

SR	IDIOM	MEANING	EXAMPLE	TOPIC
1	above board	If a situation or business is described as above board, it is open, honest and legal.	There are not secret negotiations. Our dealings have always been above board.	Honesty - Dishonesty
2	barefaced liar	Someone who lies easily, with a total lack of shame, is a barefaced liar.	That barefaced liar stole my watch and said he'd found it!	Honesty - Dishonesty
3	bend the truth	If you bend the truth, you say something that is not entirely true.	Ok, I bent the truth a bit. I told him it was my natural colour, but I didn't say that my hairdresser helped me to keep it natural!	Honesty - Dishonesty
4	(the) benefit of the doubt	If you give someone the benefit of the doubt, you choose to believe that the person is innocent, honest or telling the truth, because there is no evidence to the contrary.	Although he found it hard to believe Tom's explanation, the teacher decided to give him the benefit of the doubt.	Honesty - Dishonesty
5	black market	The black market refers to the illegal buying and selling of goods or currencies.	Be careful of what you buy on the black market - it's not always good quality.	Honesty - Dishonesty
6	break every rule in the book	If you behave in a completely unacceptable way, you break every rule in the book.	Our competitors obtained the contract by breaking every rule in the book.	Honesty - Dishonesty
7	buy a lemon	If you buy something, especially a car, that is defective, unsatisfactory, constantly gives trouble or stops running after a short time, you buy a lemon.	The car I bought was a real lemon. It broke down two weeks later.	Honesty - Dishonesty
8	in cahoots with someone	If one person is in cahoots with another, they are working in close partnership, usually conspiring to do something dishonest.	There was a rumour that the Mayor was in cahoots with a chain of supermarkets.	Honesty - Dishonesty
9	put/lay one's cards on the table	If you put (or lay) your cards on the table, you speak honestly and openly about your feelings and intentions.	Let's be honest with each other and put our cards on the table.	Honesty - Dishonesty
10	catch red-handed	If a person is caught red-handed, they are caught while they are doing something wrong or illegal.	The police arrived as the burglar was leaving the house. He was caught red-handed.	Honesty - Dishonesty
11	cook the books	A person who cooks the books is one who changes the facts or figures in the financial accounts, often in order to steal money.	The actor discovered after a while that his agent was cooking the books.	Honesty - Dishonesty

12	(as) crooked as a dog's hind leg	To say that someone is as crooked as a dog's hind leg means that they are very dishonest indeed.	He can't be trusted - he's as crooked as a dog's hind leg.	Honesty - Dishonesty
13	daylight robbery	The term daylight robbery is used when the price of something is thought to be much too high.	\$10 for an orange juice? That's daylight robbery!	Honesty - Dishonesty
14	economical with the truth	To say that a person is economical with the truth means that, without actually lying, they omit important facts or give incomplete information.	The politician was accused of being economical with the truth.	Honesty - Dishonesty
15	(at) face value	If you take something at its face value, you assume that it is genuinely what it appears to be.	The car seems to be in good condition, but don't take it at its face value; get a mechanic to check it out.	Honesty - Dishonesty
16	fair and square	If something is obtained or won fair and square, it is done in an honest and open manner, the rules are respected and there is no cheating or lying.	Gavin won the competition fair and square - there was no doubt about the result.	Honesty - Dishonesty
17	fall off the back of a lorry	Goods that have fallen off the back of a lorry are stolen goods.	Judging by the price of that camera, it must have fallen off the back of a lorry!	Honesty - Dishonesty
18	false pretences	If you obtain something under false pretences, you deceive others by lying about your identity, qualifications, financial or social position, in order to get what you want.	The journalist obtained the interview under false pretences.	Honesty - Dishonesty
19	five finger discount	If somebody gets a five-finger discount, they take something without paying. In other words, they steal.	How could he afford that watch? Who knows - perhaps with a five-finger discount!	Honesty - Dishonesty
20	fly-by-night	A fly-by-night person, business or venture is considered untrustworthy because they operate briefly and disappear overnight.	I bought it in one of those fly-by-night stores and now I can't exchange it. The place has closed down.	Honesty - Dishonesty
21	funny business	A business which is conducted in a deceitful, dishonest or unethical manner is called funny business.	I've got suspicions about that association. I think they're up to some funny business.	Honesty - Dishonesty

22	grease someone's palm	If you accuse someone of greasing somebody's palm, you are accusing them of giving money to someone in order to gain an unfair advantage or to obtain something they want.	In some countries, it is common practice to grease government officials' palms.	Honesty - Dishonesty
23	hand in glove	Two or more people who are in collusion, or work in close association, are said to be hand in glove.	After the match, it was discovered that he was hand in glove with the referee.	Honesty - Dishonesty
24	hairy at the heel	A person who is hairy at the heel is thought to be untrustworthy or even dangerous.	Rumour has it that the owner of the club is a bit hairy at the heel.	Honesty - Dishonesty
25	(not) have a leg to stand on	To say that someone does not have a leg to stand on means that they cannot prove that what they are saying is true.	Three people testified against him. He didn't have a leg to stand on.	Honesty - Dishonesty
26	ill-gotten gains	Money, profit or benefits that are made in a dishonest or illegal manner are called ill-gotten gains.	He won money by cheating and is now enjoying his ill-gotten gains.	Honesty - Dishonesty
27	in trouble with the law	If someone is in trouble with the law, they are being questioned by the police in connection with something illegal or criminal.	The suspect has often been in trouble with the law.	Honesty - Dishonesty
28	lead up the garden path	If someone leads you up the garden path, they deliberately deceive you by giving you misleading information or by not keeping a promise you believed to be sincere.	I still haven't got the promotion I was promised. I think my boss is leading me up the garden path!	Honesty - Dishonesty
29	on the level	If you say that someone is on the level, you are referring to a truthful or honest person.	Tell me straight : Is he on the level or not?	Honesty - Dishonesty
30	lie one's way in/out of	If you obtain something or get out of a situation by telling lies, you lie your way in or out of it.	He lied his way into a well-paid position.	Honesty - Dishonesty
31	lie through one's teeth	If you lie through your teeth, you lie openly and brazenly, knowing that what you are saying is completely false.	I saw him breaking the window. If he denies it, he's lying through his teeth.	Honesty - Dishonesty

32	live a lie	If you spend your life hiding something important about yourself, or inventing something which is not true, you live a lie.	To hide his humble origins, he told his wife he had no family and spent his life living a lie.	Honesty - Dishonesty
33	money laundering	When people launder money, they manage to conceal the source of illegally-obtained money so that it is believed to be legitimate.	Certain countries have been accused of facilitating money laundering.	Honesty - Dishonesty
34	monkey business	An activity which is organised in a deceitful or dishonest way is called monkey business.	The results announced seem suspicious - I think there's some monkey business going on.	Honesty - Dishonesty
35	oldest trick in the book	A well-known and much-used trick, which is still effective today, is called the oldest trick in the book.	He made a noise to attract my attention while his accomplice stole my wallet - the oldest trick in the book!	Honesty - Dishonesty
36	on the level	If you say that someone is on the level, you are referring to an honest and truthful person.	Tell me straight - is he on the level or not?	Honesty - Dishonesty
37	(a) a pack of lies	A large number of untruthful statements is referred to as a pack of lies.	The story about her unhappy childhood turned out to be a pack of lies.	Honesty - Dishonesty
38	play the game	If you play the game, you accept to do things according to generally-accepted customs or code of behaviour.	Not all website owners play the game. Some download content from other sites without permission.	Honesty - Dishonesty
39	play games with someone	If you are not completely honest, or behave in a way that is insincere, evasive or intentionally misleading, you are playing games with someone.	Look, stop playing games with us. Just tell us if you're interested in the project or not.	Honesty - Dishonesty
40	play by the rules	If you play by the rules, you behave in a fair and honest way with people.	You can trust him, don't worry. He always plays by the rules.	Honesty - Dishonesty
41	pull a fast one on somebody	To pull a fast one means to gain an advantage over someone by deceiving them.	The street vendor pulled a fast one on Tom. He sold him a big bunch of roses but wrapped a smaller bunch while Tom was taking out his wallet.	Honesty - Dishonesty
42	(a) rip-off	To say that something is a rip-off means that it costs much more than it should.	\$15 for an orange juice? That's a rip-off!	Honesty - Dishonesty

43	(the) scales fall from your eyes	When the scales fall from your eyes, you finally understand the truth about something.	It was only when he was arrested for theft that the scales fell from my eyes and I realised where his money came from.	Honesty - Dishonesty
44	shady deal	A suspicious, dishonest or illegal arrangement or transaction is known as a shady deal.	The two sons were always involved in their father's shady deals.	Honesty - Dishonesty
45	sharp practice	Trying to achieve something by using underhand, deceitful or dishonourable means, that are barely within the law, is called sharp practice.	That company is under investigation for sharp practice so it's better to avoid dealing with them.	Honesty - Dishonesty
46	short end of the stick	If you get the short end of the stick, you are treated unfairly or receive less than what is due or is deserved.	They reached an agreement but Sophie felt she got the short end of the stick.	Honesty - Dishonesty
47	shoulder surfing	The practice of looking over somebody's shoulder when they are using a computer, cash dispenser or other electronic device, in order to obtain personal information (identification, account number, password, etc.) is called shoulder surfing.		Honesty - Dishonesty
48	siphon off	If someone siphons something off, they transfer something from one place to another, often illegally.	It was discovered that he had siphoned off money from the business into an account in a tax haven.	Honesty - Dishonesty
49	smoke and mirrors	An attempt to conceal or distort the truth (like a magician) in order to confuse people is called smoke and mirrors.	The outgoing president used smoke and mirrors to make the situation look better.	Honesty - Dishonesty
50	(a) smokescreen	A smokescreen is an action or tactic intended to conceal or divert attention from your real intentions or activities.	His travel business was just a smokescreen for his political activities.	Honesty - Dishonesty
51	(a) smoking gun	A smoking gun is a piece of evidence or the indisputable sign of someone's guilt.	The fingerprints left on the door-handle was the smoking gun that enabled the police to arrest him.	Honesty - Dishonesty
52	sow the seeds of suspicion	If someone's behaviour, or something they say, sows the seeds of suspicion, it leads people to suspect that they are guilty.	The fact that the boy spent a lot of money after the burglary sowed the seeds of suspicion in the neighbours' minds.	Honesty - Dishonesty

53	spin a yarn	If you spin a yarn, you tell a story, usually a long improbable one, with distorted truths.	He failed the exam and spun a yarn about the exam papers being stolen.	Honesty - Dishonesty
54	spit it out!	This expression is used to urge someone who is hesitant or fearful to stop stalling or stammering and say what they have to say.	Come on Tommy ! Just spit it out and tell us what happened !	Honesty - Dishonesty
55	(have) sticky fingers	Someone who has sticky fingers has a tendency to steal.	Items have been disappearing from the stock recently. Do any of the employees have sticky fingers?	Honesty - Dishonesty
56	(as) straight as an arrow	Someone who is as straight as an arrow is a morally upright person who is extremely honest.	You can leave the keys with Andy. He's as straight as an arrow.	Honesty - Dishonesty
57	stretch the truth	When you stretch the truth, you exaggerate the facts or say things that are not exactly true.	Some candidates are tempted to stretch the truth about their skills or work experience.	Honesty - Dishonesty
58	sweetheart deal	The term sweetheart deal is used to refer to an abnormally lucrative arrangement between two parties.	Opponents say the contract was awarded to the builder as part of a sweetheart deal, and is therefore illegal.	Honesty - Dishonesty
59	take something with a pinch of salt	If you are told to take something with a grain of salt, you are being warned that the information may not be completely true, accurate or reliable.	What you read in that newspaper should be taken with a pinch of salt!	Honesty - Dishonesty
60	take someone for a ride	To take someone for a ride means to cheat or deceive them.	I discovered he had charged me double the normal fee. He really took me for a ride!	Honesty - Dishonesty
61	(be) taken to the cleaners	If someone is taken to the cleaners, they lose a lot of money in an unfair way, usually by being robbed or cheated.	When the company Tom had invested in went bankrupt, he realized he had been taken to the cleaners.	Honesty - Dishonesty
62	(a) tall story	A tall story is a story which is difficult to believe because it sounds unlikely.	What he said about a stolen invention sounds like a tall story to me.	Honesty - Dishonesty
63	the truth will out	This expression means that despite efforts to conceal the facts, the truth cannot be hidden forever.	I don't know if the police gave the full details, but inevitably truth will out.	Honesty - Dishonesty
64	throw dust in someone's eyes	If you throw dust in someone's eyes, you prevent them from seeing the truth by misleading them.	He threw dust in the old lady's eyes by pretending to be a police officer, then stole her jewellery.	Honesty - Dishonesty

