



**MUST KNOW THESE!**



# IDIOMS & PHRASES

Quick Revision

(XAT, SNAP, TISS-NET, CMAT, IIFT, SSC, BANKS)

# Achilles Heel

Meaning: A weakness or a vulnerable point. (दुखती रग)

Usage: He was a good student, but English literature had always been his Achilles heel.

# Bone of Contention

Meaning: A subject or issue over which there is continuing disagreement. (विवाद का विषय)

Usage: After the grandfather died, his will was a bone of contention in the family.

# At the drop of a hat

Meaning: Immediately, without delay. (तुरन्त)

Usage: She'd purchase her expensive jewelry at the drop of a hat.

# Cock & bull story

Meaning: An implausible story used as an explanation or excuse. (बे-सिरपैर की या ऊटपटाँग बात)

Usage: Don't give me that cock and bull story. You should have completed this long time ago.

## **Back to square one**

Meaning: Back to where one started. (जहाँ के तहाँ)

Usage: I failed at calculus, so I guess I am back to square one.

**Assignment: Turn over a new leaf**

## By hook or by crook

Meaning: At any cost/by fair or unfair means. (कैसे भी करके)

Usage: The police are going to catch these guys, by hook or by crook.

## **Beat the air**

Meaning: Putting useless efforts. (व्यर्थ प्रयास)

Usage: His speech merely beat the air as his argument was not convincing at all.

## **Assignment: Flogging a dead horse**



# Blue Eyed Boy

Meaning: Someone who is liked, admired and often favoured by someone in authority. (अधिकारी का दुलारा)

Usage: Rahul was always the blue-eyed boy at school.

# Bury the hatchet

Meaning: To end a quarrel or conflict and become friendly. (झगड़ा खत्म करना)

Usage: Me and my friend decided to bury the hatchet and start a new game.

# Break a leg

Meaning: Wishing someone good luck! (भाग्य तुम्हारे साथ हो)

Usage: "Break a leg!" I shouted out to him before he rushed in for his auditions.

# Call a spade a spade

Meaning: To speak frankly without avoiding unpleasant or embarrassing issues. (स्पष्टत बोलना)

Usage: That dress made him look fat, let's call a spade a spade before he goes out wearing it and embarrasses himself.

# Chew the cud

Meaning: Ponder over something. (किसी विषय पर विचार करना)

Usage: After retirement, he has enough time to chew the cud of his past.

# Curiosity killed the cat

Meaning: Being inquisitive about other people's affairs may get you into trouble. (इतनी जिज्ञासा अच्छी नहीं)

Usage: I wanted to see what's wrong on the street, but my friend said that curiosity killed the cat and I should just leave it alone.

# Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Meaning: Don't put all your resources in one basket. (सब कुछ दाँव पर लगाना)

Usage: He was able to recover from his losses because he didn't put all his eggs in one basket.

# Devil's advocate

Meaning: A person who disagrees with others solely for the sake of having a discussion on the issue

Usage: I agree with what you say, but I'll play devil's advocate so that we can cover all the possibilities that may arise.



# Fool's paradise

Meaning: Someone who becomes happy at hopes provided based on false facts. (हवाई किला)

Usage: You must be in a fool's paradise if you think that it will rain at the time of such hot summers.

## **Fight tooth and nail**

Meaning: Fight very fiercely. (जी जान से लड़ना)

Usage: The twins fight tooth and nail over the slightest disagreement.

**Assignment: Put one's shoulder to the wheel**

# Face the music

Meaning: Accept unpleasant consequences of your actions. (किये का परिणाम भुगतो)

Usage: If you have done something wrong, you have to face the music. There's no escaping from karma.

# Scot free

Meaning: To be rid of all the blame (of something or incident) (अदंडित)

Usage: The person went scot-free even though there were many people convinced of his crime.

# Greenhorn

Meaning: A person who is new to or inexperienced at a particular activity. (नौसिखिया)

Usage: The greenhorn who joined the softball team needs a lot of practice.

# Have an axe to grind

Meaning: To have a problem with something or someone. (व्यक्तिगत मसला)

Usage: They have been constantly arguing with each other. They seem to have an axe to grind.

# Head over heels

Meaning: Be very much in love with someone.

Usage: He met her through a dating website and fell head over heels for her.

**Assignment: Make eyes at**

# Hold your horses

Meaning: Be patient or wait. (धैर्य रखें)

Usage: We haven't quite finished yet. Hold your horses till we complete this last bit.

