

IDIOMS & PHRASES (01-28FEB21)

1. **hang over** (phrase) – be imminent, threaten, approach, loom, draw near, be on the horizon, be just around the corner.
2. **set (much) store by** (phrase) – value, have a high opinion of, attach great importance to.
3. **behind closed doors** (phrase) – confidentially, covertly, privately, in private.
4. **flex one's muscles** (phrase) – to show off or demonstrate one's strength/power.
5. **throw of the dice** (phrase) – a risky try/attempt to do/achieve something.
6. **hold (someone) in good stead** (phrase) – if something (like experience/ability/talent) holds someone in good stead that means it will be very useful to him/her in the future.
7. **within striking distance** (phrase) – close enough to get/reach/achieve something.
8. **keep/hold/put something in abeyance** (phrase) – suspend, put off, discontinue, dissolve, terminate.
9. **take credit for** (phrase) – to get praise/appreciation for something, even if it is not deserved.
10. **the ball is in your court** (phrase) – it is now your responsibility or your turn to take action; it is up to you to take action now.
11. **the heart and soul** (phrase) – core; essence; central/essential part.
12. **round the corner** (phrase) – coming soon, coming up, approaching, forthcoming.
13. **on someone's mind** (phrase) – when someone says something is “on my mind” that he/she is thinking about it a lot.
14. **go a long way** (phrase) – achieve great success; to be helpful for a significant amount of time.
15. **like there is no tomorrow** (phrase) – (do something) rapidly/quickly without waiting/caring for consequences.
16. **toe the line** (phrase) – accept/agree to policies of someone/something, particularly under pressure.
17. **(have) all to play for** (phrase) – (of a competition) the end result is not known, but still have the opportunity to win it.
18. **run amuck** (phrase) – get out of control, go berserk, rampage.
19. **at/in/to the forefront of** (phrase) – be in a leading/front/important position in an important activity; spearhead, van guard, front line, leading position.
20. **be on the road to something** (phrase) – to be probably to achieve something.
21. **fall by the wayside** (phrase) – fail to continue in an attempt/try.
22. **there is no denying** (phrase) – it is undoubtedly true.
23. **in the wake of** (phrase) – as a result of some event, especially an unpleasant one; in the aftermath of, as a consequence of, on account of, because of, owing to.
24. **plan of action** (phrase) – scheme, system, strategy.
25. **as yet** (phrase) – so far, thus far, yet, still, until now.
26. **as to** (phrase) – concerning, respecting, with respect to, on the subject of, regarding.
27. **in terms of** (phrase) – with regard to, regarding/concerning, in connection with.
28. **take into account** (phrase) – consider, take into consideration, have regard to, reckon with.
29. **take a call** (phrase) – decide.
30. **get back on track** (phrase) – to return to the right direction (after a problem).
31. **make use of** (phrase) – utilize, avail oneself of, employ, work, operate, apply.
32. **put something back** (phrase) – restore, return to its place.
33. **on track** (phrase) – on course, on schedule, on target.
34. **to one's credit** (phrase) – used to mention that someone deserves praise/admiration.
35. **on account of** (phrase) – because of, owing to, due to, by virtue of.
36. **far from** (phrase) – not, not at all, nowhere near.
37. **so as to do something** (phrase) – in order to do something.
38. **throw open** (phrase) – make available, make accessible.
39. **open the door** (phrase) – create opportunities, create chances.
40. **on the block** (phrase) – for sale at auction.
41. **relative to** (phrase) – in comparison with.
42. **hit hard** (phrase) – be affected very badly.
43. **as much as** (phrase) – almost, nearly the same as.
44. **in progress** (phrase) – under way, going on, happening, in operation.
45. **make clear** (phrase) – explain, clarify, elucidate.
46. **in charge** (phrase) – responsible for, in control of, at the helm of.
47. **find one's feet** (phrase) – adapt, become accustomed, adjust, get used.
48. **regardless of** (phrase) – despite, notwithstanding, in spite of.
49. **take into consideration** (phrase) – take into account, consider, regard.
