

Idioms & Phrases



To beat daggers drawn

(to be ready to start fighting)

They have been at daggers drawn for years.

To be at one's wits' end

(to be confused)

I am at my wits' ends, worrying about how to pay the bills.

To be in one's elements

(to be in one's special field)

When a player talks of games, he is in his elements.

To be in the doldrums

(to be in low spirits)

After his loss, he was in the doldrums.

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To be in the same boat

(to be in the same circumstances)

We shall die and live together because we are in the same boat.

To be on tenterhooks

(to be in a state of suspense)

One day before the result, everybody was on tenterhooks.

To be taken up with

(to be busy)

Now, I am taken up with my work.

To beat about the bush

(to talk in an indirect way)

Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you want.

Idioms & Phrases

To beggar description

(to make words seem poor)

This extremely beautiful scenery beggars description.

To blow one's own trumpet

(to praise oneself)

We dislike him because he always blows his own trumpet.



To break the ice

(to make a beginning)

When all were hesitant, I broke the ice and advanced.

To bring down the house

(to impress the audience)

With his fiery speech, he brought down the house.

Idioms & Phrases



To bring home to

(to convince)

I will try to bring this point home to him.

To burn the candle at both ends

(to spend in a double way)

He burnt the candle at both ends and soon grew poor.

To call a spade a spade

(Speak plainly)

I like him because he calls a spade a spade.

To cast pearls before the swine

(to tell things to a fool)

To advise that fool is like casting pearls before the swine.

Idioms & Phrases



To come down upon

(to rebuke buy)

He came down upon his servant for his fault.

To come off with colors

(to achieve success)

In this match, our team will come off with colors.

To curry favors

(to please by flattery)

He always tries to curry favors with his superiors.

To die in harness

(to die in active service)

Brave soldiers always die in harness.

Idioms & Phrases



To eat one's word

(to take back one's words)

He realized his mistake and ate his words.

To eat the humble pie

(to be humiliated)

If you come late, you will have to eat the humble pie:

To end in smoke

(to come to nothing)

Because of his carelessness, all his plans ended in smoke.

To face the music

(to face one's critics)

A public leader should have the courage to face the music.

Idioms & Phrases



To fall a prey to

(to be a victim of)

He fell a prey to bad habits.

To feather one's nest

(to become rich by unfair means)

Dishonest persons always try to feather their own nest.

To fight shy of

(to be afraid)

He fought shy of introducing that girl to his wife.

To find fault with

(to discover mistake)

She is always finding fault with her maid-servant's work.

Idioms & Phrases



To give a bit of one's mind

(to rebuke)

I gave a bit of my mind to my lazy servant.

To give a leg-up

(to support tout)

When my business failed, he gave me a leg-up.

To give a wide berth to

(to keep at a distance)

Give a wide berth to that wicked man.

To go great lengths

(to do one's utmost)

I will go great lengths to help you.

Idioms & Phrases

To go on a spree

(to go for outing)

Let us chalk out a programme to go on a spree.



To go through fire and water

(to endure troubles)

We went through fire and water to achieve Pakistan.

To go to the wall

(to be pushed aside)

Several business firms went to the wall this year because of financial crisis.

To go with the stream

(to do as others do)

Great men never go with the stream.