65	armchair critic	An armchair critic is someone who gives advice based on theory rather than practice.	That guy is such an armchair critic- no experience but plenty of advice.	House, Furniture And Fittings
66	armchair traveller	Someone who reads books or watches TV programmes about other places and countries, but doesn't actually travel anywhere, is called an armchair traveller.	A surprising number of adventure books are bought by armchair travellers.	House, Furniture And Fittings
67	basket case	A person whose agitated mental state leaves them helpless or unable to cope with things is called a basket case.	Jenny will turn into a basket case if this stressful situation continues.	House, Furniture And Fittings
68	wet blanket	To refer to someone as a wet blanket means that they spoil other people's fun, or make an event less enjoyable than it could have been.	Come on Mike! Don't be such a wet blanket. You're spoiling the party!	House, Furniture And Fittings
69	you can't put new wine into old bottles	This expression means that you should not try to combine new concepts or innovations with an old or long-established framework or system.	You'll never get that program to work on your father's old computer - you can't put new wine into old bottles.	House, Furniture And Fittings
70	bucket list	A bucket list is a list of things a person would like to do or achieve before a certain age or before dying.	I have never visited the pyramids of Egypt but they're on my bucket list.	House, Furniture And Fittings
71	kick the bucket	To kick the bucket is a lighthearted way of talking about death.	He will inherit when his grandfather kicks the bucket!	House, Furniture And Fittings
72	not the brightest bulb in the box	This expression is used to say that someone is not very intelligent.	Max has failed the exam for the third time! He's obviously not the brightest bulb in the box!	House, Furniture And Fittings
73	burn the candle at both ends	If you burn the candle at both ends, you exhaust yourself by doing too much, especially going to bed late and getting up early.	Scott looks exhausted - I'll bet he's been burning the candle at both ends lately.	House, Furniture And Fittings
74	can't hold a candle to somebody	If one person can't hold a candle to another, they are much less competent or do not perform as well as the other.	John is very intelligent but he can't hold a candle to his brother Paul when it comes to sports.	House, Furniture And Fittings

75	roll out the red carpet	To roll out the red carpet means to give special treatment to an important or honoured visitor.	The management is going to roll out the red carpet for the visit of the Nobel prize winner.	House, Furniture And Fittings
76	glass ceiling	Th term glass ceiling refers to a discriminatory barrier perceived by women and minorities that prevents them from rising to positions of power or responsibility.	Claire knew she would never break the glass ceiling and rise to a senior management position.	House, Furniture And Fittings
77	smoke like a chimney	Someone who smokes a large amount of tobacco on a regular basis is said to smoke like a chimney.	My grandfather used to smoke like a chimney.	House, Furniture And Fittings
78	clock in/out	When you clock in or out, you record the time you arrive or leave your job by punching a time clock to the show the number of hours you have worked.	I'm going to clock out early today. I've got a dental appointment	House, Furniture And Fittings
79	couch potato	If you refer to someone as a couch potato, you criticize them for spending a lot of time sitting and watching television.	Don't be such a couch potato. There are better ways of spending your time than in front of the TV.	House, Furniture And Fittings
80	rob the cradle	If you rob the cradle, you have a romantic relationship with someone who is much younger than yourself.	My uncle Ted is dating a twenty-year-old girl. That's really robbing the cradle!	House, Furniture And Fittings
81	darken somebody's door	If you darken somebody's door, you come as an unwanted or unwelcome visitor.	Just get out of here and never darken my door again!	House, Furniture And Fittings
82	the door swings both ways	If you say that the door swings both ways, you mean that the same principle or argument applies to both sides of a situation.	You never call me. You don't contact me either. The door swings both ways you know!	House, Furniture And Fittings
83	opens doors	If something opens doors, it provides opportunities or possibilities for the future.	A degree from a top university generally opens doors to major companies.	House, Furniture And Fittings
84	(as) dead as a doornail	This expression is used to stress that a person or thing is very definitely dead.	They've started fighting again, so the peace agreement is now as dead as a doornail.	House, Furniture And Fittings
85	out of the frying pan, into the fire	This expression means to go from one difficult situation to another one which is usually even worse.	The flight was delayed because of snow. When the plane eventually took off, it had to turn back because of engine trouble - out of the frying pan into the fire!	House, Furniture And Fittings

86	hammer (something) home	If you hammer home a point or an argument, you repeat it often to make sure that it is fully understood.	The policeman hammered home the dangers of drinking and driving.	House, Furniture And Fittings
87	hammer and tongs	If people are going at it hammer and tongs, they are arguing fiercely, with a lot of energy and noise.	Our neighbours are going at it hammer and tongs again. They're constantly arguing.	House, Furniture And Fittings
88	fly off the handle	A person who flies off the handle becomes suddenly very angry.	Dad flew off the handle when I told him I had damaged his new car.	House, Furniture And Fittings
89	bring the house down	If you bring the house down, you give a very successful performance.	If he sings like that on Saturday, he'll bring the house down.	House, Furniture And Fittings
90	eat you out of house and home	This is a humorous way of saying that someone is eating large quantities of your food.	I stock up with food when my teenage sons invite their friends over. They'd eat you out of house and home!	House, Furniture And Fittings
91	get on like a house on fire	Two people who get on like a house on fire have similar interests and quickly become good friends.	As soon as Sarah met her brother's girlfriend, they got on like a house on fire.	House, Furniture And Fittings
92	not give house room	If you refuse to give house room to someone or something, you do not accept them into your home because you dislike or disapprove of them.	I wouldn't give house room to that painting - it's grotesque!	House, Furniture And Fittings
93	on the house	Something which is on the house is offered free of charge, usually in a bar or restaurant.	The new owner of the pub offered us a drink on the house.	House, Furniture And Fittings
94	put one's house in order	If you tell someone to put their house in order, you are saying that they should organise their own affairs or take care of their own problems before giving advice to other people.	You should put your house in order before telling me what to do!	House, Furniture And Fittings
95	a different kettle of fish	To describe a person, thing or situation as a different kettle of fish means that it is completely different from what has just been mentioned, or another matter entirely.	You may have good business relations with people there, but actually living in the country is a different kettle of fish.	House, Furniture And Fittings
96	not the sharpest knife in the drawer	'Sharp' means 'clever' or 'intelligent'. This expression is used to say that someone is not very intelligent.	Nobody was surprised when Johnny misunderstood the message. We all know he's not the sharpest knife in the drawer!	House, Furniture And Fittings

97	under the knife	If a person goes under the knife, they have surgery.	I'm not worried about the anaesthetic. I've been under the knife several times.	House, Furniture And Fittings
98	(have a) light bulb moment	A light bulb moment is when you have a sudden moment of inspiration, comprehension or realization.	Harry had a light-bulb moment when he finally understood what was blocking the mechanism.	House, Furniture And Fittings
99	not the brightest bulb in the box	'Bright' means 'clever' or 'intelligent'. This expression is used to say that someone is not very intelligent.	Max has failed the exam for the third time! He's obviously not the brightest bulb in the box!	House, Furniture And Fittings
100	strike while the iron is hot	If you strike while the iron is hot, you act immediately because now is the ideal time to do it.	The price of property has dropped. It's a good time to buy. You should strike while the iron is hot.	House, Furniture And Fittings
101	see (something) in a new light	If you see something in a new light, you view it in a way that makes you change the opinion you had before.	After listening to my colleague, I began to see things in a new light.	House, Furniture And Fittings
102	(a) mug's game	An unprofitable or ill-advised activity that only a fool (mug) would do is called a mug's game.	Spending hours making home-made cakes for a few customers is a mug's game.	House, Furniture And Fittings
103	(the) big picture	If you talk about the big picture, you refer to the overall situation, or the project as a whole rather than the details.	While each aspect is important, try not to forget the big picture.	House, Furniture And Fittings
104	(the) picture of health	Someone who looks the picture of health looks extremely healthy.	Nice to see you again Mr. Brown. I must say you look the picture of health!	House, Furniture And Fittings
105	a picture is worth a thousand words	This expression means that a picture can give just as much information as a large amount of descriptive text.	Look at the picture of the crash! A picture is worth a thousand words isn't it?	House, Furniture And Fittings
106	get the picture	A person who gets the picture understands what is being explained or described.	The alarm went off and people started running everywhere - you get the picture I'm sure!	House, Furniture And Fittings
107	put (someone) in the picture	If you give somebody all the information necessary to enable them to fully understand a situation, you put them in the picture.	Some changes were made during your absence. Let me put you in the picture.	House, Furniture And Fittings
108	a lot on your plate	If someone has a lot on their plate, they are extremely busy or have several problems to handle at the same time.	It's not a good time to discuss the problem with David. He's got a lot on his plate at the moment.	House, Furniture And Fittings

109	(want someone's) head on a platter	If someone makes you so angry that you want them to be punished, you want their head on a platter.	He was so angry when he read the article about his family that he wanted the journalist's head on a platter.	House, Furniture And Fittings
110	poker face	If you have a poker face, you show no emotion at all.	All during the trial the criminal kept a poker face.	House, Furniture And Fittings
111	the pot calling the kettle black	This expression is used in a situation where a person with a fault criticizes someone else for having the same fault.	After being disqualified for not obeying the rules, the player accused another competitor of cheating; it was the pot calling the kettle black!	House, Furniture And Fittings
112	(take) pot luck	If you take pot luck, you accept whatever is available without knowing what it will be like.	We were so hungry we decided to take pot luck and stopped at the first restaurant we saw.	House, Furniture And Fittings
113	hit the roof / go through the roof	If someone hits the roof or goes through the roof, they become very angry.	My father went through the roof when Paul damaged his new car.	House, Furniture And Fittings
114	raise the roof	When people raise the roof, they make a lot of noise by cheering, shouting, whistling or clapping their hands.	The concert was such a success, the audience raised the roof.	House, Furniture And Fittings
115	scales fall from your eyes	When the scales fall from your eyes, you finally understand the truth about something.	It was only when he was arrested for theft that the scales fell from my eyes and I understood where his money came from.	House, Furniture And Fittings
116	sweep (something) under the rug	If you sweep something under the rug (or carpet), you try to hide it because it is embarrassing.	The family tried unsuccessfully to sweep the scandal under the rug.	House, Furniture And Fittings
117	(have a) brain/memory like a sieve	Someone who has a brain (or memory) like a sieve has a very bad memory and forgets things easily.	Oh, I forgot to buy the bread - I've got a brain like a sieve these days!	House, Furniture And Fittings
118	(like) pouring water into a sieve	If someone spends time or energy trying to do something that is inefficient or useless, it is like pouring water into a sieve.	Danny's mother used to say that teaching him good behaviour was like pouring water into a sieve.	House, Furniture And Fittings
119	born with a silver spoon in one's mouth	A person who is born with a silver spoon in their mouth is born into a very rich family.	She never has to worry about money; she was born with a silver spoon in her mouth.	House, Furniture And Fittings
120	another string to your bow	If you have another string to your bow, you have another skill or possible course of action if everything else fails.	As well as her excellent qualifications, she's got another string to her bow to help her find a job. She speaks fluent Chinese.	House, Furniture And Fittings

121	no strings attached	An offer 'with no strings attached' is an offer made without conditions or restrictions, and requires nothing in return.	I managed to get a loan with no strings attached.	House, Furniture And Fittings
122	put/lay your cards on the table	If you put (or lay) your cards on the table, you speak honestly and openly about your feelings and intentions.	Let's put our cards on the table and discuss the problem.	House, Furniture And Fittings
123	(a) storm in a teacup	To refer to something as a storm in a teacup means that people are making a lot of unnecessary fuss or getting excited about something unimportant.	They were arguing about who should go to the supermarket, but it was just a storm in a teacup.	House, Furniture And Fittings
124	as useful as a chocolate teapot	Something which is of no practical use at all is about as useful as a chocolate teapot.	When there are no roads, a car is about as useful as a chocolate teapot!	House, Furniture And Fittings
125	not ther sharpest tool in the shed	'Sharp' means 'clever' or 'intelligent'. This expression is used to say that someone is not very intelligent.	Trust Andy to misunderstand! Of course we know he's not the sharpest tool in the shed!	House, Furniture And Fittings
126	bang/knock your head against a brick wall	If you bang or knock your head against a brick wall, you continue vainly to try to achieve something in spite of several unsuccessful attempts.	I've been banging my head against a brick wall trying to explain the internet to my grandmother!	House, Furniture And Fittings
127	like talking to a brick wall	To say that a conversation with someone is like talking to brick wall means that communication is impossible because there is no reaction or response.	I tried to discuss the problem with him but it was like talking to a brick wall.	House, Furniture And Fittings
128	throw (something) over the wall	If someone throws something over the wall, they deal with part of a problem or project, then pass the responsibility to another person or department without any communication or coordination.	You can't just manufacture a product then throw it over the wall to the sales department!	House, Furniture And Fittings
129	(the) writing on the wall	This refers to a situation where there are signs showing that a problem is going to occur.	We all knew Larry was going to lose his job, but he refused to see the writing on the wall.	House, Furniture And Fittings

