Add Fuel to Fire



do or say something that makes a miserable situation even worse

Aman only added fuel to the fire when he accused the other team of cheating

God's Ape



A born fool

Rakesh is a god's ape. He cannot do anything properly

Upset the Apple Cart





Throw plans in confusion

Karan's ignorance upset the apple cart of my business

Get an Axe





To be dismissed from the job

His protest against the new policy would get him an axe

Go Ape Over



To be extremely enthusiastic

The kids got ape over when their parent announced a trip to Disneyland

Beat Around the Bush





Avoid saying what you mean

Stop beating around the bush and start dictating the facts

Call it a Day





Stop Working

We still couldn't find the source of the discrepancy. So we decided to call it a day and revisit it tomorrow.

Bite the bullet





do something difficult

We need to take strict action against the accused and as the judge you must bite the bullet.

Cutting Corners





do something to save time or money

His staff complains that he is cutting corners to save money

Alpha and Omega





Beginning and End, Essentials

To crack RBI Grade B Exam, you must know alpha and omega of Finance and Management.

A Big Chees BANKO



Very Important/powerful Person

He has an easy access to all government departments. He is big cheese/

A Bird's Eye View





Overall Assessment

The video presented a bird's eye view of the destruction caused by flood.

A Bolt From Blue





Unexpected Happening

His father's sudden death was a bolt from the blue for entire family.

Achilles' Heel





A week point of someone/something

The food supply proved to be the nation's Achilles' heel in its defense against terrorist attacks

Feather in One's Cap





Distinction/honour

National Award added a new feather in his cap.

Against a Rainy Day





To Meet Emergency

You must save money against a rainy day.

At Daggers Drawn





Ready to fight

Scotland and England were at daggers drawn in the reign of Queen Mary of Scots.

At Back and Call





At one's command/ ready to serve

The peon is at back and call of the school principal.

At Sixes and Sevens



In state of total consfusion

After the new-year party, we found our house at sixes and sevens

At Eleventh Hour





At the last moment

The meeting was arranged at the eleventh hour to discuss the sudden downfall in sales.

Bear the burnt





To endure some unpleasant outcome

The family had to bear the burnt of Amit's shameful act.

Beat a dead horse





Wastage of time and efforts

You are beating a dead horse trying to get your money back. The company has gone bankrupt.

Bell the cat





Attempt something dangerous

Who's going to bell the cat and tell mom we wrecked her car?

Birds of Same Feather





Same in Nature/taste

The twin brothers are the birds of the same feather. They do everything together.

Lick the Dust





Defeated/Failed

Despite being a great warrior, he had to lick the dust in his last battle.

Bitter Pill to Swallow





Something difficult to accept

Not being able to get placement after completing B.tech from a reputed college was a bitter pill to swallow.

Blow Hot and Cold





Uncertain and changeable

He keeps blowing hot and cold on the question of moving to Canada.

Blow One's Own Trumpet





To Praise Oneself

John is used to blowing his own trumpet and won't listen to anyone else.

Break the Ice





Be the first to say something

John broke the ice by opposing the new company policy.

Broken Reed





Unsuitable or weak

The boss is a broken reed of the company, so everyone depends upon the manager.

Build Castle in Air





Daydreaming/ making unsuccessful plans

Instead of building castles in the air, you must take action for your career.

Burn Candle at Both Ends





Extreme Efforts without time to rest

After losing job, he is burning candle at both ends to earn his livelihood.

Call a Spade a Spade





Talk Bluntly

Sapna never backbites, she believes in calling a spade a spade

Cat and Dog Life





Miserable and Quarrelsome Life

The couple is leading a cat and dog life.

Change the face





Before After

Complet Alteration

Internet has changed the face of communication

Chase the Rainbow





Try for Something Hard to Obtain

Her aim to get admission in DU with 70% marks is like chasing rainbow.

Clip Someone's Wings





Restrict Freedom

Her orthodox parents always try to clip her wings.

