



TEST YOURSELF ON!



IDIOMS & PHRASES

PART
#3



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Above and beyond the call of duty

Meaning: To do more than what is expected of someone.

Usage: The police officer received a medal for his action which went above & beyond the call of duty.



More by accident than (by) design

Meaning: Because of luck and not because of skill or organization.

Usage: The play was a success more by accident than design.



Have an ace up your sleeve

Meaning: To have a secret plan, idea, or advantage that can be utilized if and when it is required.

Usage: I have an ace up my sleeve for this race—my stamina.



Get your act together!

Meaning: Organize yourself so that you do things in an effective way.

Usage: You'd better get your act together if you want a pay raise this year.



Much ado about nothing

Meaning: Making a lot of fuss about something which is trivial/not important.

Usage: All this arguing is much ado about nothing.



Afraid of one's own shadow

Meaning: Easily scared; very nervous; timid.

Usage: Pawan constantly worries about his security; he's afraid of his own shadow.



Against the clock

Meaning: In a great hurry to finish something before a particular time.

Usage: With heavy rains having interrupted their schedule, the organizers were racing against the clock to put up the event on time.



Set (the) alarm bells ringing

Meaning: Something that makes you begin to worry because it shows that there may be a problem.

Usage: Alarm bells started to ring when my old neighbor didn't open his door all day and didn't answer the phone.



All brawn and no brain

Meaning: To have great physical strength but lack mental acuity or intelligence.

Usage: He's an impressive boxer to watch, but he's all brawn and no brain.



Be all things to all people

Meaning: To be liked and be appreciated by each and everyone.

Usage: If you try to be all things to all people, you'll loose your mind.



All sizzle and no steak

Meaning: Someone or something that turns out to be disappointing, after a huge promotional campaign.

Usage: Salman's new film was all sizzle and no steak.



Ambulance chaser

Meaning: Derogatory term used for a lawyer generally.

Usage: The first person I met after my accident was an ambulance chaser who wanted to represent me in court.



Any port in a storm

Meaning: Any solution, however unappealing, is acceptable in times of trouble.

Usage: The hotel was substandard, but it was a case of any port in a storm since all the others were full.



Apple-pie order

Meaning: Very neat and well organized.

Usage: They made sure the house was in apple-pie order before their parents arrived back home.



Tied to Apron strings

Meaning: Controlled or dominated by one.
Used especially in reference to a man
controlled by a woman.

Usage: Can you make a decision on your own,
or are you still tied to her apron strings?



Argue the toss

Meaning: Dispute a decision or choice which has already been made & can't be changed.

Usage: Their decision to take away my job was unfair, but I will argue the toss until the day I die!



Give one's right arm

Meaning: It's a phrase which highlights one's interest in having something or eagerness to do something.

Usage: I'd give my right arm for a nice cold drink in this warm weather.



Armchair critic

Meaning: One who speaks critically on topics one actually knows little to nothing about.

Usage: Twitter feed gets full of armchair critics on the day of the union budget presentation.



Asleep at the wheel

Meaning: Not paying attention to that which is important or for which one is responsible in critical times.

Usage: We would have won if our wicket keeper hadn't fallen asleep at the wheel!



Away with the fairies

Meaning: Seeming eccentric, distracted, or a bit crazy.

Usage: I can't follow what your uncle is talking about—it's like he's away with the fairies all of a sudden.



Leave somebody holding the baby

Meaning: To make someone responsible for a problem that nobody else wants to deal with.

Usage: The other investors pulled out of the project and we were left holding the baby.



Back of beyond

Meaning: Very distant or remote.

Usage: This private island resort is really back of the beyond.



Back to the salt mines

Meaning: Back to one's job or daily work, especially when it is very hard or unpleasant.

Usage: I'm not excited to get back to the salt mines on Monday.



Backhanded compliment

Meaning: An unintended or ambiguous compliment.

Usage: She told him that he looked much better than he usually did, which was a bit of a backhanded compliment.



Backroom boys

Meaning: People like scientists, advisors, researchers, etc. who do important work but do not have direct contact with the public.

Usage: It's thanks to the back-room boys more than to the sales team that the product is such a success.



In the balance

Meaning: If a situation is in the balance, it has reached a stage where it will soon be decided one way or another.

Usage: The game hung in the balance until the super-over.



Basket case

Meaning: Someone who is viewed as emotionally unstable and unable to function in normal situations.

Usage: She will turn into a basket case if this stressful situation continues.



Batten down the hatches

Meaning: To prepare for a challenging situation.

Usage: My mother-in-law is coming to town this weekend, so I better batten down the hatches.



Beard the lion (or someone) in his den

Meaning: To confront someone on his or her own territory.

Usage: If you don't face it and beard the lion in his den, you will never achieve the success you truly desire.



Bet your bottom dollar

Meaning: Be certain that something will happen.

Usage: Oh, you can bet your bottom dollar that Rahul will be late tonight—he's never on time!



For the birds

Meaning: Worthless, stupid, or completely undesirable.

Usage: This journal is for the birds. It's a waste of time.



Bide your time

Meaning: To wait patiently for a good opportunity to do something.

Usage: Pankaj is just biding his time until the right job comes along.



Blot one's copy book

Meaning: To tarnish, damage, or ruin one's reputation by behaving badly or committing some mistake.

Usage: He paid back the money he had stolen, but he had blotted his copy book and couldn't hope for a promotion.



Blue/green around the gills

Meaning: Nauseated or unwell.

Usage: How about a little air? I feel a little blue around the gills.



Bow and scrape

Meaning: To show too much politeness or attention to someone.

Usage: It's embarrassing to see people bowing and scraping to the new boss.



Get down to brass tacks

Meaning: To focus on the most important aspects of a particular situation.

Usage: We finally got down to brass tacks and decided to work out a schedule for the project.



Be on the breadline

Meaning: To be extremely poor.

Usage: If I don't make a big sale this week, my family will be on the breadline in no time.



Break fresh ground

Meaning: To do something innovative or pioneering.

Usage: The biotech firm is breaking new ground in cancer research.



Breathe down someone's neck

Meaning: To monitor someone very closely, usually in an irritating way.

Usage: The atmosphere at work isn't great; the boss keeps breathing down our necks all the time.



Bring the house down

Meaning: To give a very successful performance.

Usage: Chitranshu is a rising star as a stand-up comedian, always able to bring the house down during each performance.



Busman's holiday

Meaning: A vacation that is spent engaging in an activity that is similar to what one does for work.

Usage: A fire crew's Christmas outing turned into a busman's holiday when their coach caught fire.



Butter wouldn't melt in mouth

Meaning: It is used when someone looks as if they would never do anything wrong, although you feel they might.

Usage: Shubham looks as if butter wouldn't melt in his mouth, but don't be fooled by first impressions!



Can of worms

Meaning: A situation that is very complicated, unpleasant & difficult to deal with.

Usage: This political scandal is a real can of worms. Let's not open that can of worms!



Burn the candle at both ends

Meaning: To exhaust someone's energies or resources by leading a hectic life.

Usage: Working and studying at the same time has led to me having to burn the candle at both ends.



Cash in your chips

Meaning: If you cash in your chips, you sell something, such as your investments, in order to raise money.

Usage: Ravi cashed in his chips as soon as business started to slow down.



Assignment:

1. Backseat driver
2. Have bats in belfry
3. At someone's beck and call
4. Beyond recall
5. Break the mould
6. Have a brush with
7. The game is not worth the candle



Thanks a lot for watching!



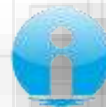
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