



ENGLISH
IDIOMS & PHRASES - PART 1

Make all the difference

- To be very effective
- Have a good or positive effect

Example:

- If you want to improve your English read news papers; you will find it makes all the difference.

Make both ends meet

- Not spend more than one earns or receives

Example:

- Prices are rising very fast that service class people are finding it very difficult to make both ends meet.

On a firm footing

- On a safe basis, foundation

Examples:

- After having an MBA degree he started his business on a firm footing.

On call

- Available for duty, assistance

Example:

- One of the doctors has to be on call over the weekend.

Meaning : doctor has to be available to attend to his patients.

Make head or tail of

- be not able to understand at all

Generally used in negative sense

Example:

- My sister's handwriting is terrible: I can't make head or tail of the letter she has written to me.

Make a mountain out of a molehill

- Make something appear to be more important than it is

Example:

He is still complaining about not getting the gift from his father; he is making a mountain out of a mole hill

On one's shoulders

- Part of one's responsibility

Example: The organizing the party was on my shoulders.

The ins and outs

- All the details of something which are generally difficult to understand

Example:

- It would take me too long to explain all the ins and outs of the problem.

To lean upon

- To depend upon

Example:

He leans upon me very much for financial help.

Laugh all the way to the bank

- Make a lot of money easily without much efforts and thus feeling very excited about it

Example:

- With profit continuing to rise, both investors and startup team are laughing all the way to the bank.

Carrot and stick

- Reward and punishment

Example:

- The English teacher follows a carrot-and-stick approach to teaching.

To carry one's point

- To be able to convince; to overrule objections

Example:

- Anupama spoke well and her arguments were so convincing that she carried her point in the college debate.

To put the cart before the horse

- To put the wrong thing first

Example:

- Going for world-tour without having savings to pay for it is to put the cart before the horse.

Burning question

- Important topic or issue

Example:

Nuclear test by North Korea is the burning question of the day.

Play havoc with something

- Cause damage, destruction or disorder

Example:

- The terrible storms wreaked havoc with electricity supplies, because so many poles were bent and broken.

Left handed compliment

- Praise which is also a criticism in some way

Example:

- They praised their hostess on her cooking, saying it showed what could be done using cheap ingredients.

Anybody's guess

- Nobody knows

Example: Who will win the next game is anybody's guess.

Your guess is as good as mine

- Neither of us knows the answer

Example: If the government knows how to run the country, why aren't things getting better? Your guess is as good as mine

In a good fettle

- Healthy and cheerful

Example:

- After ten hour's sleep, I was in fine fettle.

Fight against time

- Lot of work is to be done and time available is less

Example: His daughter's marriage is after a week's time; he is on fight against time.

END OF PART 1