

***300+ Expressions in
British, Australian
and American
English:***

***Explanations,
Meanings and
Synonyms***

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A bit

***a very small amount,
not very much***

across the board

***everything and
everyone included***

to act up

to behave badly

***to make (one's) blood
boil***

***to make (someone)
very angry***

***to bleed (someone)
dry***

***to take everything
that someone has***

***to take (someone) to
the cleaner***

***to take everything
that (someone) has
as a result of
winning a legal
proceeding***

in the blink of an eye

quickly

in cold blood

***deliberately,
ruthlessly***

***to have (someone's)
blood on (one's) hand
or head***

***to be responsible for
someone's affliction
or death***

***to make (one's) blood
run cold***

to frighten, to scare

to sweat blood

***to work very, very
hard***

to be blunt

to be frank

to branch out

***to expand or extend
(a business or an
organization)***

to beat about

***to search
through, to scour***

***to beat about or
around the bush***

***to avoid coming to
the point***

to come up to

***to approach, to
draw near or nearer***

to come up to

***to compare, to set
side by side, to
oppose, to set against***

***to be the tip of the
iceberg***

***to be only the
beginning of the
problem***

to beat back

***to force or compel
back***

to beat down

***to bring into
subjection, to subdue,
to persuade, to wear
down one's
resistance***

to beat off

***to ward off, to
repulse***

to beat the bushes

***to search, to look for,
to search out***

to bend back

***to curve back, to
return to its original
form or shape***

to bend over

***to bow in a
downward position,
to stoop***

***to bend over
backwards (to)***

***to do the impossible,
to go beyond what is
expected in order to
accomplish a task***

to come undone

***to be come loose or
unglued***

to come up against

***to stumble, bump or
fall against***

***to bite the hand that
feeds you***

***to repay kindness
with betrayal or
injury***

to come up

***to be mentioned, to
be referred to, to be
discussed***

***to be flat on one's
back***

***to be helpless or
vulnerable, to be in a
weak position***

***to be flat on one's
back***

***to be beaten or
defeated***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be in back or
background, to be
bringing up the rear***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be at or on the
heels, to be in close
pursuit of or close
upon, to be hard at
the heels***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to do in one's
absence or without
one's knowledge***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be supporting or
helping, to have
someone's back***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be prompting,
urging, goading,
egging on or
instigating***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be out-dated, old-
fashion or out of step
with***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be slow or not able
to keep up***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be late or off
schedule***