50. **in order to** (phrase) – with the purpose/aim of.
51. **go counter to** (phrase) – to be the opposite of something.
52. **go out of the window/door** (phrase) – disappear, no longer exist.
53. **win the day** (phrase) – be successful.

54. **lay the groundwork** (phrase) – arrange, organize, draw up, prepare (the foundation/basis for something).
55. **by no means** (phrase) – not at all, in no way, certainly not, absolutely not, definitely not.
56. **at one go** (phrase) – in one attempt.
57. **fall short of** (phrase) – fail to meet/reach; be deficient/inadequate/insufficient.
58. **come in the way of** (phrase) – prevent, oppose, defy.
59. **under control** (phrase) – able to be dealt with successfully.
60. **take the lead** (phrase) – to take charge of something; to be responsible for something.
61. **due to** (phrase) – because of, owing to, on account of, as a result of.
62. **pave the way for** (phrase) – clear the way for, make preparations for, put things in order for.
63. **at stake** (phrase) – at issue, at risk; or in question.
64. **hold the edge** (phrase) – have a slight advantage.
65. **emerge second-best** (phrase) – be defeated (in a competition).
66. **cut to the present** (phrase) – come (back) to the present time.
67. **at large** (phrase) – as a whole, generally, extensively.
68. **strike a note** (phrase) – express/communicate, call/bring to mind, cite.
69. **better than** (phrase) – more than.
70. **beyond the horizon** (phrase) – beyond what one is able to see/anticipate; so far away/ahead that one cannot see.
71. **at present** (phrase) – at the moment, (just) now, at this time.
72. **line up against** (phrase) – oppose, object, be against, be in opposition to.
73. **beg the question** (phrase) – raise a point; invite question.
74. **dying days** (phrase) – last days.
75. **play a part/role** (phrase) – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
76. **and the like** (phrase) – and other similar things; and etc.
77. **ways and means** (phrase) – methods and resources to do something successfully.
78. **by far** (phrase) – much, very much, considerably, markedly.
79. **far more** (phrase) – a lot more, much more.
80. **at hand** (phrase) – nearby, around, on the doorstep; forthcoming, about to happen, just around the corner.
81. **draw attention to** (phrase) – emphasize, highlight, underscore; focus on.
82. **of course** (phrase) – certainly, definitely, absolutely; obviously, clearly.
83. **in the interests of** (phrase) – for the benefit/advantage of.
84. **as well as** (phrase) – and also, and in addition.
85. **in the absence of** (phrase) – without.
86. **bring into someone's attention** (phrase) – to make someone aware of something.
87. **as a whole** (phrase) – all together, as a group, in general.
88. **to begin with** (phrase) – at first, at the outset, at the beginning.
89. **with regard to** (phrase) – regarding, concerning, with respect to, in respect of, with reference to.
90. **in the course of** (phrase) – during, in the process of, in the time of.
91. **in the long run** (phrase) – eventually, in the end, ultimately.
92. **for instance** (phrase) – as an example.
93. **take advantage of** (phrase) – make use of, utilize, capitalize on, benefit from.
94. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
95. **make public** (phrase) – announce, communicate, make known, disseminate.
96. **in fact** (phrase) – actually, in actuality, really, in reality, as a matter of fact.
97. **under way** (phrase) – in progress, happening, occurring, taking place.
98. **speak up** (phrase) – to express one's opinion (in support/against someone/something) openly.
99. **set one's face against** (phrase) – be against, object to, be in opposition to, disagree with.
100. **a hard/tough nut to crack** (phrase) – a situation or an opponent that is difficult to deal with or beat.
101. **fish in troubled waters** (phrase) – involve (oneself) in a dangerous situation in the hope of gaining some personal advantage.
102. **raise one's hackles** (phrase) – make someone very angry, upset, irritate, annoy.
103. **leave no stone unturned** (phrase) – to do every (single) thing possible in order to achieve something; not give up, be persistent, be determined.
104. **ruffle someone's feathers** (phrase) – to cause someone to become very angry/upset, annoyed, irritated.