130	good walls make good neighbours	This expression means that respecting one another's privacy helps create a good relationship between neighbours.	We try not to disturb the people next door. Good walls make good neighbours!	House, Furniture And Fittings
131	bounce off the walls	Someone who is very excited about something, or full of nervous energy, is said to be bouncing off the walls.	Danny can't wait to start his new job. He's bouncing off the walls!	House, Furniture And Fittings
132	a window on the world	When something provides an opportunity to observe and learn about people and life in other countries, it is called a window on the world.	The internet has become a window on the world.	House, Furniture And Fittings
133	window shopping	When people go window shopping, they look at things in shop windows, without actually purchasing anything.	I haven't been paid yet, so I can only go window shopping.	House, Furniture And Fittings
134	go out the window	If a quality, principle or opportunity goes out the window, it disappears, is lost or is abandoned.	When the plant closed down, all hopes of finding a job went out the window.	House, Furniture And Fittings
135	(can't put) new wine in old bottles	This expression means that you should not try to combine new concepts or innovations with an old or long-established framework or system.	You'll never get that program to work on your father's old computer. You can't put new wine in old bottles!	House, Furniture And Fittings
136	wooden spoon	The person who finishes last in a race or competition receives an imaginary prize called the wooden spoon.	Our team got the wooden spoon in this year's tournament.	House, Furniture And Fittings
137	come out of the woodwork	When things, or people, come out of the woodwork, they appear or emerge unexpectedly, as if from nowhere, and usually in large numbers.	As soon as we added the swimming pool, our children had 'friends' coming out of the woodwork!	House, Furniture And Fittings
138	be on the ball	If you are on the ball, you are aware of what is happening and are able to deal with things quickly and intelligently.	We need someone who is really on the ball to head the fund-raising campaign.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
139	beat one's brains out	If someone beats their brains out, they try very hard to understand something or solve a problem.	My grandmother beats her brains out every evening trying to do the crossword puzzle in the newspaper.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

140	it beats me!	This expression is used to express surprise at something that you find difficult to understand.	It beats me how he can live in that horrible apartment!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
141	it's beyond me	To say 'it's beyond me' means that it is impossible for you to understand.	It's beyond me why Mary wants to marry John.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
142	blind you with science	If someone tries to blind you with science, they confuse you with their knowledge by using difficult or technical words.	When you ask Tim for a simple explanation, he blinds you with science.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
143	I wasn't born yesterday	This expression is used to indicate that you are not as foolish or as easily deceived as some people seem to think.	Stop inventing silly excuses. I wasn't born yesterday you know!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
144	(the) brains behind something	Someone who is the brains behind a project or action is the person thought to have planned and organised everything.	The police have arrested a man believed to be the brains behind the bank robbery.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
145	can't make head or tail of (something)	If you can't make head or tail of something, you can't understand it at all.	Amy's message was so confusing. I couldn't make head or tail of it!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
146	put on your thinking cap	If you tell someone to put their thinking cap on, you ask them to find an idea or solve a problem by thinking about it.	Now here's this week's quiz; it's time to put your thinking caps on!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
147	chinese arithmetic	If something is very complicated or difficult to understand, it is said to be like Chinese arithmetic.	When he tried to explain the rules of the game to me, it was like Chinese arithmetic!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
148	not have a clue	If you don't have a clue about something, you don't know anything about it.	My wife's grandmother's maiden name? I don't have a clue!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
149	collect one's thoughts	If you collect your thoughts, you try to think calmly and clearly in order to prepare yourself mentally for something.	Anne stopped to collect her thoughts before calling back the customer.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
150	come to grips with	If you come to grips with a problem or situation, you start to understand or deal with it properly.	After the initial shock, the patient began to come to grips with his disability.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
151	come to your senses	If you come to your senses you start to think clearly and behave sensibly.	She finally came to her senses and realized that public transport was faster than driving in the city.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

152	common ground	This expression refers to an area of shared beliefs, interests or mutual understanding between people or groups who often have disagreements.	Any common ground among the Mediterranean countries will contribute to future unity.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
153	common knowledge	When information is well-known to everyone (particularly in a community or group), it is called common knowledge.	You didn't know the intern was Jack's son? It thought it was common knowledge.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
154	credibility gap	The extent of disbelief, of the difference between what you are asked to believe and what you are able to believe, is called a credibility gap.	The growing credibility gap may lead to a serious loss of votes in the next elections.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
155	at cross purposes	If two people are at cross purposes, there is a misunderstanding as to what each one is talking about.	Look, we seem to be at cross purposes. You're talking about 'sailing' boats, but I'm talking about 'selling' boats.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
156	crystal clear	A statement or expression that is easy to understand or has an obvious meaning is crystal clear.	There's no need to repeat the instructions. They were crystal clear.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
157	dumbing down	If something, such as a television programme or a film production, is dumbed down, it is deliberately made less intelligent or less demanding in order to attract a larger audience.	Some TV channels are dumbing down their programmes in an attempt to increase their audience ratings.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
158	enough said	This expression is used to indicate that you completely understand the situation and you do not need any further details.	Your mother-in-law arrived unexpectedly last night? Enough said!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
159	eyes (wide) open	If you do something with your eyes open, you are fully aware of what you are doing.	I took on the job with my eyes wide open so I'm not complaining.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
160	facts speak for themselves	When the facts of a situation are so clear that no further explanation or extra details are necessary, the facts speak for themselves.	No need to tell you that the situation is disastrous. The facts speak for themselves.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

161	get someone's drift	If you get someone's drift, you understand in a general way what they are trying to say.	I didn't understand every word but I got the drift.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
162	get the message	If you get the message, you understand what someone is trying to tell you, even if it is expressed in actions or gestures rather than words.	When Tony pointed to his watch, I got the message - it was time to leave for the airport.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
163	get the picture	A person who gets the picture understands what is being explained or described.	The alarm went off and people started running everywhere - you get the picture I'm sure!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
164	(it's all) greek to me!	This expression means that you do not understand what is being said or written or that you find it incomprehensible.	He showed us a complex diagram to illustrate his idea but it was all greek to me!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
165	get wise to something	If you get wise to something, you learn something that you were not aware of before.	The old man finally got wise to the fact that children were stealing apples from his garden.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
166	go over your head	If something said or written goes over your head, you find it too difficult to understand or follow.	"I always found mathematics difficult at school. The teacher's explanations just went over my head!"	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
167	grey matter	Grey matter refers to the brain, or the grey colour of brain tissue. The term is used to refer to comprehension.	Try using your grey matter and you might find the answer. said the teacher.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
168	hammer something home	If you hammer home a point or an argument, you repeat it often to make sure that it is fully understood.	The police hammered home the dangers of drinking and driving.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
169	hit the nail on the head	When you hit the nail on the head, you are absolutely right about something or have guessed the exact nature of a problem or situation.	You hit the nail on the head when you said Mark had money problems. He's lost his job.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
170	horse sense	Someone who has horse sense is a practical thinker who has the ability to make sensible decisions.	Don't worry. Andrew has good horse sense. He'll do the right thing.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
171	ignorance is bliss	To say 'ignorance is bliss' means that if you don't know about a problem or unpleasant fact, you won't worry about it.	I didn't know our neighbour was an escaped prisoner until the police arrived - ignorance is bliss!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

172	jump to conclusions	A person who jumps to conclusions reaches a decision or makes a judgement too fast, before taking the time to check out all the facts.	We haven't got the full story yet so let's not jump to conclusions.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
173	know better than to do something	If you know better than to do something, you are experienced or wise enough not to do it.	You should know better than to go sailing in stormy weather.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
174	know the ropes	Someone who knows the ropes is familiar with the way something is done and/or knows how to do it.	Charlie can fill in for Sam. He knows the ropes.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
175	know someone inside out	If you know someone inside out, you know them very well.	Sue and Anne have been friends since childhood. They know each other inside out.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
176	know the score	When you know the score, you are well-informed about a situation and know what to expect.	If Laura damages the car, her dad won't lend it to her again. She knows the score.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
177	know your own mind	If you know your own mind, you know what you want or like, and are capable of making a decision.	I don't want to influence you. You're old enough to know your own mind.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
178	know something like the back of your hand	If you know something like the back of your hand, you are very familiar with it or know it in detail.	Of course I won't get lost. I know London like the back of my hand!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
179	(not) know what hit you	If you don't know what hit you, you are so surprised, shocked or confused by something that you do not know how to react.	When I was told that I was the winner of the competition, I didn't know what hit me!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
180	know which side your bread is buttered	If you know which side your bread is buttered, you know where your interests lie or what will be to your advantage.	Paul never argues with his father-in-law. He knows which side his bread is buttered.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
181	learning curve	The length of time needed to learn something new is called the learning curve.	The new system has a long learning curve so we'll have to give the staff time to get used to it.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
182	light bulb moment	A light bulb moment is when you have a sudden moment of inspiration, comprehension or realization.	Harry had a light-bulb moment when he finally understood what was blocking the mechanism.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

183	see (something) in a new light	If you see something in a new light, you view it in a way that makes you change the opinion you had before.	After listening to my colleague, I began to see things in a new light.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
184	lose the plot	If a situation becomes so confusing that you are unable to understand what is happening or what you are supposed to do, you lose the plot.	His instructions were so long and confusing that I just lost the plot!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
185	lose the thread	If you lose the thread of a conversation or story, you are unable to follow it.	There were so many interruptions during the film that I completely lost the thread.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
186	(a) lost ball in high weeds	Someone who is totally confused, and doesn't know what they are doing or how to do it, is a lost ball in high weeds.	The new intern in a lost ball in high weeds - he has no idea now to begin the task he's been given.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
187	make sense of something	If you make sense of something, you understand it or find the meaning.	I couldn't make sense of the instructions.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
188	miss the point	If you miss the point you fail to understand the essential part of what has been said.	Sam missed the point. It's not the job that's the problem, it's the amount of work it involves for one person.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
189	not/never miss a trick	If a person never misses a trick, they are very alert and aware of everything that is happening around them.	The old lady next door will know if Bill is there or not - she never misses a trick!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
190	not playing with a full deck	Someone who is not playing with a full deck (of cards) lacks intelligence or does not have full mental abilities.	Old Mrs.Whitehead was not playing with a full deck when she bought that fancy lawnmower!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
191	not the brightest bulb in the box / not the sharpest knife in the drawer / not the sharpest tool in the shed	'Sharp' and 'bright' both mean 'clever' or 'intelligent'. These are a few of the expressions used to say that someone is not very intelligent. There are many others.	Max has failed the exam for the third time! He's obviously not the brightest bulb in the box! Nobody was surprised when Johnny misunderstood the message. We all know he's not the sharpest knife in the drawer!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
192	muddy the waters	If you muddy the waters, you make something less clear by giving confusing information.	I had difficulty understanding, and Alan's explanation just muddled the waters!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
193	(a) no-brainer	A decision or choice that requires little or no thought, because the best option is so obvious, is called a no-brainer.	The choice was between a cash refund or having the amount credited to my account - it was a no-brainer. I took the cash!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

194	out of your depth	If you are out of your depth, you are unable to understand a subject or deal with a situation because it is too difficult for you.	The level of the class was too high for me, so very quickly I felt out of my depth.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
195	out to lunch	To say that someone is out to lunch means that they seem to be either unaware of what's going on around them, or unable to understand what is happening.	He's hopeless as a leader - considered as 'out to lunch' by the group.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
196	the penny drops	When a person has difficulty understanding or realizing something, and then the penny drops, they finally understand.	The teasing continued for some time until the penny dropped and the boy realized it was a joke!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
197	put on your thinking cap	If you tell someone to put their thinking cap on, you ask them to find an idea or try to understand and solve a problem by thinking about it.	Now here's this week's quiz; it's time to put on your thinking caps!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
198	put (someone) in the picture	If you give somebody all the information necessary to enable them to fully understand a situation, you put them in the picture.	Some changes were made during your absence. Let me put you in the picture.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
199	put two and two together	A person who can is capable of reaching the right conclusion based on the information they have.	Forget your explanation. She won't believe you. She can put two and two together!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
200	quick off the mark	If someone is quick off the mark, they are quick to react to an event or take advantage of an opportunity.	You've got to be quick off the mark when stores announce special offers.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
201	quick/slow on the uptake	Someone who is quick or slow on the uptake is quick or slow to understand what is meant.	Please explain the problem in simple words - I'm a bit slow on the uptake!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
202	read between the lines	Someone who can read between the lines is able to understand something that has not been expressed clearly or openly.	Although it hadn't been announced that the plant was going to close down, he could read between the lines.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
203	rocket science	If you say 'it's not rocket science' or 'no need to be a rocket scientist', you are emphasizing that something presents no major difficulty.	Bob will explain how it works. Don't worry - it's not rocket science!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

204	(a) sharp cookie	Someone who is not easily fooled or deceived is a sharp cookie.	You can't fool my grandmother. She's a sharp cookie!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
205	(as) sharp as a tack	A person who is as sharp as a tack is able to think quickly and learn very fast.	You won't have to explain it to him twice. He's as sharp as a tack	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
206	shed light	If you shed light on something, you help to explain it or make it easier to understand.	It was hoped that the testimony of the witnesses would shed light on the causes of the accident.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
207	(a) smart alec	A smart alec is an annoying self-assertive person who tries to show off how clever they are.	Some smart alec interrupted the game claiming that the answers were incorrect!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
208	spoon-feed someone	If a person is spoon-fed, they are helped too much when trying to understand something or solve a problem rather than encouraged to think by themselves or use their own initiative.	Some teachers tend to spoon-feed their pupils.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
209	street smart/street wise	A person who is street-smart or streetwise has enough experience and knowledge about life in the city to be able to deal with difficult or dangerous situations.	The kids living in this area are all street-smart - they're in less danger than us.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
210	strike home	When somebody's comments or remarks strike home, they make you fully understand the situation.	The seriousness of his injuries struck home as he listened to the surgeon.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
211	suss out	If you suss out something, such as a problem or a situation, you examine it and manage to understand it.	Ask Jack to explain - he's got it all sussed out!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
212	tech savvy	People who are tech savvy have sufficient technical knowledge and skills to be comfortable using computers and other electronic devices.	Many students are more tech-savvy than their teachers.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
213	there is one born every minute	This expression means that there are many people in the world who are stupid or easily fooled.	He really believed the boy found the money on the street? There's one born every minute!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

