

ring a bell	<p>A: Do you know April O'Neil? B: Hmm. Maybe. That name rings a bell. Definition</p> <p>= is familiar to you but you can't remember where you heard it</p>
on the one hand / on the other hand	<p>On the one hand, Peter's roommate is kind. On the other hand, he's quite messy. Definition</p> <p>= (expression used to when considering the advantages and disadvantages of sth)</p>
have/keep an open mind	<p>I tried to keep an open mind about Allan even though I'd heard some bad things about him. Definition</p> <p>= be openminded</p>
on the tip of your tongue	<p>His name was on the tip of my tongue... but I couldn't remember it. Definition</p> <p>= used to say you are <i>almost</i> able to remember something, but you can't</p>
a hangover (noun) / hung-over (adj)	<p>Tyler was too hung-over from last night's party to go to work. Definition</p> <p>= unwell from drinking too much alcohol on the previous day</p>
~ish	<p>Let's meet around 4ish. Definition</p> <p>= used to make sth more vague and less exact</p>
fed up	<p>I'm fed up with my neighbour's dog. Definition</p> <p>= so angry that you can no longer tolerate any more of sth</p>
Big deal!	<p>It takes you 15 minutes to walk to school? Big deal! Definition</p> <p>= a sarcastic expression meaning that sth is actually NOT a big deal.</p>

Give sb a hand

My dad gave me a hand with my homework.
Definition

= helped you

let the cat out of the bag

It was going to be a surprise party, until Todd let the cat out of the bag.
Definition

= told the secret so other people found out too early

give it a shot

If you think you can make the team, then give it a shot.
Definition

= give it a try

No way!

A: George, I'm pregnant.
B: No way!
Definition

= similar to "that can't be possible!" / "I don't believe you!"

The more the merrier.

A: Can I invite my brother?
B: Sure. The more the merrier.
Definition

= used to say that the more of sth there is, the better it will be.

give it your all

Even though I lost the race, I gave it my all.
Definition

= tried your hardest

first-hand

I saw the accident happen, first-hand.
Definition

= you experienced it personally

a dead end

Let's not take this path. It leads to a dead end.
Definition

= a place with only an end

time flies

Time flies when you're having fun.
Definition

= time passes quickly

pull sb's leg

"You have 6 brothers? You're pulling my leg!"
Definition

= same as "You're joking!"

have sth on your mind

When Dana has something on her mind, she likes to go for a long walk by herself.
Definition

= to have a certain topic in your thoughts

keep track

I use my watch to keep track of time.
Definition

= to monitor the time

from scratch

My aunt made the cake from scratch.
Definition

= from nothing (without any already-prepared materials)

off the top of your head

He asked me to tell him a joke, but I couldn't think of one off the top of my head.
Definition

= using only the ideas you have in your head at that moment

learn your lesson

The boy learned his lesson. He'll never play with fire again.
Definition

= to learn sth important about life from making a mistake/doing something wrong

keep/bear in mind

The professor told his students to keep in mind that they only have 50 minutes to complete the test.
Definition

= not forget; remember

speak your mind

Timmy was afraid to speak his mind in front of his schoolmates.
Definition

= say what you honestly feel

There's nothing to it.

is bad luck

Why don't you make a simple website for your business?

There's nothing to it.

Definition

= it's very easy; it's a piece of cake

get out of hand

The house party got out of hand, so we had to call the police.

Definition

= got out of control

cut a long story short

To cut a long story short, Lisa and I have had some interesting experiences together.

Definition

= to make a long story shorter so it takes less time to say

a piece of cake

The test was a piece of cake. I finished it in 20 minutes.

Definition

= very easy

go out of your way to do sth

I went out of my way to help Jenny find an apartment, and she didn't even say thanks!

Definition

= to take extra time to make an additional effort to do sth

cross your mind

The thought never even crossed my mind.

Definition

= to think about sth; to consider sth

road rage

I don't like being in the car with Gary. He has difficulty controlling his road rage.

Definition

= extreme anger when driving

go on about

The old man went on about his school days for nearly an hour.

