

## IDIOMS & PHRASES (01-31JAN21)

1. **thereby hangs a tale** (phrase) – there is a lot to be told relating to that point just mentioned.
2. **reach for the moon** (phrase) – aim to achieve something great; try to do something very challenging.
3. **on one's toes** (phrase) – alert, quick-witted, sharp, quick, wide awake, responsive.
4. **chickens have come home to roost** (phrase) – the bad/unpleasant things that a person has done in the past have come back to affect him/her; ready to face the consequences of the actions that you have done in the past.
5. **clear the decks** (phrase) – removing hindrances/barriers while preparing for a course of action.
6. **sweep something under the rug/carpet** (phrase) – to hide or avoid something (particularly a problem/issue) with the intention that others will forget about it eventually; cover up, conceal, camouflage, keep secret.
7. **on the one hand** (phrase) – it is used to introduce the first of two contrasting different points, facts, or ways of looking at something. It is always followed later by on the other hand or 'on the other'.
8. **a hostage to something** (phrase) – to be controlled by something that reduces freedom.
9. **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.
10. **bear the brunt** (phrase) – to suffer or endure the worst part of something (force/burden/pressure) when a very bad or unpleasant thing happens.
11. **the common weal** (phrase) – the welfare of the public.
12. **at one's disposal** (phrase) – within the reach of, at someone's fingertips, (available) for use by.
13. **in full flight** (phrase) – if something (e.g. an activity) is in full flight, it is happening/developing (/spreading in this context) more quickly; accelerate, quicken, gather/gain momentum.
14. **lose ground** (phrase) – retreat or lose (a commanding position/advantage) to become less popular.
15. **come to think of it** (phrase) – used for adding something just remembered or thinking of something.
16. **keep up appearances** (phrase) – to pretend that everything is good/ok, but the reality is the opposite of it.
17. **take one's cue from** (phrase) – follow the example of; follow the advice of.
18. **out of step** (phrase) – at variance, in disagreement, out of line, at loggerheads, in opposition.
19. **turn the tables** (phrase) – reverse a disadvantaged situation/position to gain an advantage.
20. **spiral/spin out of control** (phrase) – change/move in an uncontrolled way & quickly.
21. **in terms of** (phrase) – with regard to, regarding/concerning, in connection with.
22. **stay put** (phrase) – remain somewhere without moving (from that place).
23. **at the expense of** (phrase) – at the cost of, at the loss of; at the sacrifice of.
24. **come to the fore** (phrase) – to become visible.
25. **(keep) an eye on** (phrase) – to take care of, to look after, to watch/supervise something.
26. **strike a balance** (phrase) – find a fair & reasonable line of action between two contrasting things.
27. **come in handy** (phrase) – to be useful.
28. **the common good** (phrase) – the benefit/ advantage of all people in society.

29. **come to terms with** (phrase) – to accept oneself to something painful/sad/difficult (situation); reconcile oneself to, come to accept, become accustomed to, adjust to.
30. **keep something in check** (phrase) – control, curb, restrain, hold back, keep under control.
31. **no mean** (phrase) – mentioning that something is very good of its kind.
32. **need of the hour** (phrase) – some (urgent) need/requirement/demand at a particular point of time.
33. **get (something) out of the way** (phrase) – (phrase) – to finish, complete; deal with, tackle, manage (particularly something unpleasant or boring or difficult (task)).
34. **run amok** (phrase) – get out of control, go berserk, rampage.
35. **on the rise** (phrase) – increasing.
36. **on behalf of** (phrase) – in the interests of, in support of, for, for the benefit of.
37. **as far as something is concerned** (phrase) – considering/with respect to the case of something.
38. **burden of proof** (phrase) – the duty/obligation of a party to prove/disprove their claims/allegations.
39. **on account of** (phrase) – because of, owing to, due to, by virtue of.
40. **in short** (phrase) – in conclusion, in sum; briefly, in a nutshell, to put it concisely.
41. **come to light** (phrase) – appear, come out, transpire, emerge, become known.
42. **be meant to be** (phrase) – be normally considered to be.