214	think on your feet	A person who thinks on their feet is capable of understanding information quickly, adjusting rapidly to new developments and making quick decisions.	Good lawyers need to be able to think on their feet when pleading a case.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
215	think outside the box	People who think outside the box try to find innovative ideas or solutions, or new ways of doing things.	Our competitors are more creative than us - they really think outside the box!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
216	tie yourself up in knots	If you tie yourself up in knots, you become totally confused or confuse others when trying to explain something.	Sandy tied herself up in knots trying to explain the rules of the game.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
217	tunnel vision	If a person has tunnel vision, they focus on only one aspect of something, or they are unable to see more than one way of doing things.	Our manager has tunnel vision. He sees no reason to change anything.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
218	use one's noodle	If you use your noodle, you use your brain or your common sense.	How did I figure that out? I just used my noodle!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
219	(a) walking encyclopaedia	This term refers to a person who is very knowledgeable about a lot of subjects.	The origin of Halloween? Ask Jill - she's a walking encyclopaedia!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
220	weigh pros and cons	If you weigh the pros and cons, you consider the advantages and disadvantages, the arguments for or against something, and try to understand the benefits and drawbacks of each alternative.	They weighed the pros and cons of the agreement before signing.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
221	weigh your words	If you weigh your words, you choose your words carefully in order to express exactly what you mean and avoid any misunderstanding.	At the press conference he spoke very clearly, weighing his words.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
222	get wires crossed	If people get their wires crossed, they misunderstand each other or are confused about what was said.	We must have got our wires crossed. I thought we were to meet at the hotel.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp

223	wise after the event	When, after something has happened, someone realises what could have been done to prevent it from happening, they are wise after the event.	I should have realised the boy was in difficulty and offered to help, but it's easy to be wise after the event.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
224	wise for their years / wise beyond their years	Someone who is wise for their years or wise beyond their years has more knowledge and experience that most people at their age.	She's still a child but she's wise beyond her years.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
225	wise up / get wise (to something)	If you wise up or get wise to something, you become fully aware of the facts and are no longer fooled.	When Mike finally wised up to the methods being used, he resigned from the company.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
226	none the wiser	If you do not know more about something after hearing or reading an explanation, or if you fail to find information on the subject, you are none the wiser.	I tried to understand the voting system but I was none the wiser after reading the explanation.	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
227	wrap your brain around (something)	If you concentrate on something in an effort to understand, you wrap your brain around it.	I need a translation of this report urgently, so wrap your brain around it fast!	Intelligence - Smartness - Comp
228	away with the fairies	Someone who is away with the fairies is in such a dreamy state that they are not totally in touch with reality and give the impression of being slightly mad.	It's no use trying to explain the problem to her - she's away with the fairies!	Madness - Insanity
229	go bananas	If someone becomes very emotional and starts behaving in a crazy way, they go bananas.	If you announce that you are going to drop out of school, your parents will go bananas!	Madness - Insanity
230	(a) basket case	A person whose agitated mental state leaves them helpless or unable to cope with things is called a basket case.	Jenny will turn into a basket case if this stressful situation continues.	Madness - Insanity
231	(have) bats in the belfry	If you say that somebody has bats in the belfry, you mean that they are eccentric or crazy.	He comes up with the craziest ideas - he must have bats in the belfry!	Madness - Insanity

232	have you gone out of your mind?	If you ask someone if they have gone out of their mind, you think they are crazy, foolish or insane.	You're going to ask for a 100% increase in salary? Have you gone out of your mind?	Madness - Insanity
233	the lights are on, but no one is home	This is a humorous way of referring to someone who is lacking intelligence or sanity, or to someone who is simply preoccupied and not paying attention.	Forget about Andy today - the lights are on but no one is home!	Madness - Insanity
234	lose one's marbles	If someone loses their marbles, they become mentally confused, or no longer behave sensibly or rationally.	The old man is acting very strangely. He seems to have lost his marbles.	Madness - Insanity
235	not all there	Someone who is not all there behaves strangely at times, or seems a bit odd.	Our new neighbour wears a hat and coat even in summer; he's not all there!	Madness - Insanity
236	not in one's right mind	Someone who is not in their right mind is not behaving in a logical or sensible way.	Julie wasn't in her right mind the day she bought that outfit. It doesn't suit her at all!	Madness - Insanity
237	not playing with a full deck (of cards)	Someone who is not playing with a full deck (of cards) lacks intelligence or does not have full mental abilities.	Old Mrs.Whitehead was not playing with a full deck when she bought that fancy lawnmower!	Madness - Insanity
238	go nuts	To say that a person has gone nuts means that they have become completely foolish, eccentric or mad.	I think the old lady has gone nuts! It's very hot today and she's wearing a fur coat!	Madness - Insanity
239	(as) nutty as a fruitcake	Someone who is (as) nutty as a fruitcake is insane or crazy.	Don't pay attention to what the old man says; he's as nutty as a fruitcake!	Madness - Insanity
240	off your rocker!	If you tell someone that they are off their rocker, you think they are completely crazy.	You're going to give all your money away? You're off your rocker!	Madness - Insanity
241	(have) rats in the attic	If you say that someone has rats in the attic, you mean that they are a bit mad or that their behaviour is eccentric.	She keeps repeating the same question. I think she's got rats in the attic.	Madness - Insanity
242	(have) a screw loose	If someone has a screw loose, their behaviour is strange and they appear slightly mad.	She wears a fur coat in the summer - she must have a screw loose!	Madness - Insanity
243	stark raving mad	To say that someone is stark raving mad means that they are completely crazy.	You're stark raving mad to go sailing in this weather.	Madness - Insanity

244	stir crazy	If a person goes stir-crazy, they become very agitated or nervous because they have been confined to a place for too long.	After several days in quarantine, people were going stir-crazy.	Madness - Insanity
245	take leave of one's senses	To say to someone 'have you taken leave of your senses?' means that you think their behaviour is crazy.	You're going skiing in this blizzard? Have you taken leave of your senses?	Madness - Insanity
246	bear in mind	If a person asks you to bear something in mind, they are asking you to remember it because it is important.	You must bear in mind that the cost of living is higher in New York.	Memory
247	(have a) brain/memory like a sieve	Someone who has a brain like a sieve has a very bad memory and forgets things easily.	Oh, I forgot to buy the bread - I've got a brain like a sieve these days!	Memory
248	have (something) down pat	If you memorise or practise something until you know it perfectly or have it exactly right, you have it down pat.)	I rehearsed my presentation until I had it down pat.	Memory
249	have (something) on the brain	If you have something on the brain, you think or talk about it all constantly.A	Stop talking about golf. You've got golf on the brain!	Memory
250	go in one ear and come out the other	To say that information goes in one ear and comes out the other means that it is immediately forgotten or ignored.	I keep telling him about the risks but it goes in one ear and out the other. He never listens!	Memory
251	jog someone's memory	When you help someone to remember something they have forgotten, you jog their memory.	You don't remember who was with us that day? Here's a photograph to jog your memory.	Memory
252	lose your train of thought	If you forget what you were saying, for example after a disturbance or interruption, you lose your train of thought.	Now where was I? I'm afraid I've lost my train of thought.	Memory
253	if my memory serves me well	If your memory serves you well, you remember correctly or you have not forgotten any details.	You're Stella's daughter, if my memory serves me well.	Memory
254	in your mind's eye	If you can visualise something, or see an image of it in your mind, you see it in your mind's eye.	I can see the village in my mind's eye but I can't remember the name.	Memory

255	jog someone's memory	When you help someone to remember something they have forgotten, you jog their memory.	You don't remember who was with us that day? Here's a photograph to jog your memory.	Memory
256	lose your train of thought	If you forget what you were saying, for example after a disturbance or interruption, you lose your train of thought.	Now what was I telling you? I'm afraid I've lost my train of thought.	Memory
257	refresh someone's memory	If you refresh someone's memory, you remind them of facts they seem to have forgotten.	Let me refresh your memory - you've already missed three classes this term.	Memory
258	ring a bell	If something rings a bell, it sounds familiar, but you don't remember the exact details.	John Bentley? The name rings a bell but I don't remember him.	Memory
259	(have a) senior moment	A momentary lapse of memory, especially in older people, or an absent-minded action such as putting the cereals in the refrigerator, is humorously referred to as having a senior moment.	I found the phone in the cupboard. I must have had a senior moment!	Memory
260	it slipped my mind	If something has slipped your mind, you have forgotten about it.	Oh dear! It slipped my mind that the shops were closed today!	Memory
261	(take a) trip down memory lane	If you take a trip (stroll or walk) down memory lane, you remember pleasant things that happened in the past.	Every Christmas is a trip down memory lane for the family when our parents take out the photograph albums.	Memory
262	back the wrong horse	If you back or bet on the wrong horse, for example the loser in a contest, match or election, you support the wrong person.	When I voted for him I was convinced he would win, but I backed the wrong horse!	Mistakes And Errors
263	bark up the wrong tree	A person who is barking up the wrong tree is doing the wrong thing, because their beliefs or ideas are incorrect or mistaken.	The police are barking up the wrong tree if they think Joey stole the car - he can't drive!	Mistakes And Errors
264	botch up/make a botch of (something)	If you spoil something, or make a mess of it, by doing a job badly or incorrectly, you make a botch of it or you botch it up.	Danny tried to assemble the new desk, but he made a botch of it.	Mistakes And Errors

265	eat crow / eat humble pie	If you eat crow or eat humble pie, you are forced to acknowledge that you were wrong about something and make an apology.	He had no option but to eat crow and admit that his analysis was wrong.	Mistakes And Errors
266	eat one's words	If you eat your words, you have to admit that you were mistaken in what you said.	After predicting disastrous results, he had to eat his words when he saw the success of the new product.	Mistakes And Errors
267	Freudian slip	A Freudian slip is a mistake made by a speaker which is considered to reveal their true thoughts or feelings.	So you got the job - I'm so sad ... Sorry, I mean 'glad'!	Mistakes And Errors
268	Himalayan blunder	If you stupidly make a serious mistake or error, you commit a Himalayan blunder.	Apparently he lost his job because of a Himalayan blunder.	Mistakes And Errors
269	overshoot the mark	If you go too far or go beyond what was intended, by misjudging something (situation, distance, amount, etc.), you overshoot the mark.	He tried not to spend too much but he overshot the mark by about 20%.	Mistakes And Errors
270	see the error of your ways	When someone sees the error of their ways, they understand that what they are doing is wrong and accept to change their behaviour.	He talked to a counsellor who tried to make him see the error of his ways.	Mistakes And Errors
271	swallow your pride	If you swallow your pride, you accept something humiliating or embarrassing, for example having to admit that you are wrong, or that you have less knowledge that you thought.	When Jill failed the exam, she had to swallow her pride and repeat the course.	Mistakes And Errors
272	swallow your words	If you swallow your words, you admit that you were wrong.	He said I'd never get the job, but he had to swallow his words when I was appointed.	Mistakes And Errors
273	trial and error	Attempting to achieve a satisfactory result by testing and eliminating various methods until the best one is found is called trial and error.	Some of the best cooks learn by trial and error.	Mistakes And Errors
274	wide of the mark	If something is (or falls) wide of the mark, it is incorrect or inadequate, or it is not what was expected.	The price offered was wide of the mark; it was sold for ten times more!	Mistakes And Errors

275	common knowledge	Common knowledge is information that is well-known to everyone.	"The intern is Jack's son – I thought that was common knowledge!"	Knowledge And Wisdom
276	know better than to do something	If you know better than to do something, you are experienced or wise enough not to do it.	You should know better than to go sailing in stormy weather.	Knowledge And Wisdom
277	know which side your bread is buttered	If you know where your interests lie or what will be to your advantage, you know which side your bread is buttered.	"Paul never argues with his father-in-law because he knows which side his bread is buttered.	Knowledge And Wisdom
278	know which way the wind is blowing	If you know which way the wind is blowing you know how a situation is developing in order to prepare for any changes.	Before we decide, we need to know which way the wind blowing."	Knowledge And Wisdom
279	know the ropes	Someone who knows the ropes is familiar with the way something is done or knows how to do it.	"Charlie can fill in for Sam. He knows the ropes.	Knowledge And Wisdom
280	know the score	If you know the score you are well-informed about a situation and know what to expect.	"If Laura damages the car, her dad won't lend it to her again. She knows the score.	Knowledge And Wisdom
281	know someone inside out	If you know someone inside out, you know them very well.	Sue and Anne have been friends since childhood. They know each other inside out.	Knowledge And Wisdom
282	know something like the back of your hand	If you know something like the back of your hand, you are very familiar with it or know it in detail.	Of course I won't get lost. I know London like the back of my hand!	Knowledge And Wisdom
283	know your own mind	If you know your own mind, you know what you want or like, and are capable of making a decision.	I don't want to influence you. You're old enough to know your own mind.	Knowledge And Wisdom
284	knowledge is power	This expression means that the more knowledge you have, the better your chances are of being successful, or the more control you will have over your future.		Knowledge And Wisdom

