# IDIOMS (THÀNH NGỮ)

1. **cats and dogs:** rain heavily: mưa to

**E.g:** It's raining cats and dogs = It's raining heavily.

1. **chalk and cheese: very different from each other**: khác nhau hoàn toàn

**E.g:** I don't have anything in common with my brother. We're like chalk and cheese.

1. **here and there:** everywhere: mọi nơi

**E.g:** I have been looking here and there for the gift I bought for my girlfriend.

## **a hot potato**: a problem, situation, etc. that is difficult and unpleasant to deal with (vấn đề nan giải,

nóng hổi)

**E.g:** The issue of taxing domestic fuel has become a political hot potato.

1. **at the drop of the hat**: immediately, instantly; without hesitating: ngay lập tức, không do dự

**E.g:** The company can't expect me to move my home and family at the drop of a hat.

1. **back to the drawing board**: time to start from the beginning ; it is time to plan something over again:

## bắt đầu lại từ đầu

**E.g:** They rejected our proposal, so it's back to the drawing board.

## **beat about the bush**: to talk about something for a long time without coming to the main point: vòng vo tam quốc, không tập trung vào vấn đề chính

**E.g:** Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you want.

1. the best thing since sliced bread: a good invention or innovation; a good idea or plan (ý tưởng hay, tốt) **E.g:** *Portable phones are marketed as the best thing since sliced bread; people think they are extremely good.*
2. **burn the midnight oil:** to study or work until late at night: thức khuya làm việc, học bài

**E.g:** I will have a big exam tomorrow so I'll be burning the midnight oil tonight.

## **caught between two stools:** when someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives: lưỡng lự, không biết lựa chọn cái nào, do dự

**E.g:** I was caught between two stools when I had to choose which shirt to hang out with my girlfriends.

1. **break a leg:** used to wish somebody good luck (~ good luck)
2. **hit the books** ~ to study
3. **let the cat out of the bag**: to tell a secret carelessly or by mistake: để lộ bí mật

**E.g:** I wanted it to be a surprise, but my sister let the cat out of the bag.

1. **when pigs fly ~ pigs might fly**: something will never happen: chuyện viển vông, không tưởng, chỉ điều

## gì đó khó xảy ra được

'With a bit of luck, we'll be finished by the end of the year. "Yes, and pigs might fly!'

1. **scratch someone's back:** help someone out with the assumption that they will return the favor in the future: giúp ai với mong muốn sau này người ta sẽ giúp lại mình

**E.g:** "You scratch my back and I will scratch yours," the customer said when we talked about the new sales contact.

1. **hit the nail on the head**: to say something that is exactly right: nói trúng phóc

## **take someone/ something for granted**: to be so used to somebody/something that you do not recognize their true value any more and do not show that you are grateful: cho là điều hiển nhiên, coi nhẹ, xem thường

**E.g:** Her husband was always there and she just took him for granted.

1. **take something into account/ consideration**: to remember to consider something: xem xét, tính đến cái gì, kể đến cái gì

**E.g:** Coursework is taken into account as well as exam results.

1. **keep an eye on sb/ sth**: để ý, để mắt, để tâm đến ai/ điều gì

**E.g:** We've asked the neighbours to keep an eye on the house for us while we are away.

1. **lose touch with sb**: mất liên lạc với ai
2. **at somebody's disposal:** available for use as you prefer/somebody prefers: tùy ý sử dụng, có sẵn cho ai

## sử dụng theo ý muốn

**E.g:** He will have a car at his disposal for the whole month.

1. **splitting headache (n):** a severe headache: đau đầu như búa bổ

**E.g:** I've got a splitting headache. I'm going upstairs for a nap.

1. **off the peg** ~ off the rack: may sẵn (quần áo)

**E.g:** He buys his clothes off the peg.

1. **on the house**: không phải trả tiền

**E.g:** Have a drink on the house.

1. **hit the roof ~ hit the ceiling ~ go through the roof:** to suddenly become very angry: giận dữ, tức điên

## lên

**E.g:** I'm afraid she will hit the roof when she finds out our vacation is cancelled.

1. **bring down the house**: làm cho cả khán phòng vỗ tay nhiệt liệt
2. **pay through the nose (for sth):** to pay too much for something: trả giả đắt
3. **by the skin of one's teeth**: chỉ vừa mới

**E.g:** He escaped defeat by the skin of his teeth.

## **pull somebody's leg**: play a joke on somebody, usually by making them believe something that is not true: trêu chọc ai