43. **set the stage for** (phrase) – prepare the circumstances for the beginning of something.
44. **from scratch** (phrase) – from the very beginning.
45. **make public** (phrase) – announce, communicate, make known, disseminate.
46. **at least** (phrase) – at the minimum.
47. **much more** (phrase) – a lot more.
48. **in spite of** (phrase) – despite, notwithstanding, regardless of.
49. **so as to** (phrase) – in order to.
50. **due to** (phrase) – because of, owing to, by virtue of.
51. **sooner or later** (phrase) – eventually, in the end, finally.
52. **put in place** (phrase) – establish, set up, create/form.
53. **as much as** (phrase) – almost, nearly the same as.
54. **have to do with** (phrase) – be connected with someone/something.
55. **bear/keep in mind** (phrase) – take into account, consider.
56. **make a mockery of** (phrase) – make something to look foolish/absurd.
57. **in line with** (phrase) – in alignment with, in accordance with.
58. **more of the same** (phrase) – used to say that it is the same thing and nothing has changed.
59. **at last count** (phrase) – according to the latest information about a particular situation.
60. **hold accountable for** (phrase) – to say that someone should accept the responsibility for something bad/unpleasant (that has happened).
61. **in the event** (phrase) – as it happened, in the end.
62. **at the heart of** (phrase) – at the most important part of.
63. **in haste** (phrase) – quickly, rapidly, in a rush, in a hurry.
64. **in the long run** (phrase) – eventually, in the end, ultimately.
65. **time and again** (phrase) – often, frequently, repeatedly.
66. **in force** (phrase) – effective, in operation, in action, valid.
67. **in absolute terms** (phrase) – measured by itself, not in comparison with other things.
68. **take something further** (phrase) – to develop something (an action, opinion, argument or etc.) to a higher level or more serious degree.
69. **in advance** (phrase) – earlier, previously, before.
70. **bring into play** (phrase) – use, employ, exercise, utilize.
71. **thanks to** (phrase) – as a result of, owing to, due to, because of.
72. **suo motu** (phrase) – Latin term means “on its own motion”. It is used where a

- government agency acts on its own knowledge.
73. **pay the price/cost** (phrase) – experience the bad/unpleasant result of something; sacrifice, loss.
  74. **pave the way for** (phrase) – clear the way for, set the scene for, put things in order for.
  75. **far from** (phrase) – not, not at all.
  76. **to take pride in** (phrase) – to be proud of, to take satisfaction in.
  77. **loom large** (phrase) – be imminent/close, about to happen (and something which has a lot of importance/attention).
  78. **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.
  79. **force one's way into** (phrase) – to use force in order to get somewhere.
  80. **rather than** (phrase) – instead of.
  81. **as such** (phrase) – in itself, of itself, by itself, intrinsically.
  82. **bring (something) full circle** (phrase) – to return to an original starting position, especially after having a long series of events/changes.
  83. **have a job on your hands** (phrase) – to have a difficult job to do.
  84. **in the making** (phrase) – developing, burgeoning, up and coming.
  85. **light the fuse** (phrase) – worsen, compound, escalate, aggravate.
  86. **in reality** (phrase) – in fact, actually, really.
  87. **let go** (phrase) – give up, relinquish, surrender.
  88. **ways and means** (phrase) – methods and resources to do something successfully.
  89. **in keeping with** (phrase) – in harmony with, in accordance with, in agreement with, in line with.
  90. **for instance** (phrase) – as an example.
  91. **red in the face** (phrase) – suffer embarrassment/shame.
  92. **no wonder** (phrase) – little wonder; it is not surprising.
  93. **right a wrong** (phrase) – correct something bad someone has done; improve, enhance, remedy.
  94. **in the face of** (phrase) – despite, notwithstanding, regardless of; when confronted with.
  95. **take the highest toll** (phrase) – cause an adverse effect on something.
  96. **night and day** (phrase) – all the time, endlessly, continuously.
  97. **again and again** (phrase) – repeatedly, time and again, many times.
  98. **come undone** (phrase) – to become disintegrated, to break into parts or pieces; to come to fail.