105. **heal old wounds** (phrase) – resolve/put right an unpleasant experience/situation (happened in the past).
106. **put the brakes on** (phrase) – restrain, restrict, control, curb.
107. **run the gauntlet** (phrase) – go through a dangerous/unpleasant experience in which a lot of people criticize or attack you.
108. **take a stand against** (phrase) – to publicly assert/declare one's strong opposition to someone or something.
109. **set the tone** (phrase) – to establish the mood/feeling of something.
110. **take something lying down** (phrase) – accept something (an insult, setback, or criticism) without protest.
111. **the long and the short of it** (phrase) – used for saying that you will tell someone a lengthy and complex story very quickly and briefly.

112. **smooth your brow** (phrase) – to stop worrying.
113. **change one's tune** (phrase) – change one's opinion or attitude on something; change one's mind, do a U-turn.
114. **take a backseat** (phrase) – take a less important role.
115. **turn to someone/something** (phrase) – seek help from, have recourse to, approach, resort to.
116. **lend credence to** (phrase) – to make something (opinion/idea) seem correct.
117. **hold one's own** (phrase) – stand firm, stand one's ground, keep/maintain one's position.
118. **much to the delight of someone** (phrase) – used to say that something has provided someone with a feeling of very great pleasure.
119. **among other things** (phrase) – used to indicate that there are several more things like the one mentioned, but that you do not intend to mention them all.
120. **cause for concern** (phrase) – reason to worry (feel anxious).
121. **can ill afford** (phrase) – to prevent something from happening because it would be embarrassing and cause problems (if it happens).
122. **take for granted** (phrase) – understand, assume, presume (something is true without cross-questioning it); For example, if people take something for granted, they do not place much value on it. Or you believe it to be true, real or expected.
123. **in contrast** (phrase) – when compared to another.
124. **in the face of** (phrase) – despite, notwithstanding, regardless of; when confronted with.
125. **late in the day** (phrase) – too late to take action.
126. **rather than** (phrase) – instead of.
127. **thanks to** (phrase) – as a result of, owing to, due to, because of.
128. **put differently** (phrase) – express differently, put/express in other words.
129. **in the short-run** (phrase) – in the near future.
130. **for the time being** (phrase) – for now, for the moment, for the present; for a short time, for a little while; temporarily.
131. **by default** (phrase) – due to an absence of opposition.
132. **in favour of** (phrase) – in support of, to the advantage of, approve of.
133. **on someone's case** (phrase) – criticizing someone always.
134. **make headway** (phrase) – make progress, advance, proceed, get ahead.
135. **more so** (phrase) – it means that to a greater degree.
136. **in place** (phrase) – ready, set up, established.
137. **on a high** (phrase) – ecstatic, euphoric, elated, thrilled, overjoyed, on cloud nine.
138. **in advance** (phrase) – earlier, previously, before.
139. **come into effect** (phrase) – (of a law, rule, policy, etc) to become valid; came into force; start to apply.
140. **in keeping with** (phrase) – in accordance with, in agreement with, in line with, consistent with, in harmony with.
141. **hold the key** (phrase) – to have control of something.
142. **lay stress on** (phrase) – to give importance to; to give attention to.
143. **in the light of** (phrase) – considering, taking into account, keeping in mind.
144. **it is no surprise** (phrase) – as expected, as anticipated, as predicted.
145. **in pursuit of** (phrase) – with the aim/purpose of achieving something.
146. **put to rest** (phrase) – to stop people from concerning/doubting about an issue by explaining/resolving it.
147. **in concert** (phrase) – together, jointly, in combination, in collaboration, side by side.
148. **give rise to** (phrase) – produce, bring about, cause.
149. **push the boundaries** (phrase) – go beyond the limitations; discover something new.
150. **at the heart of** (phrase) – at the most important part of.
151. **on foot** (phrase) – walking.
152. **on the ground** (phrase) – in a situation/place where things are happening really/practically.
153. **letter and spirit** (phrase) – adhering to/obeying both literal interpretation/wording and the spirit/intent/purpose of the law.
