

Idioms with hand, skin and bone

all skin and bones
save sb's skin
a bone of contention
in sb's hands
make no bones about
go hand in hand
close at hand
jump out of sb's skin

Describing change

change over time, adjust	evolve, adapt
completely change, become different	transform, reform
change for the better	improve, enhance, progress, alter
change back to a former state	restore, reverse, revert
influence something	determine, shape

Phrases describing change

chop and change
make great strides
pull sb's socks up
back to square one
move the goalposts
turn the corner
turn upside down
go from strength to strength

Belonging and alienation

association
isolation
loyalty
attachment
rapport

Belonging and alienation (cont)

rejection
marginalization
disaffection
exclusion
segregation

Literary devices

personification
repetition
oxymoron
imagery
rhetorical question

Linking words

cause	because of, due to
effect	result in, as a result, consequently, lead to
contrast	while, even though, however
addition	that said, furthermore, in addition

Describing reactions

dazed
distracted
stumped
bewildered
flustered
disorientated
befuddled
baffled

Conformity and nonconformity

step up to the mark
go with the flow
bow down to
take the initiative
go against the grain
buck the trend
spur into action
turn a blind eye
follow sb's lead
bury one's head in the sand

Crime and justice

acquit (of)
convict (of)
detain (for)
exonerate (from/of)
implicate (in)
release (on bail)
remand (in custody)

Verb and noun suffixes

absolve	absolution
acquit	acquittal
confess	confession
convict	conviction
defend	defendant
indict	indictment
jeopardize	jeopardy
penalize	penalty
plead	plea
prosecute	prosecution
testify	testimony

Adverbs: type and position

sentence adverbs	sadly, incredibly, clearly, naturally, luckily
frequency	annually, daily, usually
degree	a bit, relatively
place and time	everywhere, always, immediately
manner	sadly, incredibly, calmly, naturally, dismally
focus	nearly, hardly, only, barely, even

Word analysis

foraging for food
self-sufficient
the trappings of success
flat-packing
assembly line
ethos
pipe dream
key indicators

Phrases to do with money

live beyond means
struggle to make ends meet
be stripped for cash
fritter away
live on the breadline
poverty-stricken
splash out on
squander

Banking and insurance

standing order
contactless card
current account
direct debit
sort code
premium
liability
no-claims bonus
comprehensive policy
third-party

Collocations: advertising

set up	a display / a company / an advertising agency
conduct	market research / a survey / market analysis
launch	a product / an advertising campaign / an investigation
make	a deal / a loss / a profit
gain	market share / experience / access
boost	sales / profits / productivity
outstrip	supply / rivals / inflation
manipulate	our minds / public opinion / data

Retail

point of sale
merchandise
line
loss leader
outlet
seconds
pop-up
supplier

Describing trends

soar
surge
rocket
escalate
tumble
slump
dip
plummet

Verbs expressing cause and effect

cause	result from, attribute
effect	generate, give rise to, trigger, account for, bring about, perpetuate

Expressions with brain

the brains behind
pick the brains (of)
brainwave
brainchild
brainwashed
scatterbrained
brain-teasers
rack the brains

Lexical twins

accomplish	pull off
conquer	get over
install	put up
recite	reel off
ascertain	find out
conduct	carry out
transmit	pass on
collaborate	team up
impede	hold up
discern	make out

Lexical twins (cont)

attribute to	pin on
cease	give up
resolve	clear up
revolutionize	turn around

Memory

recall
recollect
remember
memorize
remind
reflect on
reminisce
commemorate

Adjectives describing intelligence and ability

receptive	musical
introspective	intrapersonal
dexterous	bodily kinaesthetic
observant	naturalistic
discerning	spatial
intuitive	interpersonal
methodical	logical-mathematical
articulate	linguistic

Abilities and traits

dexterity	dexterous
curiosity	curious
agility	agile
ingenuity	ingenious
diligence	diligent
modesty	modest
aptitude, integrity	

Word analysis

brogue	a strong accent
bilious	bad-tempered, full of anger
kerbstone	unsophisticated, without training or experience
gutter	the bad social conditions
have a jaw	have a chat

Comparison and contrast

analogy	analogous
contradiction	contradictory
correspondence	corresponding
disparity	disparate
divergence	divergent
homogeneity	homogeneous
interchange	interchangeable
variance	variable/varied