Cog in the Machine





Insignificant/Unneccessary

I realised that the suspect was just a cog in the machine. The real culprit is his wife.

Come off/out with Flying Colours





Victorious

He came out with flying colours in his final year exams.

Cook the Books



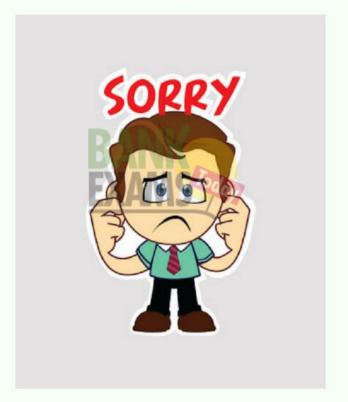


To Falsify financial accounts

He was caught red-handed while he was cooking the books in his cabin.

Cut a Sorry Figure





To be ashamed

He cut a sorry figure in the press conference held after the final verdict of the court.

Die in Harness





Die while working/ or in office

Dr. Zakir Hussain is the only president of India who died in harness.

Dig in One's Heel





Refuse to submit/ to be obstinate

My wife dug in her heels and refused to leave the child to his nanny.

Drag One's Feet





Participate without enthusiasm/reluctant to act.

He dragged his feet to attend to the party.

Eat Humble Pie





Act submissively and apologetically

He confessed his crime and ate humble pie.

Egg on



To encourage or urge/incite/provoke

He egged on my anger with his stupid act.

Fair-weather Friend





Selfish Friend

One should never rely on fair weather friends.

Fall from Grace





Lose status and prestige

After being convicted of murder, the famous actor fell from grace.

Fall on Deaf Ears





To be unnoticed/ignored

All my complaints fell on deaf ears and no action was taken against the robbery.

Fiddling While the Rome Burns





ignoring the serious or disastrous events

Climate change is upon us, and our leaders just fiddle while Rome burns.

Fish in troubled waters





To take undue advantages of difficult/dangerous situation

He often buys up stock in companies declaring bankruptcy; fishing in troubled waters generally pays off .

Fool's errand



a fruitless undertakings

Asking the bank for yet another loan was clearly a fool's errand.

French Leave



remain absent without permission

He was sacked as he was found guilty of taking French leave very often.

From Pillar to Post





Running from one place to another fruitlessly

He ran from pillar to post to get a job.

Get cold feet

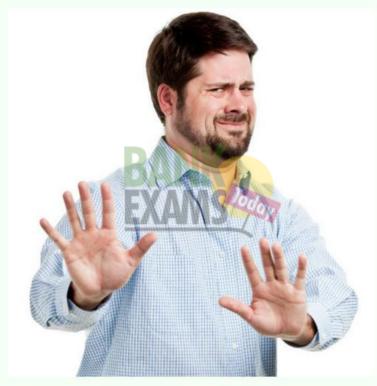


too fearful to undertake an action

He is getting cold feet over all matters to oppose
unacceptable policies.

Give a wide berth





To keep a reasonable distance

Youngsters need to give a wide berth to bad company and concentrate on their goals.

Give the devil his due



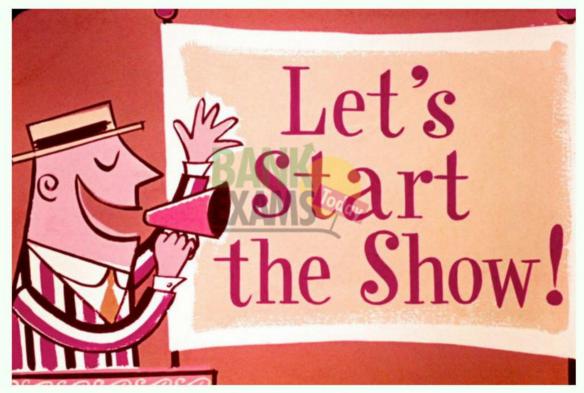


to give your foe proper credit (This usually refers to a person who has been evil-like the devil.