154. **bear/keep in mind** (phrase) – take into account, consider.
155. **put an end to** (phrase) – stop, terminate, abolish.
156. **from time to time** (phrase) – sometimes, occasionally, now and again.
157. **sort of** (phrase) – to some extent, somewhat, somehow, slightly.
158. **side by side** (phrase) – together, alongside.
159. **owing to** (phrase) – due to, because of, as a result of.
160. **in disguise** (phrase) – concealing the true appearance or nature of someone.
161. **come at a cost/price** (phrase) – if something comes at a cost/price, it happens with the sacrifice/loss/expense of something else.
162. **give a chance** (phrase) – to allow someone/something an opportunity to do something.
163. **law and order** (phrase) – lawfulness, peacefulness, goodwill, cordiality, non-aggression.
164. **give-and-take** (phrase) – compromise, concession; cooperation/teamwork.
165. **exchange of views** (phrase) – discussion, conversation, debate.
166. **front and centre** (phrase) – in the front line; in the most prominent position.
167. **under the banner of** (phrase) – as a part of a particular group.
168. **as far as — is concerned** (phrase) – with regard to a particular person or situation.

169. **in the offing** (phrase) – coming soon, likely to happen, on the way, forthcoming.
170. **teeter on the edge/brink** (phrase) – to be very close to an unpleasant or difficult or dangerous situation.
171. **the (dim and) distant past** (phrase) – to mention that something happened a very long time ago and so it is difficult to remember.
172. **on the back foot** (phrase) – in a defensive position, off-balance, at a disadvantage.
173. **bring to the fore** (phrase) – to move something forward to a most important position (to make it more visible).
174. **on a par with** (phrase) – comparable with, equivalent to, as equal to, on a level with.
175. **hire and fire** (phrase) – it means to employ new staff and dismiss existing staff (very frequently) (to demonstrate that an employer has authority, ability, or capacity to do so).
176. **take/catch someone by surprise** (phrase) – surprise, shock, stun, stagger, astound, astonish.
177. **status quo ante** (phrase) – a Latin phrase meaning “the state of affairs existing before” (or) “the way things were before”.
178. **on the rise** (phrase) – increasing.
179. **the elephant in the room** (phrase) – it is mostly used to refer to a serious problem — one which people are aware of, but choose to ignore. They think that if they do not talk about it, the problem will somehow disappear.
180. **on the wane** (phrase) – decreasing, diminishing, contracting, declining.
181. **turn of events** (phrase) – development, incident, occurrence, happening, circumstance, phenomenon.
182. **(be) a far cry from** (phrase) – to be entirely different from something.
183. **on one's own** (phrase) – alone, all alone, by oneself, all by oneself, independently, single-handedly.
184. **in the same breath** (phrase) – in the same statement.
185. **the beginning of the end** (phrase) – turning point, climax, watershed (moment), breaking point.
186. **hold water** (phrase) – ring true, bear examination, bear scrutiny, make sense, hold up, be convincing, be plausible, be provable, be sound.
187. **follow suit** (phrase) – emulate, follow, take (another's actions as an example).
188. **quid pro quo** (phrase) – “something for something”; support in exchange for something.
189. **against all (the) odds** (phrase) – in spite of all difficulties or problems (you are able to do/achieve something).
190. **lose ground** (phrase) – retreat or lose (a commanding position/advantage) to become less popular.
191. **the new normal** (phrase) – an earlier unusual situation that becomes a standard now.
192. **war of words** (phrase) – disagreement, difference of opinion, argument.
193. **for now** (phrase) – for the time being, for the present, for the moment.
194. **in spite of** (phrase) – despite, notwithstanding, regardless of.
195. **a matter/thing of the past** (phrase) – something that no longer occurs.
196. **at home** (phrase) – in one's own country.
197. **stands to reason** (phrase) – it is obvious, it is logical, it is sensible, it is understandable.
198. **short of** (phrase) – other than, besides, except.
199. **in support of** (phrase) – providing assistance to.
200. **with each passing day** (phrase) – if something happens with each passing day, it happens continuously.