Definition

= to speak for too long about sth uninteresting

slip your mind

I was going to return the library books today after work, but the thought slipped my mind.
Definition

= used to say you forgot to do sth

have/throw a fit

The baby threw a fit when I took his toy away.
Definition

= to get angry and begin acting like an angry child

The ball is in your court

The ball is in their court now. Let's wait for their decision.
Definition

= used to say that YOU now have control of the situation

make your day

Finding a fifty-dollar bill on the ground made my day.
Definition

= used to say that sth made your day special (and great).

a rip off / to rip sb off

Six dollars for a cup of coffee?! What a rip off!
Definition

= sth very over-priced

get a kick out of sth

I get a kick out of reading science fiction novels.
Definition

= to get enjoyment from sth

catch sb's eye

The bright advertisement caught my eye.
Definition

= to grab sb's attention and make them look at sth

jump the gun

I jumped the gun and asked Gail to marry me. She said she wasn't sure what to say.
Definition

= to do sth too soon.

give sb a piece of your mind

The angry worker gave his boss a piece of his mind.
Definition

= to speak angrily to sb about sth bad they have done

cross your fingers

Kate crossed her fingers and hoped it wouldn't rain on her

wedding day.
Definition

= (Westerners cross their fingers when they want good luck)

cost (sb) an arm and a leg

The designer handbag cost her an arm and a leg.
Definition

= to cost a LOT of money

be in hot water

Ken was in hot water about forgetting his wedding anniversary.
Definition

= to be in trouble

an eye-opener

The film on global warming was a real eye-opener for Tom.
Definition

= sth that makes you see or think about sth differently from then on

let off steam

Ted plays squash when he needs to let off steam.
Definition

= to release anger and frustration

read between the lines

You can figure out the author's opinion by reading between the lines.
Definition

= to find the hidden meaning in sth that is written or said

go all out

We went all out and booked a five-star hotel for our trip.
Definition

= to use all of your energy or resources (e.g. money in the above example) to do sth

out of line

Mark's comment was out of line. He shouldn't have said that to a client.
Definition

= inappropriate; not in accordance with how sb is supposed to behave

be on sb's back

My manager is on my back about being at work on time.

would not be seen/caught dead	<p>Definition</p> <p>= to persistently urge sb to do (or not to do) sth</p> <p>I wouldn't be seen dead wearing an ugly dress like that.</p>
have mixed feelings	<p>Definition</p> <p>= used to say that you would NEVER do sth</p> <p>Larry has mixed feelings about his new job.</p>
draw a blank	<p>Definition</p> <p>= to be unsure about sth</p> <p>When asked for her postal code, Amy drew a blank.</p>
You name it.	<p>Definition</p> <p>= to be unable to remember anything</p> <p>A: Daddy, can I have anything on the menu? B: Sure. You name it, you got it.</p>
know your stuff	<p>Definition</p> <p>= synonym of 'whatever you want'; anything</p> <p>Jim has been a mechanic for 20 years. He really knows his stuff.</p>
left, right and centre	<p>Definition</p> <p>= to know sth well</p> <p>Businesses were closing in town left, right and centre.</p>
a change of heart	<p>Definition</p> <p>= everywhere</p> <p>After seeing a mouse on the floor, I had a change of heart about eating at the restaurant.</p>
a long haul	<p>Definition</p> <p>= a change of feeling; used to say you changed your mind about sth</p> <p>Peter told his boss that he wouldn't quit. He's in it for the long haul.</p>
be man enough	<p>Definition</p> <p>= the long road; the option that takes the most time</p> <p>George was the only one man enough to admit he had</p>

made a mistake.

Definition

= strong enough in character, or strong enough as a man

be second to none

The apple pie at this restaurant is second to none.

Definition

= the best

know/learn the ropes

It took me a month to learn the ropes at my new job.

Definition

= the process of learning about sth so you are comfortable with it

a breath of fresh air

The new employee, Gail, is a breath of fresh air in the office.

Definition

= sth new that adds life and energy to a situation

get your act together

The coach told me that if I didn't get my act together, I'd be kicked off the team.

Definition

= start behaving properly

set your heart on sth

Eric has his heart set on participating in the Olympics.

Definition

= to be firmly resolved to do sth

take sb/sth for granted

Keith took it for granted that his girlfriend would always stay with him. Then, one day, she was gone.

Definition

= to assume too confidently that you'll have sth in the future or forever

play it by ear

A: How long will you stay in Australia?

B: I'm not sure. I'm just going to play it by ear.

Definition

= to improvise; to not make a plan but decide what to do as you do it