**E.g:** You don't mean that.You're just pulling my leg.

1. **it strikes sb as/that a strange**: lấy làm lạ

**E.g:** It struck me as a strange when she came to class yesterday.

1. **high and low ~ here and there**: everywhere : mọi nơi

**E.g:** I've searched high and low for my purse.

1. **the more, the merrier**: càng đông càng vui
2. **spick and span** ~ **spic and span**: ngăn nắp và gọn gàng, mới

**E.g:** Their house is always spick and span.

1. (**every) now and then/ again ~ sometimes, occasionally**: thỉnh thoảng

**E.g:** Every now and again she checked to see if he was still asleep.

1. **part and parcel of sth**: an essential and crucial part of sth: phần quan trọng, thiết yếu

**E.g:** Keeping the accounts is part and parcel of my job.

## **go to one's head**: to make you feel too proud of yourself in a way that other people find annoying:

khiến ai kiêu ngạo, kiêu căng

1. **be/ go on the wagon**: to not drink alcohol, either for a short time or permanently: kiêng rượu
2. **once in a blue moon ~ very rarely**: rất hiếm

**E.g:** Once in a blue moon, I stop thinking about him.

1. **on the spot**: immediately: ngay lập tức

**E.g:** He answered the question on the spot.

1. **few and far between**: not frequent; not happening often: hiếm gặp, không thường xuyên
2. **on the verge of ~ on the brink of ~ in the edge**: bên bờ vực, sắp

**E.g:** These elephants are on the verge of extinction.

1. **lead somebody by the nose**: to make somebody do everything you want; to control somebody completely: nắm đầu, dắt mũi ai
2. **at the eleventh hour**: at the last possible moment; just in time: vào phút chót

**E.g:** She always turned her term paper in at the eleventh hour.

1. **find fault (with sb/ sth):** chỉ trích, kiếm chuyện, bắt lỗi

**E.g:** It is very easy to find fault with the others.

1. **off and on/ on and off ~ from time to time**: không đều đặn, thỉnh thoảng

**E.g:** It rained on and off all day.

1. **make believe**: giả bộ, giả vờ
2. **make good time**: di chuyển nhanh, đi nhanh

**E.g:** We made good time and arrived in Spain in two days.

1. **took daggers at somebody**: Nhìn ai đó một cách giận dữ

**E.g:** Their relationship is not free and easy but at least he is no longer looking daggers at her.

1. **be out of the question**: không thể được

**E.g:** Another trip abroad this year is out of the question.

1. **all at once ~ suddenly**: bất thình lình

**E.g:** All at once she lost her temper.

1. **blow one's trumpet ~ boast**: bốc phét, khoác lác
2. **sleep on sth:** suy nghĩ thêm về điều gì đó.

**E.g:** Could I sleep on it and let you know tomorrow?

1. **fight tooth and nail:** to fight in a very determined way for what you want: đánh nhau dữ dội

**E.g:** The residents are fighting tooth and nail to stop the new development.

1. **play tricks/jokes on**: chọc phá, trêu ghẹo, chơi khăm

**E.g:** The children are always play jokes on their teachers.

1. **(go) down the drain**: đổ sông đổ biển (công sức, tiền bạc)

**E.g:** It's just money down the drain, you know.

## **smell a rat**: to suspect that something is wrong about a situation: hoài nghi, linh cảm chuyện không ổn,

nghi ngờ có âm mưu gì đó

**E.g:** The minute I came in, I smelled a rat.

1. **the last straw**: giọt nước tràn ly

**E.g:** When he showed up late a third time, which was the last straw. We had to fire him.

1. **get the hang of something**: nắm bắt được, sử dụng được, làm được

**E.g:** I can't seem to get the hang of this game.

1. **hard of hearing**: lãng tai, nặng tai

**E.g:** Mike is hard of hearing. Therefore, we have to speak loudly so that he can hear us.

1. **have a bee in one's bonnet (about sth):** bị ám ảnh và không thể ngừng nghĩ về chuyện gì đó, đặt nặng chuyện gì (dùng khi ai đó lo lắng hay bực tức về điều gì đó)

**E.g:** Our teacher has a bee in his bonnet about punctuation.

## **get/ have cold feet**: to suddenly become nervous about doing something that you had planned to do: mất hết can đảm, chùn bước

