.

A sweet tooth :: A love for sweet foods

She has a sweet tooth; she can't resist desserts.

A dark horse :: A person who unexpectedly achieves success

He was a dark horse in the competition, surprising everyone with his talent.

A bottleneck :: A point of congestion or obstruction

The traffic jam was caused by a bottleneck on the highway.

To put one's foot down :: To assert oneself or take a firm stand

She had to put her foot down when her children wouldn't listen to her.

A wet blanket :: A person who dampens enthusiasm or enjoyment

Don't be such a wet blanket; let's go out and have fun!

To throw up the sponge :: To give up; to surrender

After months of trying to fix the old car, he finally threw up the sponge.

A feather in one's cap :: An achievement or honor to be proud of

Winning the competition was a feather in her cap.

A red letter day :: A special or memorable day

Her graduation day was a red letter day for the whole family.

Bag and baggage :: With all one's belongings

He left bag and baggage after the fight with his roommate.

Bad blood :: Hostility or animosity between people

There's bad blood between them ever since the argument.

Acid test :: A decisive test to determine quality or genuineness

The exam was the acid test of their knowledge.

Ad hoc :: Arranged or done for a particular purpose

They held an ad hoc meeting to discuss the upcoming event.

Above board :: Honest and open; without deceit

Their business dealings were always above board.

At daggers drawn with :: In a state of bitter hostility or enmity with

They were at daggers drawn with each other after the argument.

Alma Mater :: The school, college, or university that one attended

He returned to his alma mater to give a commencement speech.

At the dead of night :: In the middle of the night; at its darkest

They heard strange noises coming from the forest at the dead of night.

At a loss to understand :: Unable to comprehend or make sense of something

He was at a loss to understand why she was upset.

At sixes and sevens :: In a state of confusion or disorder

After the move, their belongings were all at sixes and sevens.

At a stretch :: Continuously or without a break

He worked for twelve hours at a stretch to meet the deadline.

At the risk of :: Despite the possibility of negative consequences

She spoke out against the injustice at the risk of losing her job.

At the mercy of :: In a vulnerable position subject to the control of someone else

They were at the mercy of the weather during their camping trip.

At a low ebb :: At a point of depression or weakness

His spirits were at a low ebb after the breakup.

At stake :: Something of value that can be gained or lost

Their reputation was at stake during the high-stakes negotiation.

At sea :: Confused or uncertain

She was at sea about what career path to choose.

All agog :: Eagerly excited or curious

The children were all agog about the surprise party.

As the crow flies :: In a straight line; the shortest route

The town is only ten miles away as the crow flies, but it takes longer to drive there.

All moonshine :: Nonsense or foolish talk

His excuses were all moonshine; he had no valid reason for being late.

Apron strings :: Excessive influence or control exerted by a mother over her son

He couldn't make decisions without consulting his mother; he was tied to her apron strings.

An axe to grind :: A hidden personal agenda or motive

He didn't offer his help out of kindness; he had an axe to grind with his rival.

Animal spirits :: High energy or enthusiasm

The team's animal spirits were evident during the championship game.

All intents and purposes :: In every practical sense; virtually

For all intents and purposes, the project was complete.

Achilles' heel :: A person's vulnerable or weak point

His impatience was his Achilles' heel, often leading to mistakes.

Alive and kicking :: Still active or in existence

Despite the rumors, the company is alive and kicking.

All the rage :: Extremely popular or fashionable

The new smartphone is all the rage among teenagers.

A bed of thorns :: A situation filled with difficulties or troubles

Their marriage became a bed of thorns after the financial crisis.

A bed of roses :: A situation of comfort or ease

Her life wasn't a bed of roses, but she was content.

A blessing in disguise :: Something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good

Losing his job was a blessing in disguise; it pushed him to start his own business.

A big gun :: An influential or important person

He's a big gun in the industry, with connections to all the major players.

A burning question :: An urgent or important matter

The debate over climate change is a burning question in today's society.

To build castles in the air :: To daydream or fantasize about unrealistic things

Instead of studying, he spends his time building castles in the air.

Below one's dignity :: Beneath one's sense of self-respect or honor

He refused to take part in the prank; it was below his dignity.

Bona fide :: Genuine or authentic

They offered him a job with bona fide intentions of helping him.

A bird of passage :: A person who moves from place to place without settling

He's a bird of passage, always traveling and never staying in one city for too long.

To bear a grudge :: To hold resentment or bitterness towards someone

She still bears a grudge against him for betraying her trust.

Be all and end all :: The most important or essential thing

For him, winning the championship was the be all and end all of his career.

To be in one's cup :: To be in a bad mood or temper

He's been in his cup ever since he lost the game.

To cry for the moon :: To ask for something impossible or unreasonable

Asking for a raise in this economy is like crying for the moon.