Verb patterns

Verb + inf with <i>to</i>	afford, agree, appear, continue, expect, happen, hope, need, plan, prefer, refuse, seem, start
Verb + obj + inf with <i>to</i>	allow, ask, encourage, expect, help, inspire, invite, remind, teach, tell, want
Verb + obj + - <i>ing</i>	avoid, discuss, dislike, enjoy, imagine, prevent, recommend, spend
Verb + obj + prep. + <i>-ing</i>	apologize for, congratulate on, consent to, criticize for, insist on, succeed in

Verb patterns (cont)

Both <i>to</i> + inf and - <i>ing</i>	begin, continue, hate, intend, memorize, prefer, propose, start
Depends on meaning	forget, go on, like, regret, remember, stop, try
Verb + obj + inf	let, make
Perception verbs	feel, hear, notice, see, watch
Verb + - <i>ing</i>	admit, avoid, deny, discuss, dislike, enjoy, finish, imagine, practise, recall, recommend, resent, suggest

Phrases with road, path, track and way

on the right track
come a long way
paths cross
stop dead in one's tracks
lose track of time
smooth the path
the end of the road
on the road
make one's way
further down the road
a long way off
hit the road

Verbs of movement

chug, accelerate, glide, hurtle, pull up, advance, prowl, creep, stride, stroll

Road traffic accidents

collide

skid

hit head-on

jackknife

shed its load

overshoot

swerve

write off

shatter

Commonly confused adjectives

definite - sure
or certain

definitive - the best or
most extreme

compulsive -
irresistibly
interesting

compulsory - that must
be done

historic -
important in
history

historical - connected
with the past

notable -
deserving of
attention

noticeable - easy to see

alternate -
occurring in
turn repeatedly

alternative - able to be
used instead of sth else

technical -
relating to the
use of
machinery

technological - relating to
the practical use of
scientific discoveries

economic -
connected with
money

economical - providing
good value for the money
spent

Phrases for expressing emphasis

well and truly

ever so

by far

no wonder

Phrases for expressing emphasis (cont)

for months on end

without doubt

Nouns formed from phrasal verbs

outlook, outcome, downpour, outbreak,
upbringing, uprising, backdrop, downfall
run-up, setback, crackdown, hold-up, let-
down, washout

Geography

latitude, longitude

prime meridian, the equator

the northern / southern hemisphere

the tropic of Cancer / Capricorn

the Antipodes, the Pacific Rim, the Subcon-
tinent

Emphasizing adjectives

restrictive
adjectives

chief, exact, foremost, major,
sole, specific, only, main,
principal

intens-
ifying
adjectives

absolute, entire, extreme,
sheer, total, utter

Compound modifiers

all-co-
nsuming

work / passion / state

feel-good

movie / story / factor

long-term

objective / prognosis /
employment

long-lasting

battery / effect / relationship

rose-tinted

glasses / lens / view

seven-year

itch / campaign / romance

much-resp-
ected

idea / person / type of love

Compound modifiers (cont)

hotly disputed

subject / theory / claim

Defining love

euphoria

infatuation

obsessive-compulsive disorder

devotion

compromise

amity

loyalty

narcissism

Head and heart metaphors

wear one's heart on one's sleeve

have a change of heart

take to heart

don't have the heart to

use your head

level-headed

keep your head

have an old head on young shoulders

Relationships

have a soft spot for sb

wrap sb around your little finger

live in each other's pockets

get on each other's nerves

have sb to lean on

drive a wedge between ppl

be at sb's beck and call

get on like a house on fire

The property market

rent
contract
estate agent
notice
landlord
deposit
letting agent
mortgage
lease
tenant

The language of war

trigger revolts
pledge allegiance
drum up support
betray the cause
rally the troops
sack a town
wage a war
rout the enemy

Collocations - life and fate

decide one's fate
acquire a reputation
hold an appeal
spark a storm
be the making of sb
regain one's status
forge an identity
immerse oneself in sth

Synonyms and antonyms: describing art

intellectual	highbrow	lowbrow
elaborate	intricate	primitive
fascinating	echanting	repellent
captivating	intriguing	dreary
comprehen- sible	transp- arent	impene- trable
offensive	provoc- ative	unobtrusive
peculiar	whimsical	conven- tional
dull	uninspiring	evocative