I don't like what the new management has done, but give the devil his due, sales have improved.

Get the show on the road





Putting up a plan or idea into action

Now that we have completed all the legal formalities ,let's get the show on the road.

Hit the nail on the head



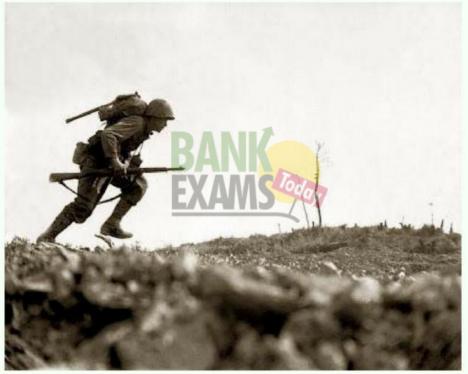


To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem

I think Gautam hit the nail on the head when he said that what's lacking in this company is a feeling of confidence

Fight Tooth and Nail





fight with energy and determination

Soldiers fought tooth and nail to get back the lost territory.

Go Hand in Hand





Happen at the same time/closely connected

In underdeveloped countries, poverty and violence go hand in hand.

Golden Handshake

Alright Sir!
I am glad that I
got an
opportunity to
work with this
organisation.



Hey Tim!, Sorry to imofrm you that the company has decided to terminate your employment. But you will be given a golden handshake.



Sum given at the time of early retirement

Many employees were given golden handshake
last year.

Grease Somebody's Palm





To bribe

In some countries, it has become a practice of greasing the palms of the government officials to get work done.

Hand in Glove



Very Intimate/close association

After the match, it was discovered that he was hand in glove with the referee.

Head in the Clouds



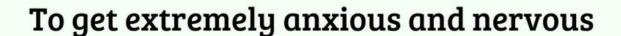


Be unaware of what is going on

Most of the time she is having her head in the clouds. She must be in some deep trouble.

Heart in One's Mouth





When he saw a tiger in front of him he had his heart in his mouth.

Hold Somebody to Ransom





To force somebody to do something
Threatening us with a fine if we don't participate
in the survey is a bit like holding us to ransom,
isn't it?

Hold the Reins





To be in Complete Control

He's been holding the reins for over 20 years and intends to continue for as long as possible.

Hue and Cry





Loud opposition

There is a lot of hue and cry over the new law pertaining to land acquisition by the government

Icing on the Cake



Congratulations! You are hired and the company will give you an apartment and a car

Wow! Thank you.
The additional
benefits are like
icing in the cake.

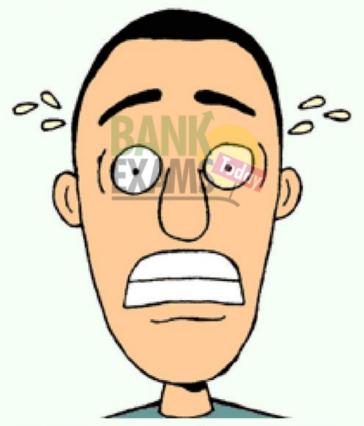


Extra work to better a work

He got a job and like icing on the cake, he was
also allotted an office car.

Ill at Ease





Uneasy and Anxious

The stranger made the child feel ill at ease.

In a Nutshell





Briefly or concisely Stated

I have been asked to put the whole matter in a nutshell.

Cry Over Spilt Milk





Miserable and Quarrelsome Life

The couple is leading a cat and dog life.

Spill the Beans





Reveal a secret

The winner of college election was a secret but media spilt the beans.

Bull in China Shop



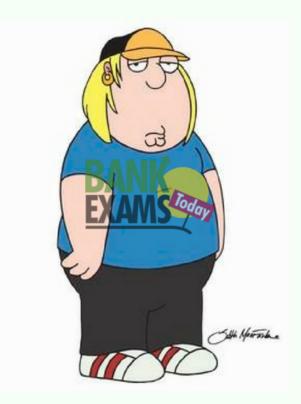


Aggressive and Clumsy

My son is always like a bull in a china shop, so I'm worried about taking him to the museum.