Crocodile tears :: Fake or insincere tears

She shed crocodile tears when she heard the news of his departure.

To come of age :: To reach the age of maturity or adulthood

When he turned eighteen, he came of age and was legally responsible for himself.

Cat and dog life :: A life filled with constant arguments or conflicts

Their marriage was a cat and dog life; they argued about everything.

A close shave :: A narrow escape from danger or disaster

That car nearly hit me; it was a close shave.

Close-fisted man :: A person who is unwilling to spend money; stingy

He's such a close-fisted man; he never buys anything for himself.

A chicken-hearted person :: Someone who is easily frightened or cowardly

He's too chicken-hearted to watch horror movies.

To lose colour :: To become pale or lose vitality

Her face lost colour when she heard the bad news.

To do full justice :: To treat someone or something with complete fairness or thoroughness

The chef did full justice to the recipe by following it precisely.

Down and out :: Completely defeated or destitute

After losing his job, he was down and out for months.

Do without :: To manage or cope without something

We'll have to do without electricity until the power comes back on.

A deadlock :: A situation where no progress can be made

The negotiation reached a deadlock, and no agreement could be reached.

Leap in the dark :: To take a risk with little or no information

Investing in that new startup was a leap in the dark, but it paid off in the end.

A dig at :: A critical or sarcastic remark aimed at someone

Her comment about his cooking was clearly a dig at his culinary skills.

Fair-weather friend :: A person who is only a friend in good times

She realized he was just a fair-weather friend when he disappeared during her tough times.

Fancy price :: A high or excessive price

They were asking a fancy price for that old car.

To fall flat :: To fail completely or have no effect

His joke fell flat, and nobody laughed.

To fight shy of :: To avoid or be reluctant to confront something

She fights shy of public speaking because she's afraid of making mistakes.

To face the music :: To accept the consequences of one's actions

After skipping school, he knew he had to face the music when his parents found out.

A flying visit :: A brief or short visit

He made a flying visit to his hometown to see his family.

To foot the bill :: To pay for something

He offered to foot the bill for dinner as a thank you for their hospitality.

Far reaching :: Having a significant impact or consequences

The new policy had far-reaching effects on the economy.

Every inch :: Completely; entirely

She's every inch a professional in her field.

Extempore speech :: An impromptu or improvised speech

He delivered an extempore speech on the spot, impressing everyone with his eloquence.

To give a slip :: To escape or evade someone or something

The thief gave a slip to the police and disappeared into the crowd.

To go to the wall :: To suffer complete failure or collapse

Without financial aid, the company will go to the wall.

To grease the palm :: To bribe someone

He had to grease the palm of the official to get his documents processed.

Gift of the gab :: The ability to speak persuasively and effectively

He got the job because of his gift of the gab during the interview.

Hard and fast :: Strict or inflexible

The rules are hard and fast; there are no exceptions.

Helter-skelter :: In a disorderly or haphazard manner

They ran helter-skelter to catch the train before it left.

Hang heavy :: To be oppressive or burdensome

The silence in the room hung heavy after the argument.

Hair stand on end :: To be terrified or extremely frightened

The horror movie made her hair stand on end.

Hall mark :: A mark or symbol of quality or authenticity

The gold ring had the hall mark of the jeweler engraved inside.

High time :: The appropriate or necessary time

It's high time we started working on the project.

Headway :: Progress or advancement

They made significant headway in their research.

Hanky-panky :: Dishonest or suspicious behavior

There's been some hanky-panky going on in the accounting department.

To hope against hope :: To continue hoping for something even when it seems unlikely

She hoped against hope that her missing dog would return home.

Ins and outs :: The intricate details or workings of something

He knows all the ins and outs of the company's finances.

In the nick of time :: Just in time; at the last possible moment

The ambulance arrived in the nick of time to save the accident victim.

In the long run :: Over a long period of time; eventually

Eating healthy food will benefit you in the long run.

In one's teens :: In the age range of thirteen to nineteen years old

She started playing the piano in her teens.

In a fix :: In a difficult or tricky situation

I'm in a fix; I don't know how to fix this problem.

An irony of fate :: An unexpected twist of fate

The irony of fate was that the thief's stolen car broke down.

An iron hand :: Firm or strict control

The dictator ruled with an iron hand, suppressing any dissent.

In the prime :: At the height of one's abilities or condition

He was in the prime of his career when he won the championship.

An iron will :: Determination or strong resolve

He succeeded in quitting smoking because of his iron will.

Kith and kin :: Friends and relatives

All our kith and kin attended the wedding.

Lock, stock and barrel :: Including everything

When they moved, they took everything with them, lock, stock, and barrel.

In lieu of :: Instead of; as a substitute for

She gave her old bicycle to him in lieu of payment.