285	street smart/street wise	A person who is street-smart or streetwise has enough experience and knowledge about life in the city to be able to deal with difficult or dangerous situations.	The kids living in this area are all street-smart - they're in less danger than us.	Knowledge And Wisdom
286	tech savvy	People who are tech savvy have sufficient technical knowledge and skills to be comfortable using computers and other electronic devices.	Many students are more tech-savvy than their teachers.	Knowledge And Wisdom
287	(a) walking encyclopaedia	This term refers to a person who is very knowledgeable about a lot of subjects.	The origin of Halloween? Ask Jill - she's a walking encyclopaedia!	Knowledge And Wisdom
288	get wise to something	If you get wise to something, you learn something that you were not aware of before.	The old man finally got wise to the fact that children were stealing apples from his garden.	Knowledge And Wisdom
289	wise for their years / wise beyond their years	Someone who is wise for their years or wise beyond their years has more knowledge and experience that most people at their age.	She's still a child but she's wise beyond her years.	Knowledge And Wisdom
290	above board	If a situation or business is described as above board, it is open, honest and legal.	There are not secret negotiations. Our dealings have always been above board.	Law And Order
291	above the law	Someone who thinks they are above the law considers that they do not have to obey the laws that apply to everyone else.	Sometimes elected officials violate regulations because they think they are above the law.	Law And Order
292	accomplished fact (fait accompli)	Something that has been done or completed, before those affected by it can intervene or change it, is called an accomplished fact.	The changes in the regulations were never discussed. They were presented as an accomplished fact, for which the Chairman was severely criticised.	Law And Order
293	against one's better judgement	If you do something even though you feel it is not a sensible thing to do, you do it against your better judgement.	Bob persuaded her to go by car, against her better judgement, and she regretted it as soon as she saw the heavy traffic.	Law And Order
294	ambulance chaser	A lawyer who finds work by persuading people injured in accidents to claim money from the person who caused the accident is called an ambulance chaser.	Peterson and Scott are well-known ambulance chasers - that's how they make their money!	Law And Order

295	arm of the law	This expression refers to the extent to which the authority or power of the law extends.	He fled to South America hoping to escape the arm of the law.	Law And Order
296	bandit territory	A geographical area where law enforcement is practically impossible, because people ignore all rules, is called bandit territory.	There are a certain number of bandit territories in the world where travellers are advised not to go.	Law And Order
297	behind bars	Someone who is behind bars is in prison.	If you hang around with that gang, you'll find yourself behind bars in no time!	Law And Order
298	beyond reasonable doubt	This is a legal expression which means that something is certain.	The court established, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the man was innocent.	Law And Order
299	in black and white	This is a legal expression which means that something is certain.	The court established, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the man was innocent	Law And Order
300	blow the whistle	If you report an illegal or socially-harmful activity to the authorities, and give information about those responsible for it, you blow the whistle or you are a whistle-blower.	He refused to blow the whistle on his boss for fear of losing his job.	Law And Order
301	do something by the book	Someone who does something by the book does it by strictly following the rules.	If you want it done right, ask James. He does everything by the book!	Law And Order
302	breaking and entering	The term breaking and entering refers to the fact of entering a building or home illegally by breaking open a window, door, etc.	The two men were found guilty of breaking and entering.	Law And Order
303	brush with the law	When you have a brush with something, such as the law, you encounter or experience it briefly.	He had a brush with the law for speeding a few years ago, but he has had a clean record ever since.	Law And Order
304	burden of proof	The burden of proof is the necessity imposed by the law to prove that what one says is true.	The burden of proof lies with the claimant.	Law And Order
305	case in point	The term case in point refers to an example which serves to illustrate, support or prove a point which is currently under discussion.	Not even the most talented athlete is guaranteed a long career. The latest skiing accident is a case in point.	Law And Order

306	caught red-handed	If a person is caught red-handed, they are caught while they are doing something wrong or illegal.	The police arrived as the burglar was leaving the house. He was caught red-handed.	Law And Order
307	caveat emptor	This Latin expression, which means 'let the buyer beware', is a warning to customers that goods are for sale 'as is'. The buyer is purchasing the articles at his/her own risk and is responsible for examining them beforehand.	Caveat emptor is a principle to be remembered when buying second-hand goods.	Law And Order
308	crack down on	If the authorities crack down on something, they enforce the law by taking severe measures to restrict undesirable or criminal actions.	To reduce road accidents, it was decided to crack down on speeding.	Law And Order
309	cut some slack	If you relax a rule, treat a person less severely or allow someone to do something which is normally not permitted, you cut them some slack.	Our parents are very strict; I wish they'd cut us some slack now and then.	Law And Order
310	daylight robbery	The term daylight robbery is used when the price of something is thought to be much too high.	\$15 for an orange juice? That's daylight robbery!	Law And Order
311	(a) fair hearing	When accused of wrongdoing, if someone gets a fair hearing, they get an opportunity to present evidence or give their side of the story, usually in court.	I can guarantee that you will get a fair hearing.	Law And Order
312	false pretences	If you obtain something under false pretences, you deceive others by lying about your identity, qualifications, financial or social position, in order to get what you want.	The journalist obtained the interview under false pretences.	Law And Order
313	(can't) fight the city hall	This expression means that it is useless to try to win a battle against a politician, establishment or bureaucracy in general.	Brian decided it was a waste of energy trying to obtain a tax refund - you can't fight the city hall.	Law And Order

314	get off the hook	If you do something wrong and manage to get off the hook, you avoid punishment or blame.	Barry was questioned by the police but his lawyer managed to get him off the hook.	Law And Order
315	get out of hand	If a person or situation gets out of hand, they cannot be controlled any longer.	During the student demonstration, things got out of hand and several shop windows were broken.	Law And Order
316	honour among thieves	This expression means that even criminals have a sense of loyalty and they respect a certain code of behaviour.	The bank robber refused to reveal the names of his accomplices which shows that there is honour among thieves.	Law And Order
317	hit and run (accident)	When the driver of a vehicle hits another vehicle without stopping to provide help, identification or insurance, and fails to report the accident to the police, the collision is called a hit-and-run accident.	A hit-and-run accident deserves serious punishment.	Law And Order
318	hush money	Money paid to keep information secret or avoid a scandal is called hush money.	The politician had an extra-marital affair and paid hush money to keep it secret.	Law And Order
319	identity theft	The crime of using another person's personal information (name, credit card number, etc.) without his/her knowledge, to set up and use bank accounts and credit facilities is known as identity theft.		0 Law And Order
320	in trouble with the law	If someone is in trouble with the law, they are being questioned by the police in connection with something illegal or criminal.	The suspect has often been in trouble with the law.	Law And Order
321	kangaroo court	A kangaroo court is an illegal tribunal set up by a group of people who have taken the law into their own hands and conduct trials which deny fundamental justice.	Calm down please! Is this a meeting or a kangaroo court?	Law And Order
322	judge, jury and executioner	Someone who is judge, jury and executioner has full power to judge and punish others unilaterally.	OK. Report him to the authorities if you suspect him. You can't just appoint yourself judge, jury and executioner!	Law And Order
323	justice is blind	This expression means that justice is impartial and objective. Everyone is equal before the law.	There's no way he'll get preferential treatment. Justice is blind.	Law And Order

324	law of the jungle	A situation in which people are prepared to use unscrupulous methods in order to succeed or survive is called the law of the jungle.	Some businesses today seem to be governed by the law of the jungle.	Law And Order
325	law unto themselves	If someone is a law unto themselves, they do things their own way and ignore what is generally considered as acceptable.	They're against discipline and allow their children complete freedom - they're a law unto themselves.	Law And Order
326	lay down the law	Someone who lays down the law tells people very forcefully and firmly what they must do.	The volunteers helped in a disorganised way. They needed someone to lay down the law.	Law And Order
327	letter of the law	If you keep to the letter of the law, you act according to what is actually written in the law, the exact words, rather than the intent of those who wrote the law.	To comply with the letter of the law, he was fined for allowing his son to take his toy tractor to the park. The sign said: "No vehicles permitted."!	Law And Order
328	licence to print money	An officially authorized activity which enables people to make a lot of money without much effort is called a licence to print money.	The contract to supply computers to schools was a licence to print money.	Law And Order
329	(the) long arm of the law	This expression refers to the extensive power of the authorities or the police.	The suspect got away but he won't escape the long arm of the law for long.	Law And Order
330	monkey business	An activity which is organised in a deceitful or unlawful way is called monkey business.	The results of the elections seem suspicious - I think there's some monkey business going on.	Law And Order
331	Murphy's law	Referring to Murphy's law expresses a sentiment of bad luck and the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will.	We've tried to prepare for every possible incident, but remember Murphy's law ...!	Law And Order
332	not have a leg to stand on	To say that someone doesn't have a leg to stand on means that they can't prove what they say or do not have valid arguments to support their position.	Three people testified against him. He didn't have a leg to stand on.	Law And Order
333	null and void	Something which is null and void has no legal force or is invalid.	The contract was declared null and void.	Law And Order

334	open-and-shut case	An open-and-shut case is one where the facts are so clear that the matter can be dealt with or solved easily.	He was caught driving the stolen car. It's an open-and-shut case.	Law And Order
335	paper trail	If a person or organisation leaves a paper trail, they leave evidence in writing or in document form that will serve as proof of their actions.	The police found a paper trail which lead to the author of the hoax.	Law And Order
336	partner in crime	A person who helps you to plan something dishonest or unlawful is called your partner in crime. (This expression can be used jokingly as in the example below.)	Sam was my partner in crime. He hid my son's new bicycle until his birthday.	Law And Order
337	pervert the course of justice	If a person perverts the course of justice, they tell a lie or prevent the police from finding out the truth about something.	The suspect was accused of trying to pervert the course of justice.	Law And Order
338	poetic justice	Poetic justice is an ideal form of justice in which virtue is rewarded and evil punished, often in a particularly appropriate manner, by an ironic twist of fate.	It is poetic justice that the country responsible for the ecological disaster should suffer most from its effects.	Law And Order
339	put one's house in order	If you tell someone to put their house in order, you are saying that they should organise their own affairs or take care of their own problems before giving advice to other people.	You should put your house in order before telling me what to do!	Law And Order
340	read someone the riot act	If you declare with force and authority that something must stop, and announce the consequences if it happens again, you read them the riot act.	Dad read us the riot act when we messed up his tool-shed.	Law And Order
341	rough justice	Treatment or justice that does not seem fair, or is too severe, is called 'rough justice', especially if it is not legal.	The way the player was treated by the media was very rough justice!	Law And Order

342	bend the rules	If a person bends the rules, they alter the rules slightly, make an exception or allow something that is not usually allowed.	An hour is an hour said the car park attendant who refused to bend the rules.	Law And Order
343	seal of approval	If a project or contract receives a seal of approval, it receives formal support or approval from higher authorities.	We can't conclude the deal without the director's seal of approval.	Law And Order
344	shady deal	A suspicious, dishonest or illegal arrangement or transaction is known as a shady deal.	The two sons were always involved in their father's shady deals.	Law And Order
345	sharp practice	Trying to achieve something by using underhand, deceitful or dishonourable means, that are barely within the law, is called sharp practice.	That company is under investigation for sharp practice so it's better to avoid dealing with them.	Law And Order
346	signed, sealed and delivered	When an agreement, contract or treaty is signed, sealed and delivered, all the legal documents are in order.	It is hoped that the agreement will be signed, sealed and delivered before the end of the week	Law And Order
347	siphon off	If someone siphons something off, they transfer something from one place to another, often illegally.	It was discovered that he had siphoned off money from the business into an account in a tax haven.	Law And Order
348	smoking gun	A smoking gun is a piece of evidence or the indisputable sign of someone's guilt.	The fingerprints left on the door-handle was the smoking gun that enabled the police to arrest him.	Law And Order
349	take the law into one's own hands	If, instead of calling the police, you personally take action against someone who has done something wrong, you take the law into your own hands.	Instead of calling the police, he took the law into his own hands and confronted the youth who had stolen his son's scooter.	Law And Order
350	take the rap for something	If you take the rap for something, you accept blame or punishment for it, even if you have not done it.	The whole class had to take the rap for the disorder.	Law And Order
351	toe the line	If someone toes the line, they obey the rules and accept the principles laid down by a person, group or organisation.	If you want to stay in this school, you'll have to learn to toe the line.	Law And Order
352	above board	If a situation or business is described as above board, it is open, honest and legal.	There are not secret negotiations. Our dealings have always been above board.	Law And Order