  99. **put an end to** (phrase) – stop, terminate, abolish.
  100. **case in point** (phrase) – example, instance, typical case, sample.
  101. **in place** (phrase) – establish, set up, arranged, in order.
  102. **at the mercy of** (phrase) – in the power of, under the control of, unprotected against, defenceless against.
  103. **on display** (phrase) – in a public place where the public can see.
  104. **have a bearing on** (phrase) – have a relevance/relation to something.
  105. **going forward** (phrase) – in the future.
  106. **in this regard** (phrase) – in connection with the aspect/consideration/point referred to earlier.
  107. **lay emphasis on** (phrase) – to emphasize the importance of something.
  108. **on the face of it** (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, evidently/ostensibly; at first glance.
  109. **in light of** (phrase) – taking into consideration, considering, bearing in mind, in view of.
  110. **pass muster** (phrase) – be acceptable, be practical, be justifiable, be convincing, make sense.
  111. **bridge the gulf/gap** (phrase) – try to find a way to reduce the gap and bring the two separate viewpoints together.
  112. **make someone kneel** (phrase) – make someone bow down; make someone get down on one's knees; make someone show reverence.
  113. **out on a limb** (phrase) – vulnerable; in a difficult, isolated position (with no support from others).

114. **lie at the root of** (phrase) – to be the cause of something.
115. **break the deadlock** (phrase) – to bring something (stalemate/impasse) to an end.
116. **turn one's back on** (phrase) – ignore, disregard, reject, abandon, give up.
117. **it is only a matter of time** (phrase) – to be sure to happen at some point in the future.
118. **dead in the water** (phrase) – not able to function successfully.
119. **pay tribute to** (phrase) – honour, show appreciation of, give recognition to, pay homage to; praise, speak highly of.
120. **under a cloud** (phrase) – under suspicion/doubt/wariness.
121. **set the bar (high)** (phrase) – set/fix a very high standard.
122. **a far cry from** (phrase) – a very different one.
123. **state of affairs** (phrase) – condition, situation, circumstances.
124. **make a pitch** (phrase) – say/do something in support of someone or something.
125. **pay heed** (phrase) – pay attention to, take notice of, listen to.
126. **walk of life** (phrase) – a person's class/status/rank within society.
127. **in the saddle** (phrase) – in a dominant/influential position; in a position of control; in a position of responsibility.
128. **take sides** (phrase) – support, give one's support to, side with, stand up for, be supportive of, back up.
129. **make amends** (phrase) – compensate, recompense, make it up to (for a wrongdoing).
130. **at loggerheads** (phrase) – (two individuals or two groups of people) in a strong or violent disagreement about something. Engaged in a serious dispute and fail to come to an understanding of any kind.
131. **walk the talk** (phrase) – to do the things you have said you would do.
132. **lay the blame at someone's doorstep** (phrase) – to mention that another person is responsible for one's own failure.
133. **such as** (phrase) – for instance, e.g., to give an example, for example.
134. **in the event of something** (phrase) – if something happens.
135. **after all** (phrase) – most importantly, basically/essentially.
136. **fall in line** (phrase) – conform to, adhere to, abide by (the established rules).
137. **(fall) by the wayside** (phrase) – be left without attention.
138. **at hand** (phrase) – readily available, at one's disposal, nearby, close by.
139. **on record** (phrase) – (officially) recorded, documented, registered.
140. **in the public domain** (phrase) – if something (e.g. information) is in the public domain, people generally know about it since it is not secret.
141. **flow from** (phrase) – come from, be rooted in, originate from, emanate from.
142. **so much as** (phrase) – hardly, barely, scarcely.
143. **play a part/role** (phrase) – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
144. **bring something to an end** (phrase) – cease, stop something, terminate.
145. **in practice** (phrase) – in reality, actually, practically.
146. **reel under** (phrase) – to suffer (due to a burden).
147. **born out of** (phrase) – has happened as a result of something.
148. **in principle** (phrase) – in general, generally, in essence, by and large.
149. **at best** (phrase) – only, merely.
150. **as far as** (phrase) – to the degree/extent that.
