

Yazd University
Idioms & Expressions: Text 11
Lecturer: Ali A. Ariamanesh

- 1. When hell freezes over:** ‘a cold day in hell’; absolutely never
A: When do you think he will graduate from college? B: When hell freezes over!
- 2. White elephant:** an expensive but useless possession; something rare
The new stereo he has recently bought is a mere white elephant; he never uses it.
- 3. White lie:** a harmless lie that is said to get someone out of problem
I didn't want to make her upset and told her a white lie.
- 4. Whole nine yards:** to go to the far end of doing sth; to do your best possible performance
You couldn't believe how they welcomed us! They went the whole nine yards.
- 5. Wiped out:** exhausted; depleted of energy
It's about time I went on a vacation; I really feel wiped out.
- 6. Wise owl:** a very wise and perceptive individual
My grandfather is a real wise owl. I usually take advantage of his experience.
- 7. You're on:** it's to show you are agreed with someone's idea or suggestion
A: How about a game of tennis this afternoon? B: Okay, you're on.
- 8. You can say that again:** that's very true!
A: I think every person regardless of their gender, race or nationality should be respected.
B: You can say that again!
- 9. To make a capital of sth:** to make a mountain out of a molehill
It was only a small accident! But you are making a capital of it.
- 10. You can't teach an old dog new tricks:** a novice person cannot teach an experienced one
I have been working in this profession for 30 years. Don't teach an old dog new tricks!
- 11. You can't make omelets without breaking eggs:** to reach a goal, you need to do some prerequisites.
To encourage people to buy your products, you have to advertise. You can't make omelets without breaking eggs!
- 12. You can't know the wine by the barrel:** don't judge a book by its cover
Our new neighbors look nice but you can't know the wine by the barrel!

Some Common Phrasal Verbs in English as Idiomatic Expressions

Get

13. It gets me: it annoys me

It really gets me when you laugh loudly! It's cacophonous.

14. Get about (Get around): to go to different places to see the sights

Since I have bought my own car, I can easily get about.

15. Get across: to make your meaning/message understood by others

We must get across the fact that smoking is dangerous for human health.

16. Get ahead: to be better than others

Due to her hard work, she will soon get ahead of her classmates.

17. Get along: to have good or friendly relationships; to deal with sth/sb without problems

I have always been able to get along with my students.

18. Get by: to have money/income to buy what you need to follow your usual life, not more!

My friend doesn't earn much money, but as much as to get by.

19. Get in with someone: to become friendly

After a period of enmity, the two adjacent countries got in with each other.

20. Get into something: to start to enjoy sth

I have recently got into classic music; but still hate Rap.

21. Get over: to recover after being sick

In normal conditions, it takes two to three weeks to get over the flue.

Bring

22. Bring about: to cause sth to happen

Some people are very self-opinionated, you cannot bring about any change in them.

23. Bring along: to take somebody or something with you into a place

Every participant is allowed to bring along a friend to the party.

24. Bring back: to reintroduce sth which was used in the past; to make you remember sth

Our trip to the maternal village brought back many old memories of ours.

25. Bring smile to ones' lips or Bring tears to one's eyes

26. Bring around: to persuade someone to do sth he/she doesn't like

She won't listen to me! Will you please bring her around?

Turn

27. Turn against somebody: to stop being friendly with someone

Just because of a small disagreement, he turned against me and won't speak to me!

28. Turn someone away: not to allow sb enter somewhere

Since its capacity was full, many people were turned away from the stadium.

29. Turn out: to switch off a lamp; to happen

Please remember to turn all lights out when leaving the house.

Despite our worries, everything turned out well at the end.

30. Turn into: to become, to change

All my dreams turned into nightmare when I arrived at the U.S.

31. Turn over: to change the position or side of something, to capsize

The careless driver didn't reduce his speed and turned his car over when steering.

32. Turn up: to be found by chance; to arrive

Unfortunately, I have recently lost my cellphone! I hope it will turn up!

I will turn up at 7:30 for the meeting if my flight is not delayed.