201. **in itself** (phrase) – of itself, by itself, as such.
202. **in contrast (to)** (phrase) – in comparison (to), compared with.
203. **get something right** (phrase) – to do something correctly.
204. **in summary** (phrase) – briefly, in short, to come to the point.
205. **to the tune of** (phrase) – amounting to.
206. **in a way** (phrase) – somewhat, to a certain extent.
207. **in a sense** (phrase) – partly; in some way(s); in a way, somewhat.
208. **in line with** (phrase) – in alignment with, in accordance with, conforming to.
209. **out of sight** (phrase) – hidden, concealed, not visible, unseen, invisible.
210. **for the sake of** (phrase) – for the purpose of, in order to improve/achieve; in the interest of.
211. **hold good/hold true** (phrase) – remain true, remain valid.
212. **strike a deal/bargain** (phrase) – to come to an agreement.
213. **get one's act together** (phrase) – regain control of oneself, regain one's self-control, get a grip on oneself, galvanize, cheer up.
214. **any time soon** (phrase) – in the very near future (but an exact time or date isn't known).
215. **through the lens** (phrase) – through someone's eyes (observance, opinion, viewpoint).
216. **hold someone to account** (phrase) – to require a person to explain or to accept responsibility for his or her actions; to blame or punish someone for what has occurred.
217. **for one** (phrase) – used for highlighting that someone is thinking in a particular way, even if other people are not.
218. **on the face of it** (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, evidently/ostensibly; at first glance.
219. **at best** (phrase) – only, merely.
220. **add (something) to the mix** (phrase) – it means that you are adding another idea to an ongoing discussion.
221. **sense of relief** (phrase) – If you feel a sense of relief, you feel happy because something unpleasant has not happened or is no longer happening.

222. **lay emphasis on** (phrase) – to emphasize the importance of something.
223. **in the eyes of** (phrase) – in the view of; in the opinion of.
224. **all along** (phrase) – from the beginning, all the time.
225. **in the midst of** (phrase) – in the middle of.
226. **pay a price** (phrase) – experience the bad/unpleasant result of something.
227. **by way of** (phrase) – via, by means of, as a form of.
228. **in the hands of** (phrase) – in the possession of; under the authority of.
229. **far beyond** (phrase) – at a point on the other/further side of.
230. **in silence** (phrase) – without speech.
231. **public good** (phrase) – the benefit, advantage, or well-being of the public.
232. **at the cost of** (phrase) – by sacrificing/losing/giving up something.
233. **take note of** (phrase) – pay attention, heed, take notice, observe, notice.
234. **in view of** (phrase) – considering, taking into consideration, bearing in mind.
235. **force/shove (something) down someone's throat** (phrase) – force something (ideas/beliefs) on someone; force someone to agree with your ideas/beliefs.
236. **shifting sands** (phrase) – used to refer to something that is constantly changing, especially unexpectedly.
237. **take someone to task** (phrase) – criticize, censure, rebuke, reprimand, reprove, reproach.
238. **by hook or by crook** (phrase) – by any means/methods possible (be taken to accomplish a goal whether they are morally right/wrong).
239. **take one's cue from** (phrase) – follow the example of; follow the advice of.
240. **so far as** (phrase) – to the extent.
241. **breathe down someone's neck** (phrase) – harass, pester, harry, trouble, bother, worry, torment, annoy.
242. **the road to hell is paved with good intentions** (phrase) – good intentions (e.g. promises, plans, schemes, etc.) will become useless when they are not put into action.
243. **back and forth** (phrase) – in random directions, particularly in a disorderly manner; from place to place, hither and thither, to and fro, from pillar to post.
244. **rack one's brain** (phrase) – think hard, put one's mind to something, give much thought to something, concentrate, try to remember.
245. **pass muster** (phrase) – be acceptable, be practical, be justifiable, be convincing, make sense.
246. **on the same page** (phrase) – in agreement.
247. **if at all** (phrase) – It indicates that something is unlikely to happen, or rarely happens, and that it will occur in a negative or restricted way if it does happen.