151. **more so** (phrase) – to a greater degree; to a greater extent.
152. **nothing short of** (phrase) – nothing less than.
153. **in question** (phrase) – in doubt; at issue, being discussed.
154. **under the banner** (phrase) – as part of a particular group (claim to support a specified cause).
155. **come as no surprise** (phrase) – something which is not surprising someone, but is as expected one.
156. **take into account** (phrase) – consider, take into consideration, have regard to, reckon with.



157. **in the interests of** (phrase) – for the benefit/advantage of.
158. **all but** (phrase) – nearly, almost, just about, more or less, practically, virtually.
159. **make clear** (phrase) – explain, clarify, elucidate.
160. **to begin with** (phrase) – at first, at the outset, at the beginning.
161. **push ahead** (phrase) – proceed, advance, progress, move up.
162. **in conjunction** (phrase) – together.
163. **nowhere near** (phrase) – not nearly.
164. **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.
165. **thus far** (phrase) – until now, till date.
166. **for the moment** (phrase) – for the present, for now.
167. **with regard to** (phrase) – in respect of, concerning, with reference to.
168. **as it happens** (phrase) – actually, really, certainly, as expected.
169. **in accordance with** (phrase) – in agreement with, in conformity with, in line with, in compliance with.
170. **for the sake of** (phrase) – for the purpose of, in order to improve/achieve; in the interest of.
171. **lose sight of** (phrase) – pay no attention to, fail to consider, be lax about.
172. **in the name of** (phrase) – for the sake of, at the behest of.
173. **owing to** (phrase) – because of, as a result of, on account of.
174. **on guard** (phrase) – on duty to protect something; vigilant, alert, wary, watchful, cautious, careful, heedful.
175. **come to the conclusion** (phrase) – to decide something after thinking/analyzing about it carefully.
176. **in the hands of** (phrase) – in the possession of.
177. **in a hurry** (phrase) – more quickly, easily, without delay.
178. **in name only** (phrase) – nominally.
179. **stand the test of** (phrase) – continue to be successful (for a long time).
180. **in the driver's seat** (phrase) – in charge, in command, in control, responsible, at the top.
181. **set afire (or) set fire to** (phrase) – cause to burn; ignite, set alight, set ablaze.
182. **better late than never** (phrase) – doing something late is better than not doing it at all.
183. **close/shut the door on** (phrase) – stop dealing with someone/something; to exclude one from something totally/permanently.
184. **fall/run afoul of** (phrase) – get into trouble, come into conflict with, go against (by not following rules/standards).
185. **dig (in) one's heels** (phrase) – oppose, fight against, refuse to accept.
186. **(at the) top of the heap** (phrase) – high up, at great height, at the highest point/position.
187. **stuff of legend/folklore** (phrase) – legendary, famous, exceptional, remarkable, memorable.
188. **turn over a new leaf** (phrase) – reform, improve, amend.
189. **lead from the front** (phrase) – take an active role in what you are saying others to do.
190. **put (someone out) to pasture** (phrase) – to make someone retire (as the person has become a little too old to work and therefore compel him to quit his/her job). It also means to discontinue something.
191. **nip something in the bud** (phrase) – to stop something (a potential problem or bad behaviour) at an early stage so that it does not become a serious problem/issue in the future; suppress, prevent, halt, destroy, stifle, obstruct, impede.
192. **trace one's roots** (phrase) – trace the source of something.
193. **rear one's head** (phrase) – (of an unpleasant subject) present itself.
194. **hold in contempt** (phrase) – consider something to be undeserving of attention.
195. **ring hollow** (phrase) – to seem false, insincere or not genuine.
196. **whatever it takes** (phrase) – anything possible to complete a task (and achieve a goal).

197. **tools of choice** (phrase) – methods chosen to solve a particular problem (as being the most suitable tools).
198. **on one's part** (phrase) – on behalf of, by, done by, caused by, from.
199. **to one's credit** (phrase) – used to mention that someone deserves praise/admiration.
200. **on the part of** (phrase) – on behalf of, by, done by, caused by, from.
201. **on offer** (phrase) – available.