***to be behind
(someone)***

***to be in arrears, in
debt or overdue***

to be behind

to be next or after

***to be the power
behind the throne***

***to be the real power,
to be the person who
pull the strings, to be
someone's brain***

***to break someone's
back***

***to cause someone to
fail***

***to break someone's
back***

***to destroy, to defeat,
to break down, to
bring to one's knees***

***to get off someone's
back***

***to cease finding fault
with***

***to get off someone's
back***

to stop pestering

***to get off someone's
back***

***to stop giving
someone a hard time***

to get off one's back

***to stand on one's own
two feet***

to get off one's back

***to stand up, to no
longer be dependent,
helpless or weak***

to get one's back up

***to become annoyed or
angry, to take
offense***

***to have (one's) back
up against the wall***

***to be in a difficult
situation, to not to be
able to do anything,
to be in a no win
situation***

***to have (one's) back
up against the wall***

***to be between a rock
and a hard place or
the devil and the
deep blue sea***

to get one's back up

***to become annoyed or
angry***

to get one's back up

***to take offense, to be
insulted***

***to stab (someone) in
the back***

***to betray, to rat on,
to sell down the river***

***to knife(someone) in
the back***

***to betray, to double-
time, to play Judas,
to break faith with***

to turn one's back on

***to not help, to allow
one to fend for
oneself, to neglect, to
forsake***

to back

***to stick up for, to
stick by, to not
forsake, to stand by***

to back

***to help, to support, to
encourage***

to back

***to promote, to
endorse, to
recommend***

to back

***to hold up, to make
stronger, to
strengthen, to
sustain***

to back

***to go to bat for, to
stand up for***

to back

to second, to attest

to back

(Music) to accompany

to back

(Gambling) to bet on

to be back

to return

to go back and forth

***to vacillate, to
change one's
position, stand or
opinion frequently***

to back away

***to retreat, to
withdraw, to go or
move away***

to back away

***(statement) to, to pull
or draw back, to
retreat from, to no
longer stand by***

to backbite

to sneer or jeer at

to backbite

***to throw mud on, to
dump on, to drag
through the mud***

to backbite

***to vilify, to defame,
to malign***

to backbite

***to smear, to tarnish,
to soil, to stigmatize***

to backbite

***to belittle, to
humiliate, to
disparage***

to backbite

***to bear false witness
against, to slander,
to libel***

to backbite

***to do a job on, to do a
hatchet job on***

to back down

***to retreat, to
abandon, to
backpedal, to
withdraw, to turn
tail***

to back down

***to take flight, to beat
an hasty retreat, to
run away as fast as
possible***

to back out or out of

***to withdraw from, to
renege, to fail to
keep a promise, to
not keep one's word***

to back talk

***to sass, to smart or
wise mouth, to give
lip to***

to back up

***to support or
confirm, to endorse,
to give one one's
support***

to back up

***to go in reverse, to
move or go
backwards***

to back up

***(computers) to
duplicate, to copy, to
reproduce, to double***

to back up

***(traffic) to bring to a
standstill, to cause a
traffic congestion,
jam or bottleneck***

to bear out

***to confirm, to
collaborate***

to bear with

***to have the patience
for***

to not bat an eye

not to show surprise

to beef up

to make stronger

***He told her behind
the scenes***

He told her privately

out of the blue

***without any
warning, suddenly***

to be blue

***to be depressed, sad,
despondent,
unhappy, morose,
glum, downcast***

to be blue in the face

***to be so angry as to
be speechless, to be
about to explode with
anger***

***to have a bone to
pick***

***to disagree or argue
with someone***

***to throw (someone) a
bone***

***to give a small
concession, to
pacify, a
conciliatory bribe or
gift***

to feel in one's bones

to feel intuitively

***to make no bones
about it***

***to act or speak
openly, to not beat
around the bush***

***to get down to brass
track***

***to get to the point, to
not beat around the
bush***

let's get on with it

get to the point

to cut to the bone

***to remove all excess,
to remove all but the
essential parts***

to bone (an animal)

***to remove the bones
(of an animal)***

to bone up

***to study intensely, to
cram***

to be bone tired

***to exhausted, to be
extremely tired***

a bolt from the blue

***a sudden and
entirely unforeseen
event***

***to bolt, to bolt from
(something)***

***to leave, to
discontinue support
or participation***

to bolt

***to make a sudden
flight or run, to
escape***

to close the book

***to balance account,
to settle accounts***

by the book

***according to the
rules and
regulations***

to cook the books

***to present a false
financial report, to
conceal profits to
avoid taxes***

to book

to reserve

off the books

***done for cash as a
way to avoid paying
taxes or
compensation***

to throw the book at

***to punish or to
castigate severely***

***to pull oneself up by
one's bootstraps***

***to help oneself
without the aid of
others, to use one's
resources***

to be a bother

effort, work, worry

to brown-bag it

***to bring one's own
alcohol to a club or
one's own lunch to
work***

to give the brush

to ignore, to rebuff

to get the brush

***to be rejected or
rebuffed***

to brush aside

***to disregard or
ignore***

to brush off

***to rebuff or to send
away***

to brush up

***to bone up on, to
review***

to buck for

to strive for

to pass the buck

***to pass or give the
responsibility or
blame to another
person***

***to put a bug (in
someone's) ear***

***to give someone a
subtle suggestion, to
hint***

***to bug (the phone or
someone's house)***

***to install a secret
listening device in
someone's phone or
house***

to bug (someone)

***to bother, to annoy,
to pester***

Bug off!

Leave me alone!