248. **walk a fine line** (phrase) – strike a balance; find a fair & reasonable line of action between two contrasting things.
249. **stand on one's (own) feet** (phrase) – manage, survive, subsist, look after oneself.
250. **carry no weight** (phrase) – If a person or their opinion carries no weight, they are not respected and are not able to influence people.
251. **no holds barred** (phrase) – without rules or restrictions (i.e. engage in a conflict/dispute without any rules/restrictions).
252. **stake a claim** (phrase) – assert, declare, announce/state (ones right to something).
253. **knock on the door** (phrase) – approach.
254. **draw a blank** (phrase) – fail.
255. **cede ground** (phrase) – to give up territory to another with a treaty.
256. **stand in the way of** (phrase) – prevent someone from accomplishing something.
257. **in principle** (phrase) – in theory, theoretically, on paper.
258. **up to** (phrase) – indicating a maximum amount.
259. **bring to a halt** (phrase) – put to a stop.
260. **up to** (phrase) – the responsibility, duty of someone.
261. **do away with** (phrase) – abolish, quash, get rid of, discard, remove, eliminate, discontinue, cancel.
262. **a level playing field** (phrase) – a situation in which everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to succeed, and no one has an advantage over the other.
263. **stay afloat** (phrase) – stay out of debt; stay out of problem or difficulty.
264. **go out of business** (phrase) – stop doing business permanently.
265. **the likes of** (phrase) – someone/something considered as a type.
266. **having given** (phrase) – have given.
267. **loss of trust** (phrase) – mistrust, lack of confidence, loss of faith.
268. **not long ago** (phrase) – a short time ago, in the last few days, in the last few weeks.
269. **give the go-by** (phrase) – ignore, disregard, reject, avoid.
270. **lose no time** (phrase) – to do something as quickly as possible.
271. **by any means** (phrase) – in any way; at all.
272. **contrary to** (phrase) – conflicting with, opposed to.
273. **not so good** (phrase) – not good enough, all wrong, quite bad.
274. **nowhere near** (phrase) – not at all near to.
275. **of one's own making** (phrase) – caused or created by oneself.
276. **by the day** (phrase) – gradually.
277. **in name only** (phrase) – fake, assumed, professed, purported, ostensible.
278. **on the eve of** (phrase) – a period or day before an important event.
279. **at the height of** (phrase) – at the most extreme part/point of something.

280. **as long as** (phrase) – given that; when/while.
281. **of any sort/kind** (phrase) – of whatever variety/type.
282. **as things stand** (phrase) – in the present situation.
283. **at last** (phrase) – finally, in the end, eventually, ultimately.
284. **in full measure** (phrase) – to the great/maximum extent/degree.
285. **get the better of** (phrase) – defeat, beat, conquer.
286. **at once** (phrase) – immediately, right away, right now; at the same time, all together, simultaneously.
287. **course of action** (phrase) – plan of action, action/step, procedure.
288. **at any cost** (phrase) – no matter how much effort or money needed.
289. **out of sync** (phrase) – out of the agreement.
290. **in one's wake** (phrase) – used to say what is left behind by something; after something.
291. **battle it out** (phrase) – fight, compete (until a definite result is reached).
292. **owe allegiance to** (phrase) – have an obligation to be loyal; obey.
293. **muddy the waters** (phrase) – make the issue more complicated.
294. **out of hand** (phrase) – out of control, unmanageable, ungovernable.
295. **and so on** (phrase) – or more of the same, and similar things, and the like.
296. **on the horizon** (phrase) – imminent, impending, approaching, near/close, just around the corner.
297. **at odds** (phrase) – inconsistent, in conflict, in opposition, contrary to.
298. **sore point** (phrase) – an annoying/disturbing issue/problem.
299. **winner takes all** (phrase) – relating to a contest, election, or other competition in which only the winner is rewarded and none of the losers gets anything.
300. **open the floodgates** (phrase) – to make something easier for a lot of things to happen (or) to make it possible for a lot of people to start doing something that was not permitted previously.