**E.g:** He was going to ask her but he got cold feet and said nothing.

1. **on second thoughts**: suy nghĩ kĩ, sau khi suy đi tính lại

**E.g**: I’ll wait here. No, on second thoughts, I'll come with you.

1. **in vain:** uổng công, vô ích, không thành công

**E.g:** They tried in vain to persuade her to go.

1. **chip in ~ contribute**: quyên góp, góp tiền, đóng góp

**E.g:** If everyone chips in, we'll be able to buy her a really nice present.

1. **out of/ off one's head ~ crazy**: điên, loạn trí

**E.g:** The old man has been off his head for at least a year.

1. **run an errand**: làm việc vặt

**E.g:** I've got to run an errand. I'll be back in a minute.

# jump the (traffic) lights/ run the lights/ run a (red) light: vượt đèn đỏ

**E.g:** They ignore people who jump the traffic lights.

1. **fly off the handle**: dễ nổi giận, phát cáu, bỗng nhiên nổi nóng

**E.g:** He seems to fly off the handle about the slightest thing these days.

1. **the apple of one's eye**: người yêu quý/ đồ quý giá của ai

**E.g**: She is the apple of her father's eye.

1. **bucket down ~ rain heavily**: mưa xối xả, mưa to

**E.g:** It's bucketing down.

1. **a close shave/ call**: thoát chết trong gang tấc

**E.g:** David, that was a close shave. I was so lucky.

1. **drop a brick/ clanger**: lỡ lời, lỡ miệng

**E.g:** I dropped a brick when talking with my best friend, and now he doesn't want to talk to me.

1. **get/ have butterflies in one's stomach**: cảm thấy bồn chồn

**E.g:** I always get butterflies in my stomach when it comes to taking test.

1. **off the record:** không chính thức, không được công bố

**E.g:** Strictly off the record, some members of staff will have to be made redundant.

1. **(not) one's cup of tea**: (không phải) người/ thứ mà ta yêu thích

**E.g:** He's nice enough but not really my cup of tea.

1. **cut it fine**: đến sát giờ

**E.g:** Only allowing half an hour to get from the station to the airport is cutting it fine, isn't it?

1. **golden handshake**: món tiền hậu hĩnh dành cho người sắp nghỉ việc

**E.g:** The manager got early retirement and a 800,000$ golden handshake when the company was restructed.

## **come to light**: được biết đến, được phát hiện, được đưa ra ánh sáng.

**E.g:** New evidence has recently come to light.

* **take things to pieces:** tháo ra từng mảnh

**E.g:** He took the clock to pieces.

* **put one's foot in it** */* **put your foot in one's mouth:** nói/ làm điều gì đó ngu ngốc làm xúc phạm người

## khác, nói điều không nên

**E.g:** I really put my foot in it with Mary - I didn't know she'd split up with Tom.

* **pull one's weight:** nỗ lực, làm tròn phần trách nhiệm

**E.g:** The rest of the team complained that Mary wasn't pulling her weight.

- **make (both) ends meet**: xoay sở để kiếm sống

**E.g:** Many families struggle to make ends meet.

* **get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick:** hiểu nhầm ai đó

**E.g:** I think I must explain to her that she got hold of the wrong end of the stick again.

## **cut** and dried: được quyết định theo cách mà không thể thay đổi

**E.g:** The inquiry is by no means cut and dried.

*- see eye* to eye: đồng tình

**E.g:** The two of them have never seen eye to eye on politics.

**- have sb/ sth in mind:** đang suy nghĩ, cân nhắc tới ai/ điều gì

**E.g:** Watching TV all evening wasn't exactly what I had in mind!

## - a lost cause: hết hy vọng, không thay đổi được gì

**E.g:** The game looked a lost cause when the score reached 6-0.

**- to be bound to do sth:** chắc chắn sẽ làm gì E.g: You're *bound to be late if you don't hurry.*

## at heart: thực chất, theo một cách cơ bản nhất

**E.g:** He's still a socialist at heart.

* **know sb by sight**: nhận ra ai đó (recognize)

**E.g:** She said that she would know the thief by sight if she ever saw him again.

# now and then - now and again - at times - from time to time ~ off and on ~ (every) once in a while - every so often- sometimes: thỉnh thoảng, không thường xuyên

**E.g:** Every so often I heard a strange noise outside.

* **take (great) pains to do sth:** dốc sức để làm gì

**E.g:** The couple went to great pains to keep their plans secret.

- **take (great) pains wsth/over sth**: làm cái gì đó cẩn thận và tận tâm

**E.g:** He always takes great pains with his lectures.

**- make do:** xoay sở, đương đầu (to manage, to cope)

**E.g:** We were in a hurry so we had to make do with a quick snack.

* **sell somebody short**: đánh giá thấp

## **E.g:** When you say that Nam isn't interested in music, you're selling him short.

* **face the music:** chịu trận

**E.g:** The others all ran off, leaving me to face the music.

* **let the cat out of the bag**: để lộ bí mật

**E.g**: I wanted it to be a surprise, but my sister let the cat out of the bag.

* **on probation**: trong thời gian quản chế

**E.g:** The prisoner was put on probation.

* **sell/ go like hot cakes**: bán đắt như tôm tươi

**E.g:** The book has only just been published and copies are already selling like hot cakes all over the world.

* **it never rains but it pours ~ when it rains, it pours**: used to say that when one bad thing happens to you, other bad things happen soon after: họa vô đơn chí