353	above the law	Someone who thinks they are above the law considers that they do not have to obey the laws that apply to everyone else.	Sometimes elected officials violate regulations because they think they are above the law.	Law And Order
354	accomplished fact (fait accompli)	Something that has been done or completed, before those affected by it can intervene or change it, is called an accomplished fact.	The changes in the regulations were never discussed. They were presented as an accomplished fact, for which the Chairman was severely criticised.	Law And Order
355	against one's better judgement	If you do something even though you feel it is not a sensible thing to do, you do it against your better judgement.	Bob persuaded her to go by car, against her better judgement, and she regretted it as soon as she saw the heavy traffic.	Law And Order
356	ambulance chaser	A lawyer who finds work by persuading people injured in accidents to claim money from the person who caused the accident is called an ambulance chaser.	Peterson and Scott are well-known ambulance chasers - that's how they make their money!	Law And Order
357	arm of the law	This expression refers to the extent to which the authority or power of the law extends.	He fled to South America hoping to escape the arm of the law.	Law And Order
358	bandit territory	A geographical area where law enforcement is practically impossible, because people ignore all rules, is called bandit territory.	There are a certain number of bandit territories in the world where travellers are advised not to go.	Law And Order
359	behind bars	Someone who is behind bars is in prison.	If you hang around with that gang, you'll find yourself behind bars in no time!	Law And Order
360	beyond reasonable doubt	This is a legal expression which means that something is certain.	The court established, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the man was innocent.	Law And Order
361	in black and white	This is a legal expression which means that something is certain.	The court established, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the man was innocent	Law And Order
362	blow the whistle	If you report an illegal or socially-harmful activity to the authorities, and give information about those responsible for it, you blow the whistle or you are a whistle-blower.	He refused to blow the whistle on his boss for fear of losing his job.	Law And Order

363	do something by the book	Someone who does something by the book does it by strictly following the rules.	If you want it done right, ask James. He does everything by the book!	Law And Order
364	breaking and entering	The term breaking and entering refers to the fact of entering a building or home illegally by breaking open a window, door, etc.	The two men were found guilty of breaking and entering.	Law And Order
365	brush with the law	When you have a brush with something, such as the law, you encounter or experience it briefly.	He had a brush with the law for speeding a few years ago, but he has had a clean record ever since.	Law And Order
366	burden of proof	The burden of proof is the necessity imposed by the law to prove that what one says is true.	The burden of proof lies with the claimant.	Law And Order
367	case in point	The term case in point refers to an example which serves to illustrate, support or prove a point which is currently under discussion.	Not even the most talented athlete is guaranteed a long career. The latest skiing accident is a case in point.	Law And Order
368	caught red-handed	If a person is caught red-handed, they are caught while they are doing something wrong or illegal.	The police arrived as the burglar was leaving the house. He was caught red-handed.	Law And Order
369	caveat emptor	This Latin expression, which means 'let the buyer beware', is a warning to customers that goods are for sale 'as is'. The buyer is purchasing the articles at his/her own risk and is responsible for examining them beforehand.	Caveat emptor is a principle to be remembered when buying second-hand goods.	Law And Order
370	crack down on	If the authorities crack down on something, they enforce the law by taking severe measures to restrict undesirable or criminal actions.	To reduce road accidents, it was decided to crack down on speeding.	Law And Order
371	cut some slack	If you relax a rule, treat a person less severely or allow someone to do something which is normally not permitted, you cut them some slack.	Our parents are very strict; I wish they'd cut us some slack now and then.	Law And Order

372	daylight robbery	The term daylight robbery is used when the price of something is thought to be much too high.	\$15 for an orange juice? That's daylight robbery!	Law And Order
373	(a) fair hearing	When accused of wrongdoing, if someone gets a fair hearing, they get an opportunity to present evidence or give their side of the story, usually in court.	I can guarantee that you will get a fair hearing.	Law And Order
374	false pretences	If you obtain something under false pretences, you deceive others by lying about your identity, qualifications, financial or social position, in order to get what you want.	The journalist obtained the interview under false pretences.	Law And Order
375	(can't) fight the city hall	This expression means that it is useless to try to win a battle against a politician, establishment or bureaucracy in general.	Brian decided it was a waste of energy trying to obtain a tax refund - you can't fight the city hall.	Law And Order
376	get off the hook	If you do something wrong and manage to get off the hook, you avoid punishment or blame.	Barry was questioned by the police but his lawyer managed to get him off the hook.	Law And Order
377	get out of hand	If a person or situation gets out of hand, they cannot be controlled any longer.	During the student demonstration, things got out of hand and several shop windows were broken.	Law And Order
378	honour among thieves	This expression means that even criminals have a sense of loyalty and they respect a certain code of behaviour.	The bank robber refused to reveal the names of his accomplices which shows that there is honour among thieves.	Law And Order
379	hit and run (accident)	When the driver of a vehicle hits another vehicle without stopping to provide help, identification or insurance, and fails to report the accident to the police, the collision is called a hit-and-run accident.	A hit-and-run accident deserves serious punishment.	Law And Order
380	hush money	Money paid to keep information secret or avoid a scandal is called hush money.	The politician had an extra-marital affair and paid hush money to keep it secret.	Law And Order

381	identity theft	The crime of using another person's personal information (name, credit card number, etc.) without his/her knowledge, to set up and use bank accounts and credit facilities is known as identity theft.	0	Law And Order
382	in trouble with the law	If someone is in trouble with the law, they are being questioned by the police in connection with something illegal or criminal.	The suspect has often been in trouble with the law.	Law And Order
383	kangaroo court	A kangaroo court is an illegal tribunal set up by a group of people who have taken the law into their own hands and conduct trials which deny fundamental justice.	Calm down please! Is this a meeting or a kangaroo court?	Law And Order
384	judge, jury and executioner	Someone who is judge, jury and executioner has full power to judge and punish others unilaterally.	OK. Report him to the authorities if you suspect him. You can't just appoint yourself judge, jury and executioner!	Law And Order
385	justice is blind	This expression means that justice is impartial and objective. Everyone is equal before the law.	There's no way he'll get preferential treatment. Justice is blind.	Law And Order
386	law of the jungle	A situation in which people are prepared to use unscrupulous methods in order to succeed or survive is called the law of the jungle.	Some businesses today seem to be governed by the law of the jungle.	Law And Order
387	law unto themselves	If someone is a law unto themselves, they do things their own way and ignore what is generally considered as acceptable.	They're against discipline and allow their children complete freedom - they're a law unto themselves.	Law And Order
388	lay down the law	Someone who lays down the law tells people very forcefully and firmly what they must do.	The volunteers helped in a disorganised way. They needed someone to lay down the law.	Law And Order
389	letter of the law	If you keep to the letter of the law, you act according to what is actually written in the law, the exact words, rather than the intent of those who wrote the law.	To comply with the letter of the law, he was fined for allowing his son to take his toy tractor to the park. The sign said: "No vehicles permitted."!	Law And Order

390	licence to print money	An officially authorized activity which enables people to make a lot of money without much effort is called a licence to print money.	The contract to supply computers to schools was a licence to print money.	Law And Order
391	(the) long arm of the law	This expression refers to the extensive power of the authorities or the police.	The suspect got away but he won't escape the long arm of the law for long.	Law And Order
392	monkey business	An activity which is organised in a deceitful or unlawful way is called monkey business.	The results of the elections seem suspicious - I think there's some monkey business going on.	Law And Order
393	Murphy's law	Referring to Murphy's law expresses a sentiment of bad luck and the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will.	We've tried to prepare for every possible incident, but remember Murphy's law ...!	Law And Order
394	not have a leg to stand on	To say that someone doesn't have a leg to stand on means that they can't prove what they say or do not have valid arguments to support their position.	Three people testified against him. He didn't have a leg to stand on.	Law And Order
395	null and void	Something which is null and void has no legal force or is invalid.	The contract was declared null and void.	Law And Order
396	open-and-shut case	An open-and-shut case is one where the facts are so clear that the matter can be dealt with or solved easily.	He was caught driving the stolen car. It's an open-and-shut case.	Law And Order
397	paper trail	If a person or organisation leaves a paper trail, they leave evidence in writing or in document form that will serve as proof of their actions.	The police found a paper trail which lead to the author of the hoax.	Law And Order
398	partner in crime	A person who helps you to plan something dishonest or unlawful is called your partner in crime. (This expression can be used jokingly as in the example below.)	Sam was my partner in crime. He hid my son's new bicycle until his birthday.	Law And Order
399	pervert the course of justice	If a person perverts the course of justice, they tell a lie or prevent the police from finding out the truth about something.	The suspect was accused of trying to pervert the course of justice.	Law And Order

400	poetic justice	Poetic justice is an ideal form of justice in which virtue is rewarded and evil punished, often in a particularly appropriate manner, by an ironic twist of fate.	It is poetic justice that the country responsible for the ecological disaster should suffer most from its effects.	Law And Order
401	put one's house in order	If you tell someone to put their house in order, you are saying that they should organise their own affairs or take care of their own problems before giving advice to other people.	You should put your house in order before telling me what to do!	Law And Order
402	read someone the riot act	If you declare with force and authority that something must stop, and announce the consequences if it happens again, you read them the riot act.	Dad read us the riot act when we messed up his tool-shed.	Law And Order
403	rough justice	Treatment or justice that does not seem fair, or is too severe, is called 'rough justice', especially if it is not legal.	The way the player was treated by the media was very rough justice!	Law And Order
404	bend the rules	If a person bends the rules, they alter the rules slightly, make an exception or allow something that is not usually allowed.	An hour is an hour said the car park attendant who refused to bend the rules.	Law And Order
405	seal of approval	If a project or contract receives a seal of approval, it receives formal support or approval from higher authorities.	We can't conclude the deal without the director's seal of approval.	Law And Order
406	shady deal	A suspicious, dishonest or illegal arrangement or transaction is known as a shady deal.	The two sons were always involved in their father's shady deals.	Law And Order
407	sharp practice	Trying to achieve something by using underhand, deceitful or dishonourable means, that are barely within the law, is called sharp practice.	That company is under investigation for sharp practice so it's better to avoid dealing with them.	Law And Order
408	signed, sealed and delivered	When an agreement, contract or treaty is signed, sealed and delivered, all the legal documents are in order.	It is hoped that the agreement will be signed, sealed and delivered before the end of the week	Law And Order

409	siphon off	If someone siphons something off, they transfer something from one place to another, often illegally.	It was discovered that he had siphoned off money from the business into an account in a tax haven.	Law And Order
410	smoking gun	A smoking gun is a piece of evidence or the indisputable sign of someone's guilt.	The fingerprints left on the door-handle was the smoking gun that enabled the police to arrest him.	Law And Order
411	take the law into one's own hands	If, instead of calling the police, you personally take action against someone who has done something wrong, you take the law into your own hands.	Instead of calling the police, he took the law into his own hands and confronted the youth who had stolen his son's scooter.	Law And Order
412	take the rap for something	If you take the rap for something, you accept blame or punishment for it, even if you have not done it.	The whole class had to take the rap for the disorder.	Law And Order
413	toe the line	If someone toes the line, they obey the rules and accept the principles laid down by a person, group or organisation.	If you want to stay in this school, you'll have to learn to toe the line.	Law And Order
414	above board	If a situation or business is described as above board, it is open, honest and legal.	There are not secret negotiations. Our dealings have always been above board.	Law And Order
415	above the law	Someone who thinks they are above the law considers that they do not have to obey the laws that apply to everyone else.	Sometimes elected officials violate regulations because they think they are above the law.	Law And Order
416	accomplished fact (fait accompli)	Something that has been done or completed, before those affected by it can intervene or change it, is called an accomplished fact.	The changes in the regulations were never discussed. They were presented as an accomplished fact, for which the Chairman was severely criticised.	Law And Order
417	against one's better judgement	If you do something even though you feel it is not a sensible thing to do, you do it against your better judgement.	Bob persuaded her to go by car, against her better judgement, and she regretted it as soon as she saw the heavy traffic.	Law And Order
418	ambulance chaser	A lawyer who finds work by persuading people injured in accidents to claim money from the person who caused the accident is called an ambulance chaser.	Peterson and Scott are well-known ambulance chasers - that's how they make their money!	Law And Order
419	arm of the law	This expression refers to the extent to which the authority or power of the law extends.	He fled to South America hoping to escape the arm of the law.	Law And Order

420	bandit territory	A geographical area where law enforcement is practically impossible, because people ignore all rules, is called bandit territory.	There are a certain number of bandit territories in the world where travellers are advised not to go.	Law And Order
421	behind bars	Someone who is behind bars is in prison.	If you hang around with that gang, you'll find yourself behind bars in no time!	Law And Order
422	beyond reasonable doubt	This is a legal expression which means that something is certain.	The court established, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the man was innocent.	Law And Order
423	in black and white	This is a legal expression which means that something is certain.	The court established, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the man was innocent	Law And Order
424	blow the whistle	If you report an illegal or socially-harmful activity to the authorities, and give information about those responsible for it, you blow the whistle or you are a whistle-blower.	He refused to blow the whistle on his boss for fear of losing his job.	Law And Order
425	do something by the book	Someone who does something by the book does it by strictly following the rules.	If you want it done right, ask James. He does everything by the book!	Law And Order
426	breaking and entering	The term breaking and entering refers to the fact of entering a building or home illegally by breaking open a window, door, etc.	The two men were found guilty of breaking and entering.	Law And Order
427	brush with the law	When you have a brush with something, such as the law, you encounter or experience it briefly.	He had a brush with the law for speeding a few years ago, but he has had a clean record ever since.	Law And Order
428	burden of proof	The burden of proof is the necessity imposed by the law to prove that what one says is true.	The burden of proof lies with the claimant.	Law And Order
429	case in point	The term case in point refers to an example which serves to illustrate, support or prove a point which is currently under discussion.	Not even the most talented athlete is guaranteed a long career. The latest skiing accident is a case in point.	Law And Order
430	caught red-handed	If a person is caught red-handed, they are caught while they are doing something wrong or illegal.	The police arrived as the burglar was leaving the house. He was caught red-handed.	Law And Order