Red Tapism :: Excessive bureaucratic rules and procedures

The project was delayed due to bureaucratic red tapism.

Rank and file :: Ordinary members of an organization

The rank and file of the company protested for better wages.

Snake in the grass :: A deceitful or treacherous person

Watch out for him; he's a snake in the grass.

Spick and span :: Completely clean and neat

She cleaned the house until it was spick and span.

Slip of tongue :: Accidental, unintended mistake in speaking

I didn't mean to offend you; it was just a slip of the tongue.

Through thick and thin :: In good times and bad

They promised to stand by each other through thick and thin.

To take French leave :: To leave without permission or without saying goodbye

He left the party without saying goodbye; he took French leave.

Thick-skinned :: Insensitive to criticism or insults

You need to be thick-skinned to handle criticism in this industry.

To paint the town red :: To go out and enjoy oneself flamboyantly

They went out to paint the town red on New Year's Eve.

Utopian scheme :: An impractical or idealistic plan

His plan for world peace was dismissed as a utopian scheme.

Yeoman's service :: Diligent and valuable service

She provided yeoman's service to the community by volunteering every weekend.

At the zenith :: At the highest point or peak

His career was at the zenith when he won the championship.

Maiden speech :: The first speech given by someone

She was nervous but delivered an impressive maiden speech.

Point blank :: Directly; without hesitation

He refused point blank to lend me the money.

Penny wise pound foolish :: Saving small amounts of money at the expense of larger amounts

He saved money by buying cheap tools, but in the end, it was penny wise, pound foolish.

The printer's devil :: A printer's apprentice or assistant

As the printer's devil, he was responsible for all the menial tasks in the printing press.

To cross the t's and dot the i's :: To be meticulous or thorough

Before submitting the report, make sure to cross the t's and dot the i's.

Dark horse :: A little-known contender who unexpectedly wins

He's the dark horse of the competition; no one expected him to win.

Hand and glove :: Working closely together

They worked hand and glove to finish the project on time.

Put a spoke in the wheel :: To obstruct or hinder progress

His absence put a spoke in the wheel of our plans.

Kick the bucket :: To die

He's afraid he'll kick the bucket before he fulfills his dreams.

Steal the show :: To be the most impressive or outstanding

Her performance stole the show at the talent competition.

Touched to the quick :: To be deeply affected emotionally

His words touched her to the quick, leaving her deeply hurt.

By dint of :: By means of; through

He achieved success by dint of hard work and perseverance.

Out of sorts :: Feeling unwell or not oneself

She's feeling out of sorts today; maybe she's coming down with something.

Out of date :: No longer fashionable or relevant

That fashion trend is completely out of date.

Pros and cons :: Advantages and disadvantages

Before making a decision, consider the pros and cons carefully.

Queer fish :: A strange or eccentric person

He's a bit of a queer fish; you never know what he'll do next.

Swan song :: A final performance or act before retirement or ending

The retirement party was her swan song after decades of service.

To pay the piper :: To bear the consequences, especially the financial ones

If you want quality, you have to be willing to pay the piper.

To pay through the nose :: To pay an exorbitant price

He paid through the nose for that luxury watch.

Hither and thither :: In various directions

The children ran hither and thither in the playground.

Off and on :: Occasionally; intermittently

He worked on the project off and on for months.

In a jiffy :: Very quickly; in a short amount of time

She'll be back in a jiffy; she just needs to grab something from the store.

Out and out :: Completely; entirely

His behavior was out and out unacceptable.

A past master :: An expert; someone highly skilled in a particular field

He's a past master at fixing old cars.

Prime of life :: The period of life when someone is at their peak

In the prime of his life, he was full of energy and ambition.

A foregone conclusion :: An outcome that is certain or inevitable

It was a foregone conclusion that she would win the race.

The golden age :: A period of great success, prosperity, or cultural achievement

Many consider the 1950s to be the golden age of Hollywood.

A vexed question :: A contentious or debated issue

The issue of climate change remains a vexed question.

To vie with :: To compete or contend

She always vied with her sister for their parents' attention.

A broken reed :: An unreliable or weak person

You can't rely on him; he's a broken reed.

To smell a rat :: To suspect that something is wrong

Something doesn't feel right; I smell a rat.

Blue stockings :: A scholarly or intellectual woman

She was mocked for being a blue stocking, but she didn't care.

Tooth and nail :: With all one's energy and determination

She fought tooth and nail for her right to be heard.

To catch a Tartar :: To encounter unexpectedly formidable opposition

He thought he could handle the situation, but he ended up catching a Tartar.

A nine day's wonder :: Something that attracts attention for a brief period

His fame was just a nine day's wonder; soon, people forgot about him.

Never say die :: To remain determined and optimistic despite difficulties

Despite the setbacks, he adopted the motto of never say die.