202. **be left to oneself** (phrase) – be permitted to do what one prefers.
203. **no longer** (phrase) – not any more.
204. **the likes of** (phrase) – something considered as a type.
205. **in the aftermath of** (phrase) – as a consequence of, as a result of.
206. **call it quits** (phrase) – to stop doing something (permanently).
207. **strike a deal/bargain** (phrase) – to come to an agreement.
208. **take someone along** (phrase) – to take someone with you.
209. **it is no secret that** (phrase) – used to say that something is a wellknown fact.
210. **do/try one's best** (phrase) – make every effort, spare no effort, do all one can.
211. **bring someone to justice** (phrase) – send someone to trial for a crime; convict, adjudge, declare guilty.
212. **out of the ordinary** (phrase) – unusual, unexpected, surprising, strange, bizarre, outlandish.
213. **in the act of** (phrase) – in the process of.
214. **join forces** (phrase) – put together efforts.
215. **over the course of** (phrase) – during, throughout.
216. **cut the present** (phrase) – come (back) to the present time.
217. **up against** (phrase) – confronted with, faced with, opposed by.
218. **with every passing day** (phrase) – day by day.
219. **across the spectrum** (phrase) – from one side to the other side (spectrum refers to a range of something).
220. **bring oneself to** (phrase) – force oneself to, make oneself, bear to.
221. **at the turn of the year** (phrase) – it refers to the transition from one year to another.
222. **on medication** (phrase) – taking medical drugs now (as prescribed by a doctor).
223. **the way forward** (phrase) – something (a plan/action) that leads to success in the future.
224. **come close** (phrase) – almost do something.
225. **tighten (your) grip** (phrase) – to start to control someone/something more stringently.
226. **below/under the radar** (phrase) – to go unnoticed/undetected.
227. **in a short span** (phrase) – in a short period/duration (of time).
228. **to the tune of** (phrase) – amounting to.
229. **take into consideration** (phrase) – consider, take into account.
230. **in the grip of** (phrase) – in the control of; dominated/controlled by.
231. **at first glance** (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, on the face of it, outwardly.
232. **at the outset** (phrase) – from the beginning.
233. **evil eye** (phrase) – a curse thought to be given by a malicious glare (threatening look) that can cause bad luck or loss.
234. **in general** (phrase) – as a whole, generally, normally.
235. **give and take** (phrase) – compromise, concession; cooperation/teamwork.
236. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
237. **in a vacuum** (phrase) – in total isolation (isolated from others).
238. **over time** (phrase) – it describes something which happens gradually.
239. **paint (someone) with the same brush** (phrase) – to unfairly describe someone as being the same as another person (generally in a negative manner).
240. **bring someone to book** (phrase) – punish, take to task, bring to justice; reprimand, criticize.
241. **on the drawing board** (phrase) – (of an idea, plan, or proposal) being thought about and not yet ready to execute/carry out.
242. **sit on the fence** (phrase) – undecided, uncommitted, uncertain, unsure.

243. **shoot oneself in the foot** (phrase) – to do or say something that causes trouble/difficulty for oneself.
244. **high and dry** (phrase) – destitute, helpless, without/assistance, without resources; in difficulties, forsaken, abandoned.
245. **play fast and loose** (phrase) – to act/perform something carelessly/irresponsibly.
246. **have one's work cut out** (phrase) – be faced with a tough task/work.
247. **the haves and the have-nots** (phrase) – very rich and very poor people.
248. **a tough/hard nut to crack** (phrase) – situation or an opponent that is difficult to deal with or beat.
249. **eyeball to eyeball** (phrase) – stand up to, outface, intimidate, confront.
250. **all eyes and ears** (phrase) – used to refer to watching & listening to something eagerly & carefully.
251. **fire the first shot** (phrase) – to go first, or have first try at something.
252. **bend over backwards** (phrase) – try, attempt, aspire to do/achieve something fairly.
253. **lock, stock, and barrel** (phrase) – completely; everything, the whole thing.
254. **dog eat dog** (phrase) – cruel, heartless, hard-hearted, uncaring.
255. **on a collision course** (phrase) – having an approach that is likely to cause conflict with another.