431	caveat emptor	This Latin expression, which means 'let the buyer beware', is a warning to customers that goods are for sale 'as is'. The buyer is purchasing the articles at his/her own risk and is responsible for examining them beforehand.	Caveat emptor is a principle to be remembered when buying second-hand goods.	Law And Order
432	crack down on	If the authorities crack down on something, they enforce the law by taking severe measures to restrict undesirable or criminal actions.	To reduce road accidents, it was decided to crack down on speeding.	Law And Order
433	cut some slack	If you relax a rule, treat a person less severely or allow someone to do something which is normally not permitted, you cut them some slack.	Our parents are very strict; I wish they'd cut us some slack now and then.	Law And Order
434	daylight robbery	The term daylight robbery is used when the price of something is thought to be much too high.	\$15 for an orange juice? That's daylight robbery!	Law And Order
435	(a) fair hearing	When accused of wrongdoing, if someone gets a fair hearing, they get an opportunity to present evidence or give their side of the story, usually in court.	I can guarantee that you will get a fair hearing.	Law And Order
436	false pretences	If you obtain something under false pretences, you deceive others by lying about your identity, qualifications, financial or social position, in order to get what you want.	The journalist obtained the interview under false pretences.	Law And Order
437	(can't) fight the city hall	This expression means that it is useless to try to win a battle against a politician, establishment or bureaucracy in general.	Brian decided it was a waste of energy trying to obtain a tax refund - you can't fight the city hall.	Law And Order
438	get off the hook	If you do something wrong and manage to get off the hook, you avoid punishment or blame.	Barry was questioned by the police but his lawyer managed to get him off the hook.	Law And Order

439	get out of hand	If a person or situation gets out of hand, they cannot be controlled any longer.	During the student demonstration, things got out of hand and several shop windows were broken.	Law And Order
440	honour among thieves	This expression means that even criminals have a sense of loyalty and they respect a certain code of behaviour.	The bank robber refused to reveal the names of his accomplices which shows that there is honour among thieves.	Law And Order
441	hit and run (accident)	When the driver of a vehicle hits another vehicle without stopping to provide help, identification or insurance, and fails to report the accident to the police, the collision is called a hit-and-run accident.	A hit-and-run accident deserves serious punishment.	Law And Order
442	hush money	Money paid to keep information secret or avoid a scandal is called hush money.	The politician had an extra-marital affair and paid hush money to keep it secret.	Law And Order
443	identity theft	The crime of using another person's personal information (name, credit card number, etc.) without his/her knowledge, to set up and use bank accounts and credit facilities is known as identity theft.		0 Law And Order
444	in trouble with the law	If someone is in trouble with the law, they are being questioned by the police in connection with something illegal or criminal.	The suspect has often been in trouble with the law.	Law And Order
445	kangaroo court	A kangaroo court is an illegal tribunal set up by a group of people who have taken the law into their own hands and conduct trials which deny fundamental justice.	Calm down please! Is this a meeting or a kangaroo court?	Law And Order
446	judge, jury and executioner	Someone who is judge, jury and executioner has full power to judge and punish others unilaterally.	OK. Report him to the authorities if you suspect him. You can't just appoint yourself judge, jury and executioner!	Law And Order
447	justice is blind	This expression means that justice is impartial and objective. Everyone is equal before the law.	There's no way he'll get preferential treatment. Justice is blind.	Law And Order

448	law of the jungle	A situation in which people are prepared to use unscrupulous methods in order to succeed or survive is called the law of the jungle.	Some businesses today seem to be governed by the law of the jungle.	Law And Order
449	law unto themselves	If someone is a law unto themselves, they do things their own way and ignore what is generally considered as acceptable.	They're against discipline and allow their children complete freedom - they're a law unto themselves.	Law And Order
450	lay down the law	Someone who lays down the law tells people very forcefully and firmly what they must do.	The volunteers helped in a disorganised way. They needed someone to lay down the law.	Law And Order
451	letter of the law	If you keep to the letter of the law, you act according to what is actually written in the law, the exact words, rather than the intent of those who wrote the law.	To comply with the letter of the law, he was fined for allowing his son to take his toy tractor to the park. The sign said: "No vehicles permitted."!	Law And Order
452	licence to print money	An officially authorized activity which enables people to make a lot of money without much effort is called a licence to print money.	The contract to supply computers to schools was a licence to print money.	Law And Order
453	(the) long arm of the law	This expression refers to the extensive power of the authorities or the police.	The suspect got away but he won't escape the long arm of the law for long.	Law And Order
454	monkey business	An activity which is organised in a deceitful or unlawful way is called monkey business.	The results of the elections seem suspicious - I think there's some monkey business going on.	Law And Order
455	Murphy's law	Referring to Murphy's law expresses a sentiment of bad luck and the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will.	We've tried to prepare for every possible incident, but remember Murphy's law ...!	Law And Order
456	not have a leg to stand on	To say that someone doesn't have a leg to stand on means that they can't prove what they say or do not have valid arguments to support their position.	Three people testified against him. He didn't have a leg to stand on.	Law And Order
457	null and void	Something which is null and void has no legal force or is invalid.	The contract was declared null and void.	Law And Order

458	open-and-shut case	An open-and-shut case is one where the facts are so clear that the matter can be dealt with or solved easily.	He was caught driving the stolen car. It's an open-and-shut case.	Law And Order
459	paper trail	If a person or organisation leaves a paper trail, they leave evidence in writing or in document form that will serve as proof of their actions.	The police found a paper trail which lead to the author of the hoax.	Law And Order
460	partner in crime	A person who helps you to plan something dishonest or unlawful is called your partner in crime. (This expression can be used jokingly as in the example below.)	Sam was my partner in crime. He hid my son's new bicycle until his birthday.	Law And Order
461	pervert the course of justice	If a person perverts the course of justice, they tell a lie or prevent the police from finding out the truth about something.	The suspect was accused of trying to pervert the course of justice.	Law And Order
462	poetic justice	Poetic justice is an ideal form of justice in which virtue is rewarded and evil punished, often in a particularly appropriate manner, by an ironic twist of fate.	It is poetic justice that the country responsible for the ecological disaster should suffer most from its effects.	Law And Order
463	put one's house in order	If you tell someone to put their house in order, you are saying that they should organise their own affairs or take care of their own problems before giving advice to other people.	You should put your house in order before telling me what to do!	Law And Order
464	read someone the riot act	If you declare with force and authority that something must stop, and announce the consequences if it happens again, you read them the riot act.	Dad read us the riot act when we messed up his tool-shed.	Law And Order
465	rough justice	Treatment or justice that does not seem fair, or is too severe, is called 'rough justice', especially if it is not legal.	The way the player was treated by the media was very rough justice!	Law And Order

466	bend the rules	If a person bends the rules, they alter the rules slightly, make an exception or allow something that is not usually allowed.	An hour is an hour said the car park attendant who refused to bend the rules.	Law And Order
467	seal of approval	If a project or contract receives a seal of approval, it receives formal support or approval from higher authorities.	We can't conclude the deal without the director's seal of approval.	Law And Order
468	shady deal	A suspicious, dishonest or illegal arrangement or transaction is known as a shady deal.	The two sons were always involved in their father's shady deals.	Law And Order
469	sharp practice	Trying to achieve something by using underhand, deceitful or dishonourable means, that are barely within the law, is called sharp practice.	That company is under investigation for sharp practice so it's better to avoid dealing with them.	Law And Order
470	signed, sealed and delivered	When an agreement, contract or treaty is signed, sealed and delivered, all the legal documents are in order.	It is hoped that the agreement will be signed, sealed and delivered before the end of the week	Law And Order
471	siphon off	If someone siphons something off, they transfer something from one place to another, often illegally.	It was discovered that he had siphoned off money from the business into an account in a tax haven.	Law And Order
472	smoking gun	A smoking gun is a piece of evidence or the indisputable sign of someone's guilt.	The fingerprints left on the door-handle was the smoking gun that enabled the police to arrest him.	Law And Order
473	take the law into one's own hands	If, instead of calling the police, you personally take action against someone who has done something wrong, you take the law into your own hands.	Instead of calling the police, he took the law into his own hands and confronted the youth who had stolen his son's scooter.	Law And Order
474	take the rap for something	If you take the rap for something, you accept blame or punishment for it, even if you have not done it.	The whole class had to take the rap for the disorder.	Law And Order
475	toe the line	If someone toes the line, they obey the rules and accept the principles laid down by a person, group or organisation.	If you want to stay in this school, you'll have to learn to toe the line.	Law And Order

476	champagne taste on a beer budget	Someone who likes expensive things that they cannot afford has champagne taste on a beer budget.	Eve borrows money to buy expensive designer clothes - champagne taste on a beer budget!	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
477	cheek by jowl	When people are cheek by jowl, they are crammed uncomfortably close together.	The refugees are living cheek by jowl in a temporary camp.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
478	keep up appearances	A person who keeps up appearances maintains an outward show of prosperity or well-being in order to hide their difficulties from others.	He continued to keep up appearances even when business was bad.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
479	keep up with the Joneses	Someone who tries to keep up with the Joneses tries to have the same possessions or social achievements as someone else.	First the Browns moved their children to an expensive school. Now the Smiths have done the same. It's silly how some people feel they have to keep up with the Joneses!	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
480	keep the wolf from the door	In order to keep the wolf from the door, you need to have enough money to buy food and other essentials.	My grandparents earned barely enough money to keep the wolf from the door.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
481	live beyond means	If someone lives beyond their means, they spend more money than they earn or can afford.	The cost of living was so much higher in New York that he was soon living beyond his means.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
482	live from hand to mouth	If you live from hand to mouth, you don't have any money to save because whatever you earn is spent on food and other essentials.	Most families in that area live from hand to mouth.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
483	live high off the hog	Someone who lives high off the hog has a lot of money and a very comfortable lifestyle.	Now he's wealthy and living high off the hog.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
484	live in clover	Someone who lives in clover has enough money to lead a very comfortable life.	I dream of making an enormous amount of money and living in clover for the rest of my life!	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
485	live in an ivory tower	A person who lives in an ivory tower has a lifestyle that preserves them from the problems and difficulties experienced by others so that they are out of touch with the realities of life..	You're completely out of touch - it's time to come out of your ivory tower and see what's going on in the real world!	Lifestyle - Way Of Life

486	live on the breadline	People who live on the breadline have a very low income or barely enough money to survive.	Due to the recent crisis, there are more people on the breadline than ever before.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
487	live on the edge	The lifestyle of people who live on the edge involves dangerous or risky activities.	Extreme sportsmen or gamblers are examples of people who live on the edge.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
488	live out of suitcase	Someone who lives of a suitcase travels a lot, moving from place to place, and is therefore restricted to the contents of their suitcase.	Sarah's job involves so much travelling that she lives out of a suitcase.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
489	live the life of riley	A person who lives the life of Riley has a comfortable and enjoyable life, without having to make much effort.	He married a millionaire, and since then he's been living the life of Riley!	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
490	make the best of things	If you make the best of things, you accept the situation and do what you can in spite of the difficulties or disadvantages.	The apartment was badly located, but the rent was low, so they decided to make the best of things.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
491	make ends meet	If you find it difficult to pay for your everyday needs because you have very little money, it is hard for you to make ends meet.	Anne's salary is so low that she finds hard to make ends meet.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
492	make exhibition of oneself	When someone behaves in such a foolish way in public that they look ridiculous, they make an exhibition of themselves.	Get down off the table Fred! You're making an exhibition of yourself!	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
493	make hay while the sun shines	This expression is used as an encouragement to take advantage of a good situation which may not last.	Successful athletes are advised to make hay while the sun shines.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
494	mix business with pleasure	When people mix business with pleasure, they combine work and leisure or social activities.	Seminars or training sessions that include leisure activities are a good way of mixing business and pleasure.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
495	move in the same circles	When people move in the same circles, they socialise with other people who have a similar background, interests or lifestyle.	I've never met the Duchess personally. We don't move in the same circles!	Lifestyle - Way Of Life

496	(a) new lease of life	A person who has a new lease of life has a chance to live longer or have a better lifestyle with greater enjoyment.	Moving closer to his children has given George a new lease of life.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
497	(the) school of hard knocks	Someone who goes through the school of hard knocks learns through the positive and negative experiences of life rather than through a formal classroom education.	He never went to college but the school of hard knocks made him a shrewd businessman.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
498	(the) seamy side of life	This expression refers to the most unpleasant, disreputable or sordid aspects of life that we normally do not see (just as the stitched seams of clothes are generally not seen).	Social workers really see the seamy side of life.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
499	on one's uppers	Someone who is on their uppers has very little money or not enough to cover their needs.	Because he was clearly on his uppers when he was hired, he was given an advance in salary.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
500	weal and woe	The expression weal and woe refers to the good and bad times, the joys and sorrows, or prosperity and misfortune.	We all get our share of weal and woe in life.	Lifestyle - Way Of Life
501	fall into one's lap	If something good falls into your lap, it happens to you without any effort on your part.	She's not making much effort to find work. Does she think a job is going to fall into her lap?	Luck - Opportunity
502	fat chance!	The expression fat chance is used to indicate that something is not very likely to happen.	The boss is thinking of me for the job? Fat chance!	Luck - Opportunity
503	free ride	Someone who gets a free ride benefits from a collective activity without participating in it.	Only those who share the work can share the benefits - nobody gets a free ride!	Luck - Opportunity
504	get a second bite at the cherry	This expression means that you get a second opportunity to do or try something.	He was eliminated in the semi-finals, but he'll get a second bite at the cherry next year.	Luck - Opportunity
505	(on the) off-chance	If you do something on the off chance, you think there might be a slight possibility of success.	I went into the supermarket on the off chance that I would find a map.	Luck - Opportunity