***to play one's card
right***

***to act cleverly,
sensibly cautiously***

***to put (one's) card on
the table***

***to be totally honest
and straightforward,
to be open, to not
conceal***

to be for the birds

***to be useless, not to
be taken seriously***

***to kill two birds with
one stone***

***to achieve two aims
with a single effort***

***the birds and the
bees***

***basic information
about sex and
reproduction***

A little bird told me

***Someone (without
wanting to reveal
who) told me.***

***A bird in hand is
worth two in the
bush.***

***to be satisfied with
what has rather
than what one can
get***

to eat like a bird

to eat very little

***I want it in black
and white.***

I want it in writing.

to black out

***to faint, to lose
consciousness***

to be in the black

to operate at a profit

***to bite off more than
one can chew***

***to attempt to do
something that
exceeds one's
capacity***

***to bite off (someone's)
head***

***to severely chastised
or castigate someone***

to bite the bullet

***to do something that
is extremely
difficult, to endure
an unpleasant or
difficult situation.***

***to bite the hand that
feeds you***

***to repay kindness
with betrayal or
injury***

***to bleed (someone)
dry***

***to take everything
that someone has***

Let's call it a day.

***Let's quit or stop for
today.***

to call the tune

to give the orders

***He always is putting
the cart before the
horse.***

***He always is doing
things out of order or
in the wrong order.***

to catch on, to get it

to understand

to fall short of

***to fail to reach a
particular standard
or goal***

to cut short

***to interrupt, to end
abruptly***

cheap skate

***someone who doesn't
like to spend money***

chicken feed

very little money

to dash off

***to do or make
something quickly***

to be dead tired

***to be exhausted, to be
extremely tired***

to be in deep water

***to be in a lot of
trouble, to be in
serious problems***

to die down

***to fade away, to
become quiet or calm***

to die away (sound)