256. **the calm after the storm** (phrase) – the period during which things improve after a difficult time.
257. **a light touch** (phrase) – a careful way of handling/doing something.
258. **play into someone's hands** (phrase) – do something unintentionally which will give an advantage to the competitor/opponent.
259. **in limbo** (phrase) – unattended, unresolved, in a state of /uncertainty/suspension, postponed, in cold storage.
260. **troubled waters** (phrase) – a difficult situation/time.
261. **take a toll** (phrase) – to cause damage, suffering, deaths.
262. **as well as** (phrase) – and also, and in addition.
263. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
264. **turn the tide** (phrase) – to change/reverse a situation.
265. **make no mention of** (phrase) – to mention nothing about something.
266. **by way of** (phrase) – as a form of.
267. **in respect of** (phrase) – concerning, regarding, relating to, with reference to.
268. **in the middle (of)** (phrase) – in the process of doing something.
269. **down the middle** (phrase) – dividing something equally into two parts.
270. **make a difference** (phrase) – be important, have a significant effect on, to cause a change.
271. **on the contrary** (phrase) – conversely, just the opposite.
272. **on the cards** (phrase) – likely, possible, expected, liable to happen, in the offing.
273. **on the lines of** (phrase) – in conformity with.
274. **on the road** (phrase) – (of a vehicle) in use; able to be driven.
275. **as yet** (phrase) – so far, thus far, yet, still, until now.
276. **let alone** (phrase) – to say nothing of; not to mention.
277. **by the day** (phrase) – gradually.
278. **put differently** (phrase) – express differently, put/express in other words.
279. **take note of** (phrase) – pay attention to, to become aware of, to focus on something.
280. **hold hostage** (phrase) – to keep someone as hostage.
281. **at every/each turn** (phrase) – always, continually, repeatedly.
282. **short of** (phrase) – less than.
283. **is no exception** (phrase) – as usual, the same as, to be similar.
284. **as opposed to** (phrase) – in contrast with, as against.
285. **at the cost of** (phrase) – by sacrificing/losing/giving up something.
286. **in need** (phrase) – needy, deprived, disadvantaged, underprivileged, poor, poverty-stricken, destitute.

287. **take credit for** (phrase) – to get praise/appreciation for something, even if it is not deserved.
288. **go in for** (phrase) – take part in, participate in, be a participant in, engage in, get involved in.
289. **keep pace with** (phrase) – progress at the same speed as.
290. **come (back) to bite** (phrase) – to cause problems in the future.
291. **under way** (phrase) – in progress, happening, occurring, taking place.
292. **take cognisance of** (phrase) – notice, attend to, take into account, give attention to.
293. **turn the spotlight on** (phrase) – to call attention to something.
294. **one and all** (phrase) – everyone, without opposition, with one mind, with one accord, as one.
295. **ring the alarm** (phrase) – to cause concern/worry.
296. **find fault with** (phrase) – criticize, attack, censure, condemn, complain about.
297. **in search of** (phrase) – searching for, hunting for, seeking, looking for, fishing for.
298. **go overboard** (phrase) – to do something too much or to go to extremes.
299. **for one thing** (phrase) – one reason is that.
300. **on the ground** (phrase) – in a situation/place where things are happening really/practically.
301. **matter of concern** (phrase) – something which causes worry.
302. **as a mark of** (phrase) – as a symbol of.
303. **round the corner** (phrase) – coming soon, coming up, approaching, forthcoming.
304. **wreak havoc** (phrase) – cause/inflict a massive damage.
305. **at stake** (phrase) – at issue, at risk; or in question.
306. **set on** (phrase) – go on, advance.
307. **keep one's distance** (phrase) – to maintain a certain level of distance/separation from someone; to limit one's engagement/association with someone.
308. **make one's mark** (phrase) – be successful, distinguish oneself, succeed, make good, achieve recognition, attain distinction.
309. **take something upon oneself** (phrase) – to assume the right to do or responsibility for (something).
310. **break loose** (phrase) – to suddenly become unattached to something; get away, get free, break free, free oneself.