BLOGS

Frequently asked Idioms and Phrases

Harshita Gulati · 17 Sep 2021

1. Idiom – Grease the palm

Meaning – (to bribe)

Sentence – Kabir had to grease the palm of the officer in order to get driving license.

1. Idiom – Nip in the bud

Meaning – to destroy in the very beginning)

Sentence – The bad habits of a child should be nipped in the bud.

1. Idiom – Turn a deaf ear

Meaning – (to not to pay attention)

Sentence – All the students turned a deaf ear to the teacher during moral science lecture.

1. Idiom – Knit the brow

Meaning – (to frown)

Sentence – Employer always knits his brow at everything the employees do.

1. Idiom – In a flutter

Meaning – (excited)

Sentence – Abhinav is in a flutter today because it is his first day at school

1. Idiom – Fabian policy

Meaning – (policy of delaying decisions)

Sentence – It gets harmful for the management to follow fabian policy in every matter

1. Idiom – By fits and starts

Meaning – (irregularly)

Sentence – Ram was penalised because he used to perform his job by fits and starts

1. Idiom – At a loose end

Meaning – (unoccupied)

Sentence – Now-a-days Rachel is at loose end because she has left her job

1. Idiom – Hang fire

Meaning – (remain unsolved)

Sentence – Most of the criminal cases remain hanging on fire for many years

1. Idiom – Wind fall

Meaning – (sudden gain)

Sentence – Reshma got a wind fall when her uncle died

1. Idiom -ABC

Meaning – (very common knowledge)

Sentence – Meera does not know ABC of law.

1. Idiom – Blow hot and cold

Meaning – (having no stand)

Sentence – Sunil cannot be relied upon because he blows hot and cold in every matter.

1. Idiom – Cock and bull story

Meaning – (untrue story)

Sentence – All the explanations given by Sita seem to be a cock and bull story.

1. Idiom – Gall and wormwood

Meaning – (source of irritation)

Sentence – The acts of the children were gall and wormwood for her.

1. Idiom – Herculean task

Meaning – (a tedious job)

Sentence – To clear judiciary examination is a herculean task for the aspirants.

1. Idiom – Kith and kin

Meaning – (blood relatives)

Sentence – In the gloomy days we all seek support of our kith and kins.

1. Idiom – Open and above board

Meaning – (very clear)

Sentence – He prefers to record open and above board point of view on every matter.

1. Idiom – Queer fish

Meaning – (strange person)

Sentence – Ramesh is a queer fish, he cannot be trusted in confidential issues.

1. Idiom – Rhyme or reason

Meaning – (rational cause)

Sentence – He was suspended from the job without any rhyme and reason

1. Idiom – Between Scylla and Charybdis

Meaning – (choice between two unpleasant alternatives)

Sentence – Make wise decision so that you don’t fall between Scylla and Charybdis.

1. Idiom – At dagger’s drawn

Meaning – (to have bitter enmity)

Sentence – Once who were best friends are now at dagger’s drawn.

1. Idiom – Blue stocking

Meaning – (educated but pedantic lady)

Sentence – Her husband avoids her because she is a blue stocking

1. Idiom – Draconian Law

Meaning – (extremely severe law)

Sentence – In Kashmir Draconian Law was imposed in order to subdue terrorist attack.

1. Idiom – Eke out

Meaning – (supplement income)

Sentence – The students do part time jobs to eke out their income.

1. Idiom – Damp squib

Meaning – (complete failure)

Sentence – Our visit to London for the project was a damp squib.

1. Idiom – Hit below the belt

Meaning – (to strike unfairly)

Sentence – We should never hit the opponents below the belt.

1. Idiom – In the red

Meaning – (suffer a loss)

Sentence – Most of the businesses went in red after demonetization.

1. Idiom – Keep the pot boiling

Meaning – (earn hardly enough for living)

Sentence – One should earn at least to keep the pot boiling.

1. Idiom – One’s Achilles heel

Meaning – (a week point)

Sentence – Her children were her Achilles’ heel.

1. Idiom – Pyrrhic victory

Meaning – (victory at a high cost)

Sentence – India’s victory over POK will prove to be a pyrrhic victory.

1. Idiom – A scarlet woman

Meaning – (a woman with loose morals)

Sentence – A woman working late at night should not be considered as a scarlet woman.

1. Idiom – To set Thames on fire

Meaning – (to achieve something impossible)

Sentence – To trek on Himalaya's is like to set Thames on fire.

1. Idiom – Take somebody for a ride

Meaning – (to deceive a person)

Sentence – The shopkeeper took his customers for a ride by selling them fake goods.

1. Idiom – White elephant

Meaning – (anything with less utility and more expenditure)

Sentence – The new BMW car has become a white elephant for the employer.

1. Idiom – Wry face

Meaning – (disappointed look)

Sentence – Anil made a wry face when he learned that he has been disqualified from the match.

1. Idiom – Hush Money

Meaning – (a bribe)

Sentence – Simran managed to escape from the cops by paying hush money.

1. Idiom – Not born yesterday

Meaning – (worldly wise)

Sentence – I am not going to fall for your lies as I was not born yesterday.

1. Idiom – Speck and span

Meaning – (neat and smart)

Sentence – Students should always be speck and span in their dressing

1. Idiom – Milk and water

Meaning – (weak)

Sentence – The economy of India is milk and water in front of USA's economy.

1. Idiom – Uphill task

Meaning – (difficult task)

Sentence – Passing CLAT examination is an uphill task.

1. Idiom – To assume airs

Meaning – (to pretend superiority)

Sentence – She is in the habit of assuming airs in the presence of her cousins.

1. Idiom – To burn the midnight oil

Meaning – (to work up to late hours)

Sentence – Mahesh burnt the midnight oil for several days in order to complete the project before deadline.

1. Idiom – To bury the hatchet

Meaning – (to make peace forgetting the past enmity)

Sentence – Indians and Pakistanis should bury the hatchet for the development and prosperity of both the nations.

1. Idiom – To buy a pig in a poke

Meaning – (to purchase a thing without knowing its actual worth)

Sentence – One should always value money and never buy a pig in a poke.

1. Idiom – To curry favour

Meaning – (to win favour by gifts or flattery)

Sentence – By giving presents to the officer, Himanshu tried to curry his favour.

1. Idiom – To go on fool's errand

Meaning – (to go on an expedition where only a fool can go)

Sentence – The key was in his pocket and he sent me on a fool's errand to search the same in movie theatre.

1. Idiom – To have feet of clay

Meaning – (full of faults)

Sentence – The answer sheets of the students had feet of clay.

1. Idiom – To keep abreast of

Meaning – (not to fall behind)

Sentence – In this world of competition, it is very important to keep abreast of others.

1. Idiom – To pour oil on troubled water

Meaning – (to rectify the matter)

Sentence – In the quarrel between the brothers, their mother poured oil on troubled water.

1. Idiom – To show the white feather

Meaning – (to act as a cowardice)

Sentence – Anita showed white feather in the playground.

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