## **salt and pepper**: (having a mixture of a dark colour and a light one) màu tóc hoa râm.

* **a penny for your thoughts**: used to ask somebody what they are thinking about: dùng để hỏi ai đó xem

## họ đang nghĩ gì

* **home and dry ~ be home free**: (adj): have done something successfully, especially when it was difficult: êm xuôi, hoàn thành cái gì thành công (đặc biệt khi nó khó)

**E.g:** I could see the finish line and thought I was home and dry.

* **down and out** (adj): thất cơ lỡ vận

**E.g:** A novel about being down and out in London

**- learn by heart**: học thuộc lòng

**E.g**: I learnt this poem by heart.

* **a red- letter day ~ an important day:** một ngày quan trọng, một ngày đáng nhớ

**E.g:** Birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other red-letter days

* **as high as a kite**: kiêu căng , tự phụ

**E.g:** She is always as high as a kite.

* **sleep like a log**: ngủ say, ngủ ngon

**E.g:** The baby is sleeping like a log.

* **fit like a glove**: vừa như in

**E.g:** The dress fits me like a glove.

* **be green with envy**: ghen ti

**E.g:** She was green with envy because her mother bought a new hat for her sister.

* **go up the wall:** nổi giận

**E.g:** I mustn't be late or Dad will go up the wall.

* **put on an act**: giả vờ, giả bộ

**E.g:** You could tell she was just putting on an act.

* **break the news (to sb):** nói cho ai biết tin gì quan trọng, nhất là tin xấu; tiết lộ.

**E.g:** The doctor had to break the news to Mary about her husband's cancer.

# cost/ pay an arm and a leg: rất đắt

**E.g:** I think the robot will not cost an arm and a leg in the future.

## **look on the bright side:** to be cheerful or positive about a bad situation, for example by thinking only of the advantages and not the disadvantages: hãy lạc quan lên

**E.g**: A: I failed the exam again. Maybe I will never pass it.

B: Look on the bright side. If you study hard enough, you will pass the exam.

* **easier sasd than done**: nói dễ hơn làm

**E.g**: Why don't you get yourself a job? "That's easier said than done."

* **take it easy ~ relax**: đừng lo lắng, thư giãn nào

**E.g:** Take it easy! Don't panic.

The doctor told me to take it easy for a few weeks.

* **go into business:** bắt đầu công việc kinh doanh

**E.g:** When he left school, he went into business with his brother.

* **in a bad mood**: không vui

**E.g:** After breaking up with her boy friend, she was in a bad mood for several days.

* **out of this world**: ngon

**E.g:** The meal was out of th is world.

* **time and tide wait for no man**: thời giờ thấm thoắt thoi đưa, nó đi mãi có chờ đợi ai, thời gian không

## đợi ai

* **back to square one:** trở lại từ đầu

**E.g:** If this suggestion isn't accepted, we'll be back to square one.

* **a great one for sth:** đam mê chuyện gì, thích làm gì

**E.g:** I've never been a great one for writing letters.

* **one in the eye for somone**: làm gai mắt

**E.g:** The appointment of a woman was one in the eye for male domination.

# be in two minds about something/about doing something; be of two minds about something/about doling something: chưa quyết định được

**E.g:** She's in two minds about accepting his invitation.

* **in two shakes ~ very soon**: một loáng là xong, rất sớm

**E.g:** We'll be there in a couple of shakes.

* **at sixes and sevens**: tình trạng rối tinh rối mù

**E.g:** I haven't had time to clear up, so I'm all at sixes and sevens.

* **on cloud nine ~ extremely happy**: trên 9 tầng mây
* **dressed (up) to the nines**: ăn mặc bảnh bao
* **ten to one ~ very probably**: rất có thể

**E.g:** Ten to one he'll be late.

* **nineteen to the dozen: ~ talk, etc. without stopping**: nói huyên thuyên

**E.g:** She was chatting away, nineteen to the dozen.

* **kill two birds with one stone**: một công đôi việc
* **by a hair's breath: a very small amount or distance**: trong đường tơ kẽ tóc

**E.g:** We won by a hair's breadth.

* **keep one's finger crossed for somebody**: cầu mong điều tốt đẹp cho ai đó
* **(like) water off a duck's back:** nước đổ đầu vịt

**E.g:** I can't tell my son what to do; it's water off a duck's back with him.

* **every nook and cranny ~ every nook and comer**: every part of a place; every aspect of a situation: trong mọi ngóc ngách

**E.g**: The wind blew into every nook and cranny.