Phrases for doing the right or the wrong thing

hit the nail on the head
be spot on
strike the right note
swallow your words
get off on the wrong foot
fall wide of the mark
back the wrong horse
bark up the wrong tree

Describing art

canvas
brush stroke
theme
medium
genre
motif
palette
silhouette
perspective
tone

Describing music

surging
soothing
brisk
freneitc
sluggish
raucous
ethereal
lilting
ambling
catchy
jarring
jaunty
mellow
menacing
soppy
thundering

Prefix pairs

overrated	underachiever
predate	post-industrial, post-war
foreshadow	backdrop
monorail	multifaceted, multifarious
pro-democratic	anti-Semitic
subway	superstructure

Building metaphors

open doors
glass ceiling
by the back door
hit the roof
building block
lay the foundations
drive up the wall
come up against a brick wall

Adverb collocations

lavishly decorated	enthusiastically received
brilliantly conceived	bitterly disappointed
eagerly anticipated	hugely influential
intensely private	utterly appalled
simply enchanting	profoundly moving
immediately obvious	highly controversial

Cities

stand-alone building
building site
slum tenement
congested thoroughfares
urban infrastructure
sewage system
city dwellers

Emphatic adjectives

unprecedented
scarce
chaotic
impoverished
squalid
acute
abundant
stark

Problems and solutions

plight
crisis
pitfall
remedy
quick fix
panacea

Problems and solutions (cont)

tackle
alleviate
resolve

Idioms: problems and solutions

have the upper hand
take the bull by its horns
a no-brainer
throw cold water over
fight an uphill battle
a storm in a teacup
up in arms against
fall into the trap

Word analysis

assert
endeavour
commence
inflict
yield
seize
desist
fasten

Big issues

principle - principal
antisocial - unsocial - unsociable
migrant - immigrant - emigrant
illicit - elicit
human - humane

Synonyms: endurance sports

aficionado	devotee
torment	anguish
fortitude	tenacity
depletion	deficiency

Synonyms: endurance sports (cont)

handicap	hurdle
fatigue	exhaustion
tranquility	serenity
compulsion	preoccupation

Quantity phrases with of

pinch of salt
lapse of time
ray of hope
crumb of comfort
wall of silence
grain of truth
torrent of criticism
strip of land

Obsessions

go cold turkey
get your fix
have a weakness for
adventure junkie
kick the habit
a slave to
take a fancy to
live and breathe

Nouns + prepositions: addictions

reliance, insistence, dependence, restriction	on
aversion, menace, susceptibility, addiction	to
conformity, fixation, association, obsession	with

Medical metaphors

endemic (corruption / problem / poverty / racism)

ailing (economy / bank / company / business)

agonizing (wait / decision / choice / process)

chronic (shortage / problem / lack / unemployment)

terminal (decline / crisis / damage / decay)

diagnosis

recovery

prognosis

Idioms: sport

across the board

race against time

par for the course

win hands down

a level playing field

neck and neck

in the running

set the pace

Vague language

somewhere around ...

more or less

..., or thereabouts

something like ...

... or so

...in round numbers

in the region of ...

give or take ...

Colour Idioms

white- / blue- collar worker

get the green light

a golden opportunity

a grey area

in the red

out of the blue

Colour Idioms (cont)

a purple patch

raise the white flag

red tape

with flying colours

Geometry objects

lines arc, radius, ray, spiral, tangent

shapes crescent, ring, ellipse, lozenge, polygon

solids cone, cube, cylinder, pyramid, sphere

The universe

atmospheric

celestial

cosmic

galactic

gravitational

lunar

planetary

solar

stellar

terrestrial

Euphemisms

getting on a bit

go down with sth

golden years

hard of hearing

in reduced circumstances

of advanced years

of limited means

underprivileged

visually impaired

The workplace

career ladder

holiday entitlement

human resources

job application

pension scheme

recruitment agency

redundancy payment

sick leave

the public sector

zero-hours contract

Phrases with end

(be) at your wits' end

light at the end of the tunnel

meet an untimely end

(be) no end (to sth) in sight

on the receiving end of

spell the end for

the beginning of the end

the end is nigh

Word analysis

face the truth, a choice, the facts

induce sleep, drowsiness, a change

boost tourism, productivity, the economy

arouse interest, anxiety, suspicion

exhibit symptoms, self-control, a picture

devote energy, effort, resources

foster learning, a sense of community, unrealistic expectations

scrutinize the small print, the bill, a performance