***to become fainter and
fainter until the
sound stops***

to die on the vine

***to be rejected before
given the opportunity
to develop***

to die out

to disappear slowly

the die is cast

***a decision, which can
not be changed, has
been made***

a dime a dozen

***abundant and, as a
result, of little value***

to dish out

to distribute, to serve

to do away with

to stop something

to be down to earth

to be practical

to eat in

to eat at home

to eat out

***to dine or eat in a
restaurant***

to eat up

to eat everything

to eat (one's) words

***to retract (one's)
statement***

***to keep (one's) eyes
open***

to be observant

to make eyes/ to ogle

to flirt

to run one's eye over

to examine hastily

to see eye to eye

to agree

to eat like a horse

to eat a lot

***to have egg on (one's)
face***

***to be embarrassed by
one's own action***

***to walk on eggs, to
walk on egg shells***

***to do or act with
extreme caution***

to egg (someone) on

***to encourage
(someone)***

to ease up

***to take off the
pressure***

to eke out

***to make or maintain
a meagerly living
with a great effort***

en masse

as a group

***to keep an eye out, to
keep an eye out for
(someone)***

***to watch carefully, to
watch for someone***

to be all eyes

***to be extremely
attentive***

to face off

***to confront, as in a
contest or in
competition***

***to face up to
(something), to face
the music***

***to meet courageously,
to confront, to accept
(one's) punishment***

***to be in (someone's)
face***

***to annoy someone, to
confront someone
directly***

to lose face

to suffer humiliation

to save face

to not be humiliated

to show (one's) face

***to make an
appearance***

to be fair and square

***to be just, to be
honest***

to fall behind

***to not keep up, to not
progress***

to fall away

***to withdraw
allegiance or support,
to diminish***

to fall back

***to recede, to give
way, to retreat***

***to fall back on or
upon***

***to have recourse to, to
rely on***

to fall down

to disappoint

to fall for

to be deceived by

to fall in with

***to start to associate
with***

to fall off

***to decrease in
number or intensity,
to diminish***

to fall through

***to fail to accomplish
something, to
collapse***

to face the music

***to accept the
consequences of
(one's) action***

***to hit the nail on the
head***

***to say or do exactly
the right thing***

to nail (one's) coffin

***to hasten the failure
or demise of someone***

to nail down

to make final

to head off

***to intercept, to stop
the progress of
something or
someone***

to come to a head

***to reach a climax, to
culminate, to reach a
final or climatic
stage***

to go to one's head

***to be overcome with
exhilaration, to be
filled with conceit***

to hang (one's) head

to be ashamed

***to be head over heels
in love***

***to be very much in
love***

to be head to head

***to be direct
opposition or
competition with
someone***

to keep (one's) head

to remain calm

to lose (one's) head

to lose (one's) head

***to become unglued, to
become undone***

to lose control

***to be out of (one's)
head, to be out of
(one's) mind***

***to be out of control,
to be crazy***

to be over (one's) head

***to be overextended, to
be beyond (one's)
resources***

to hand down

***to transmit to
succeeding
generation or to
someone younger***

to hand out

to give, to distribute

***to hand over
something***

***to surrender the
control of something***

to be at hand

to be within reach

to change hands

***to pass from one
owner to another***

***to bite the hand that
feeds you***

***to turn on or against
someone who has
helped you***

***to bite off more than
you can chew***

***to attempt something
that exceeds your
capacity or ability***

***to bite (one's) lip or
tongue***

***to not say or do
something out of
anger, to repress
one's anger or
emotions***

***I got him eating out
of my hand***

***He is doing exactly
what I want him to
do.***

***to force someone's
hand***

***to force someone to
act before he or she is
ready***

***to live from hand to
mouth***

***to live poorly, to live
without sufficient
resources***

***to make money hand
over fist***

to make money easily

He is out of hand.

***His behavior is out of
control.***

***to sit on (one's) hand,
to not lift a finger***

***to do nothing when
action is needed***

***I'll keep my fingers
cross***

***I'll wish or hope for
the best***

***I have him wrapped
around my finger***

***He does exactly as I
want, I completely
control him***

to be under fire

to be under attack

to wash (one's) hand

***to abandon further
responsibility***

I've had it

***I'm finished; I'm tired
and disgusted***

***to have it in for
someone***

***to wish or hope
someone harm***

We had it out.

***We reached an
understanding
through intense
discussions***

You had it coming

You deserved it

***to break someone's
heart***

***to cause someone
sorrow or
disappointment***

to eat one's heart out

to grieve inconsolably

Have a heart!!

***Show compassion
and mercy!!!***

***to have (one's) heart
in (one's) mouth***

***to be excessively
anxious***

***to have (one's) heart
in the right place***

***to be well -
intentioned***

***to set (one's) heart on
something***

***to wish, hope, or to
work for something
intensely***

to take heart

to acquire courage

***to wear (one's) heart
on (one's) sleeve***

***to allow one's feeling
to show***

to hedge a question

***to not answer a
question directly***

to cool (one's) heel

to be kept waiting

for the hell of it

for the fun of it

***I'll do it when hell
freezes over***

I'll never do it.

hit or miss

haphazardly

to hit the books

to study

to hold back

***to restrain, to
withhold***

***to hold (oneself) in or
back***

***to exercise, to
exercise restraint, to
constrain, to bridle***

to hold off

***to postpone or defer
action***

to see eye to eye

***to agree, to be in
agreement, to concur***

to be an old hand

***to be an expert, to be
experienced***

***Don't stick your neck
out!!!***

Don't risk it!!