506	anyone's call	The expression anyone's call' is used when the result of a contest or election is difficult to predict.	Who do you think will win? It's anyone's call.	Luck - Opportunity
507	jump on the bandwagon	If a person or organisation jumps on the bandwagon, they decide to seize the opportunity and do something when it is already successful or fashionable.	When organic food became popular, certain stores were quick to jump on the bandwagon and promote it.	Luck - Opportunity
508	(the) luck of the draw	To refer to something that happens as the luck of the draw means that it is the result of pure chance, with no possibility of choice.	The samples distributed varied in size and value; it was the luck of the draw.	Luck - Opportunity
509	(take) pot luck	If you take pot luck, you accept whatever is available without knowing what it will be like.	We were so hungry we decided to take pot luck and stopped at the first restaurant we saw.	Luck - Opportunity
510	make hay while the sun shines	This expression is used as an encouragement to take advantage of a good situation which may not last.	Successful athletes are advised to make hay while the sun shines.	Luck - Opportunity
511	more by accident than by design	Something which happens more by accident than (by) design is done without deliberate intention.	I became an interpreter more by accident than design; nobody else could speak the language of the refugees.	Luck - Opportunity
512	murphy's law	Referring to Murphy's law expresses a sentiment of bad luck and the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will.	We've tried to prepare for every possible incident, but remember Murphy's law ...!	Luck - Opportunity
513	play a waiting game	If you play a waiting game, you deliberately delay taking action in order to be able to act more effectively later.	The cat keeps its eye on the bird, carefully playing a waiting game.	Luck - Opportunity
514	push one's luck	If you push your luck, you try to get more than what you have already obtained and risk spoiling the situation.	You've got your father's permission to go to the concert. Don't push your luck by trying to borrow his car.	Luck - Opportunity
515	that ship has sailed	The expression that ship has sailed means that a particular opportunity has passed by and now it's too late.	Sorry, that ship has sailed - you missed your chance!	Luck - Opportunity
516	sitting pretty	Someone who is sitting pretty is in a good or fortunate situation, especially compared to others who are not so lucky.	He sold his shares at a good time so he's now sitting pretty and enjoying life.	Luck - Opportunity

517	strike gold	If you strike gold, you find exactly what you need : satisfaction, wealth, happiness, etc.	I think she struck gold this time in her new job. It suits her perfectly.	Luck - Opportunity
518	strike while the iron is hot	If you strike while the iron is hot, you act immediately because now is the ideal time to do it.	The price of property has dropped. It's a good time to buy. You should strike while the iron is hot.	Luck - Opportunity
519	strike it lucky	When someone strikes it lucky, they run into good luck.	We had a sunny week in Scotland - we struck it lucky!	Luck - Opportunity
520	tomorrow's another day	If you strike while the iron is hot, you act immediately because now is the ideal time to do it.	For the moment you need some rest; tomorrow's another day.	Luck - Opportunity
521	touch wood/knock on wood	This humorous expression, based on superstition, is used to avoid bad luck, often while touching something made of wood.	The order will be confirmed shortly - touch wood!	Luck - Opportunity
522	(have a) vested interest (in something)	If you have a vested interest in a situation or event, you expect to benefit or gain an advantage from it.	Tony has a vested interest in Fred's promotion; he hopes to get his job!	Luck - Opportunity
523	waiting in the wings	If someone is waiting in the wings, they are waiting for an opportunity to take action, especially to replace someone else in their job or position.	There are many young actors waiting in the wings ready to show their talent.	Luck - Opportunity
524	while the going is good	If you take action while the going is good, you do something before the situation changes and it is no longer possible.	There's a 50% discount on subscriptions this month. I think I'll subscribe while the going is good.	Luck - Opportunity
525	fall into one's lap	If something good falls into your lap, it happens to you without any effort on your part.	She's not making much effort to find work. Does she think a job is going to fall into her lap?	Luck - Opportunity
526	fat chance!	The expression fat chance is used to indicate that something is not very likely to happen.	The boss is thinking of me for the job? Fat chance!	Luck - Opportunity
527	free ride	Someone who gets a free ride benefits from a collective activity without participating in it.	Only those who share the work can share the benefits - nobody gets a free ride!	Luck - Opportunity

528	get a second bite at the cherry	This expression means that you get a second opportunity to do or try something.	He was eliminated in the semi-finals, but he'll get a second bite at the cherry next year.	Luck - Opportunity
529	(on the) off-chance	If you do something on the off chance, you think there might be a slight possibility of success.	I went into the supermarket on the off chance that I would find a map.	Luck - Opportunity
530	anyone's call	The expression anyone's call' is used when the result of a contest or election is difficult to predict.	Who do you think will win? It's anyone's call.	Luck - Opportunity
531	jump on the bandwagon	If a person or organisation jumps on the bandwagon, they decide to seize the opportunity and do something when it is already successful or fashionable.	When organic food became popular, certain stores were quick to jump on the bandwagon and promote it.	Luck - Opportunity
532	(the) luck of the draw	To refer to something that happens as the luck of the draw means that it is the result of pure chance, with no possibility of choice.	The samples distributed varied in size and value; it was the luck of the draw.	Luck - Opportunity
533	(take) pot luck	If you take pot luck, you accept whatever is available without knowing what it will be like.	We were so hungry we decided to take pot luck and stopped at the first restaurant we saw.	Luck - Opportunity
534	make hay while the sun shines	This expression is used as an encouragement to take advantage of a good situation which may not last.	Successful athletes are advised to make hay while the sun shines.	Luck - Opportunity
535	more by accident than by design	Something which happens more by accident than (by) design is done without deliberate intention.	I became an interpreter more by accident than design; nobody else could speak the language of the refugees.	Luck - Opportunity
536	murphy's law	Referring to Murphy's law expresses a sentiment of bad luck and the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will.	We've tried to prepare for every possible incident, but remember Murphy's law ...!	Luck - Opportunity
537	play a waiting game	If you play a waiting game, you deliberately delay taking action in order to be able to act more effectively later.	The cat keeps its eye on the bird, carefully playing a waiting game.	Luck - Opportunity
538	push one's luck	If you push your luck, you try to get more than what you have already obtained and risk spoiling the situation.	You've got your father's permission to go to the concert. Don't push your luck by trying to borrow his car.	Luck - Opportunity

539	that ship has sailed	The expression that ship has sailed means that a particular opportunity has passed by and now it's too late.	Sorry, that ship has sailed - you missed your chance!	Luck - Opportunity
540	sitting pretty	Someone who is sitting pretty is in a good or fortunate situation, especially compared to others who are not so lucky.	He sold his shares at a good time so he's now sitting pretty and enjoying life.	Luck - Opportunity
541	strike gold	If you strike gold, you find exactly what you need : satisfaction, wealth, happiness, etc.	I think she struck gold this time in her new job. It suits her perfectly.	Luck - Opportunity
542	strike while the iron is hot	If you strike while the iron is hot, you act immediately because now is the ideal time to do it.	The price of property has dropped. It's a good time to buy. You should strike while the iron is hot.	Luck - Opportunity
543	strike it lucky	When someone strikes it lucky, they run into good luck.	We had a sunny week in Scotland - we struck it lucky!	Luck - Opportunity
544	tomorrow's another day	If you strike while the iron is hot, you act immediately because now is the ideal time to do it.	For the moment you need some rest; tomorrow's another day.	Luck - Opportunity
545	touch wood/knock on wood	This humorous expression, based on superstition, is used to avoid bad luck, often while touching something made of wood.	The order will be confirmed shortly - touch wood!	Luck - Opportunity
546	(have a) vested interest (in something)	If you have a vested interest in a situation or event, you expect to benefit or gain an advantage from it.	Tony has a vested interest in Fred's promotion; he hopes to get his job!	Luck - Opportunity
547	waiting in the wings	If someone is waiting in the wings, they are waiting for an opportunity to take action, especially to replace someone else in their job or position.	There are many young actors waiting in the wings ready to show their talent.	Luck - Opportunity
548	while the going is good	If you take action while the going is good, you do something before the situation changes and it is no longer possible.	There's a 50% discount on subscriptions this month. I think I'll subscribe while the going is good.	Luck - Opportunity
549	fall into one's lap	If something good falls into your lap, it happens to you without any effort on your part.	She's not making much effort to find work. Does she think a job is going to fall into her lap?	Luck - Opportunity

550	fat chance!	The expression fat chance is used to indicate that something is not very likely to happen.	The boss is thinking of me for the job? Fat chance!	Luck - Opportunity
551	free ride	Someone who gets a free ride benefits from a collective activity without participating in it.	Only those who share the work can share the benefits - nobody gets a free ride!	Luck - Opportunity
552	get a second bite at the cherry	This expression means that you get a second opportunity to do or try something.	He was eliminated in the semi-finals, but he'll get a second bite at the cherry next year.	Luck - Opportunity
553	(on the) off-chance	If you do something on the off chance, you think there might be a slight possibility of success.	I went into the supermarket on the off chance that I would find a map.	Luck - Opportunity
554	anyone's call	The expression anyone's call' is used when the result of a contest or election is difficult to predict.	Who do you think will win? It's anyone's call.	Luck - Opportunity
555	jump on the bandwagon	If a person or organisation jumps on the bandwagon, they decide to seize the opportunity and do something when it is already successful or fashionable.	When organic food became popular, certain stores were quick to jump on the bandwagon and promote it.	Luck - Opportunity
556	(the) luck of the draw	To refer to something that happens as the luck of the draw means that it is the result of pure chance, with no possibility of choice.	The samples distributed varied in size and value; it was the luck of the draw.	Luck - Opportunity
557	(take) pot luck	If you take pot luck, you accept whatever is available without knowing what it will be like.	We were so hungry we decided to take pot luck and stopped at the first restaurant we saw.	Luck - Opportunity
558	make hay while the sun shines	This expression is used as an encouragement to take advantage of a good situation which may not last.	Successful athletes are advised to make hay while the sun shines.	Luck - Opportunity
559	more by accident than by design	Something which happens more by accident than (by) design is done without deliberate intention.	I became an interpreter more by accident than design; nobody else could speak the language of the refugees.	Luck - Opportunity
560	murphy's law	Referring to Murphy's law expresses a sentiment of bad luck and the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will.	We've tried to prepare for every possible incident, but remember Murphy's law ...!	Luck - Opportunity

561	play a waiting game	If you play a waiting game, you deliberately delay taking action in order to be able to act more effectively later.	The cat keeps its eye on the bird, carefully playing a waiting game.	Luck - Opportunity
562	push one's luck	If you push your luck, you try to get more than what you have already obtained and risk spoiling the situation.	You've got your father's permission to go to the concert. Don't push your luck by trying to borrow his car.	Luck - Opportunity
563	that ship has sailed	The expression that ship has sailed means that a particular opportunity has passed by and now it's too late.	Sorry, that ship has sailed - you missed your chance!	Luck - Opportunity
564	sitting pretty	Someone who is sitting pretty is in a good or fortunate situation, especially compared to others who are not so lucky.	He sold his shares at a good time so he's now sitting pretty and enjoying life.	Luck - Opportunity
565	strike gold	If you strike gold, you find exactly what you need : satisfaction, wealth, happiness, etc.	I think she struck gold this time in her new job. It suits her perfectly.	Luck - Opportunity
566	strike while the iron is hot	If you strike while the iron is hot, you act immediately because now is the ideal time to do it.	The price of property has dropped. It's a good time to buy. You should strike while the iron is hot.	Luck - Opportunity
567	strike it lucky	When someone strikes it lucky, they run into good luck.	We had a sunny week in Scotland - we struck it lucky!	Luck - Opportunity
568	tomorrow's another day	If you strike while the iron is hot, you act immediately because now is the ideal time to do it.	For the moment you need some rest; tomorrow's another day.	Luck - Opportunity
569	touch wood/knock on wood	This humorous expression, based on superstition, is used to avoid bad luck, often while touching something made of wood.	The order will be confirmed shortly - touch wood!	Luck - Opportunity
570	(have a) vested interest (in something)	If you have a vested interest in a situation or event, you expect to benefit or gain an advantage from it.	Tony has a vested interest in Fred's promotion; he hopes to get his job!	Luck - Opportunity
571	waiting in the wings	If someone is waiting in the wings, they are waiting for an opportunity to take action, especially to replace someone else in their job or position.	There are many young actors waiting in the wings ready to show their talent.	Luck - Opportunity

572	while the going is good	If you take action while the going is good, you do something before the situation changes and it is no longer possible.	There's a 50% discount on subscriptions this month. I think I'll subscribe while the going is good.	Luck - Opportunity
-----	-------------------------	---	---	--------------------