In the Doldrums





Dull and Unproductive

His career was in doldrums during past three years.

In the Twinkling of an Eye



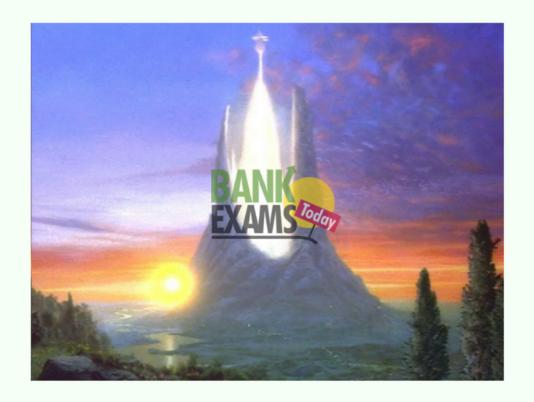


Very Fast and Instant

The thieve escaped in the twinkling of an eye and the cops could not find him.

Ivory Towers





Away from practical and normal life

Politicians sitting in the ivory towers will never understand the misery of the poor.

Jaundiced Eye/View





Partial or biased opinion

Cheated by several insurance companies, he looks on our company with a jaundiced eye.

Keep the Ball Rolling





maintain the momentum of an activity.

After his father's death, he kept the ball rolling
by managing his grocery store.

Leave no stone unturned





Make every possible effort

He left no stone unturned to find his missing daughter.

Let the sleeping dogs lie





Not to instigate trouble

He let the sleeping dog lie by not revealing the scandalous news in front of his parents.

Lull Before the Storm

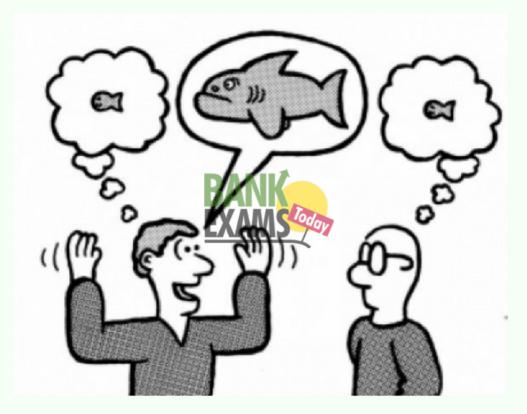


Quietness Before Some Unpleasant Happening

Things seem normal in the office but it is a mere lull before the store.

Make Mountain out of Molehill



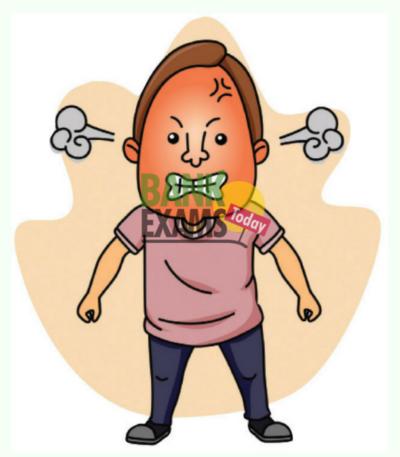


To overreact/exaggerate

He has a habit of making a mountain out of a molehill.

Make Blood Boil





Make someone angry/Enrage

He makes my blood boil with his stupid acts

Nip in the Bud





Destroy in the very beginning

The army attacked the terrorists' boot camp and nipped them in the bud.

Open Pandora's Box





Invite/Uncover more problems

By implementing the commission's recommendations, the government opened Pandora's box.

Pay Lip Service





insincere expression of friendship, admiration, support, service by words only

She claims to be in favour of training, but so far she's only paid lip service to the idea.

Pull the rug out from under





spoil plan/withdraw support

The police pulled the rug out from under by nabbing the suspects.