***to put two and two
together***

***to arrive at the
correct and obvious
conclusion***

four letter word

a curse word

***to look out for
number one***

***to take care of (one's)
own interest to the
exclusion of those of
others***

to walk on eggs

to act very carefully

***Don't put all your
eggs in one basket***

***Don't stake or risk
everything on one
project or job***

***to kill the goose that
lays the golden egg***

***to destroy something
that is valuable or
profitable***

***to cut off (one's) nose
to spite (one's) face***

***to put (oneself) at a
disadvantage***

to follow (one's) nose

***to be guided by (one's)
instincts***

***to keep one's nose
clean***

***to behave (oneself) to
avoid problems***

***to keep one's nose to
the grindstone***

***to study, work, or
practice hard***

***to be led around by
the nose***

***to be controlled by
someone else***

***to look down (one's)
nose***

***to regard with
condescension***

***to pay through the
nose***

to pay excessively

***to cost an arm and a
leg***

***to be extremely
expensive***

***He has his nose out of
joint***

He's angry

***to rub someone's nose
in it***

***to persecute without
mercy or persistently***

***to be under someone's
nose***

to be plainly visible

the cream of the crop

the best

It's not my cup of tea

It's not my preference

***to be cool as a
cucumber***

to be extremely calm

***to have (one's) finger
in the pie***

to be involved

in a nutshell

***concisely, precisely,
briefly***

to eat humble pie

***to accept humiliation
and shame***

to go to the dogs

***to decline morally or
physically, to go to
ruins, to go astray***

to lead a dog's life

***to live an unhappy
or frustrated life***

***to let sleeping dogs
lie***

***to refrain from
action that would
alter an existing
situation, to not rock
the boat***

to put on the dog

***to put on airs, to
assume an attitude
of wealth or
importance***

to dog

***to pursue, to hunt
down, to go after, to
run down, to track
down, to tail***

***to count (one's)
chicken before they
hatch***

***to rely on a
benefit that is still
uncertain***

***to let the cat out
of the bag***

***to let out a secret,
to divulge a secret***

***to play cat and
mouse***

***to toy or to trifle
with (someone)***

***He's a man after my
own heart***

***He acts and feels just
like I do***

He broke my heart

***He caused me a lot of
pain and sorrow***

at heart

in reality

to eat one's heart out

to grieve inconsolably

to have a heart

***to compassion and
mercy***

***to have one's heart in
one's mouth***

***to be very anxious
and nervous about a
particular situation***

***to have one's heart in
the right place***

to be well-intentioned

***to lose (one's) heart to
someone***

to fall in love

to take to heart

to consider seriously

***to wear one's heart on
one's sleeves***

***to allow (one's) feeling
to show for everyone
to see***

He calls at all hours

He calls at any time.

***He's like a babe in the
woods.***

***He is someone who is
innocent***

***He hit him below the
belt***

He hit him unfairly.

***to edge (someone) out
their position***

***to move (someone) out
slowly from his
position***

***He gave him quite a
work over***

***He gave him a good
beating***

***to catch someone's
eye***

***to flirt with someone
or to give someone a
warning glance***

***to set the baby on his
feet***

***to place the baby on
his baby***

to set a house on fire

***to start a fire in a
house***

***to set a table for
breakfast***

***to place the dishes
and silverware on the
table to eat breakfast***

to set (one's) hair

***to fix or to arrange
(one's) hair***

***to set a date for
something***

***to arrange or to
decide on a day for
something***

***to set (one's) mind on
something***

***to decide resolutely
on something***

to set (one's) at rest

***to put (one's) mind in
a peaceful state***

to set a prisoner free

to liberate a prisoner

to set a good example

***to present a good
example***

to set (one's) watch

***to adjust or to fix the
hands of a watch to
control its
performance***

to set about

***to begin on, to start,
to attack, to assault***

to set against

***to cause to be hostile
or antagonistic, to
compare or contrast***

to set apart

***to distinguish, to
reserve***

to set aside

***to dismiss from the
mind, to reject, to put
to one side, to
discard***

to set back

***to hinder, to impede,
to reverse, to put up
obstacles***

to set by

***to save or to keep for
future use***

to set down

***to put or place down,
to attribute or to
ascribe***

about time/ at last

***after a lengthy pause
or delay***

at long last

***after a frustrating
delay***

to breathe (one's) last

to die

ahead of time

***before the period or
time due, early***

at one time

once, formerly

at times

occasionally

to gain time

***to achieve or to get a
postponement***

in time for

sufficiently early for

to kill time

to occupy oneself

many a time

again and again

on (one's) own time

while not being paid

on time

punctually

to take one's time

to act without hurry

***to be as good as
(one's) word***

to keep one's promise

***to be a man or
woman of his or her
word***

to be trustworthy

***to take (one) at (one's)
word***

***to take a statement
to be literal and true***

***to take the word out
of (someone's) mouth***

***to say exactly what
another person was
about to say***

***to work in or to work
into***

***to blend, to include
after some effort***

***She worked off the
fat***

***She lost weight by
exercising***

to work on (someone)

***to pressure (someone)
to do something***