## Assignment: Jump the Gun



# In deep water

Meaning: A time of great difficulty. (मुसीबत में)

Usage: After her husband lost his job, they were in deep water.

# Jump on the bandwagon

Meaning: To join a trend. (बहती गंगा में हाथ धोना)

Usage: So many people are joining gym that I might as well jump on the bandwagon.

# Knee jerk reaction

Meaning: An instant reaction made without examining causes or facts. (बिना सोचे समझे)

Usage: In a knee jerk reaction, the coach dropped many of the players and gave a new look to the team.

# Kick the bucket

Meaning: To die. (निधन होना)

Usage: All the fish in my aquarium kicked the bucket when we went on a vacation.

# Lend me your ear

Meaning: Ask for someone's full attention. (ध्यान दें)

Usage: Could you please lend me your ear for a minute?  
I need to tell you something really important.

# Long in the tooth

Meaning: To get too old for something. (बहुत ही बूढ़ा)

Usage: Although long in the tooth now, my granny has some fascinating stories to tell us.

## **Make a clean breast of**

Meaning: To confess to one's mistakes. (अपराध स्वीकार करना)

Usage: Aman finally made a clean breast of it and admitted that he had stolen the money.

# Minting it

Meaning: To be earning a lot of money, usually quickly. (मालामाल होना)

Usage: That company has such a great product that it's no surprise they're minting it these days.



# Not hold water

Meaning: To not be or not appear to be true or verifiable. (विश्वास योग्य न होना)

Usage: Sorry, your ideas won't hold water. Nice try, though.

# Nip in the bud

Meaning: To put an end to something before it develops into something larger. (सिर उठते ही कुचल देना)

Usage: Why don't you nip the issue in the bud before it starts affecting the entire user base?

## Assignment: Nitty-gritty

# Out of the blue

Meaning: Without warning; unexpectedly. (अनपेक्षित रूप से)

Usage: The news of their divorce came out of the blue.

# Olive branch

Meaning: A gesture of peace or reconciliation. (शान्ति का प्रस्ताव)

Usage: If you find yourself in a spat with a friend, try to be the one to hold out the olive branch.

# Put the cat among the pigeons

Meaning: To do or say something that causes unrest among a lot of people. (गड़बड़ी पैदा करना )

Usage: We didn't want to put the cat among the pigeons, so we decided not to mention the bomb threat.

# Rain cats and dogs

Meaning: Very heavy rainfall. (मुसलाधार वर्षा)

Usage: When we were returning from the picnic, it was raining cats and dogs.

# Queer fish

Meaning: Someone who is very strange. (असामान्य)

Usage: Everyone could tell he was a queer fish as soon as he walked into the party with mismatched clothing.

# Red tape

Meaning: Excessive regulation or rigid conformity to formal rules. (लालफीताशाही)

Usage: Red-tapism has adversely affected the growth of start-ups in India.



# See eye to eye

Meaning: To be in agreement with. (एकमत होना)

Usage: I don't always see eye to eye with my father.

## **Skating on thin ice**

Meaning: Do or say something risky. (खतरा मोल लेना )

Usage: Going into a business without proper market research is like skating on thin ice.

**Assignment: Strike while the iron is hot**

# Throw in a towel

Meaning: To give up or concede. (हार मान लेना)

Usage: My brother was so fed up of his manager that he threw in the towel and quit his job.

# Uncharted waters

Meaning: A situation or circumstance that is foreign or unfamiliar. (अनजान स्थिति)

Usage: Tina has that spirit of adventure, which takes her into uncharted waters.

# Under the weather

Meaning: To be ill or feel ill (अस्वस्थ)

Usage: I did not go to work today, as I was feeling a bit under the weather.

# Volte-face

Meaning: To change the plan entirely and suddenly. (पक्ष परिवर्तन)

Usage: She volte faced about the decision to marry him.

## Wild goose chase

Meaning: Spending time searching for something that is simply impossible to find (निरर्थक खोज)

Usage: Police is apparently on a wild goose chase after the cunning criminal vanished into woods.

**Assignment: Wear one's heart on one's sleeves**

# A windfall

Meaning: An amount of money that you receive unexpectedly. (अप्रत्याशित लाभ)

Usage: My sister got a windfall when she got married.

**Assignment: Wrong foot**



# Yoke around neck

Meaning: A trouble for someone.

Usage: His efforts to stop the fighting of two people proved to be a yoke around his neck, they both hurt him badly.

# Young Turk

Meaning: A young person who is rebellious.

Usage: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a young turk who could not be tamed and was victorious in all his wars.

# Thanks a lot for watching!

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