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IDIOMS

Every language has its own collection of wise sayings. They offer advice about how to live and transfer some underlying ideas. These sayings are called “**idioms**”. The combinations of words have a figurative meaning. Here are some examples:

1. **To be all ears:** to be very eager to hear what someone is going to say.
2. **All hell broke loose:** all sorts of wild or also terrible things happened
3. **You are the apple of my eye:** you are the one I love most
4. **Ask for trouble:** to seem to be trying to get into trouble
5. **A bad egg:** a dishonest person
6. **You are a pain in the neck:** someone or something that is very annoying
7. **To bend the truth:** to alter or omit certain elements of a story to suit one’s own need
8. **A white lie:** a diplomatic or well-intentioned untruth

MORE IDIOMS

1. **To face the music:** to accept responsibility for something you have done
2. **I only have eyes for you:** to be loyal to only one person
3. **To be full of hot air:** full of nonsense
4. **To get the message:** to understand what someone is trying to tell you
5. **To go bananas:** to become very emotional
6. **In a nutshell:** in a few words
7. **In the long run:** at a time that is far away in the future
8. **To be learning the rod:** to learn how to do something well
9. **I can see a light at the end of the tunnel:** the end of a difficult period or job
10. **It’s out of the question:** not allowed, not permitted
11. **It’s worth it:** it is useful or important
12. **To be out of this world:** extremely good or expensive
13. **Salt of the earth:** the most worthy of person

The British Isles

Britain or **Great Britain**, is a geographical area consisting of **England, Scotland** and **Wales** (not Ireland).

The name **Britain** is often also incorrectly used to refer to the political state, officially called **the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**. This is abbreviated to the **United Kingdom** or the **UK**.

The British Isles is a group of islands that includes Britain, Ireland and a number of smaller islands.

The **Irish Republic** (also the **Republic of Ireland**; formerly **Eire**) is an independent state occupying the southern part of the island of Ireland.

To refer to the nationality of the people of Britain or the United Kingdom, you use the adjective **British**. **English** describes people from England and should not be used to describe people from **Ireland, Scotland** and **Wales** who are **Irish, Scottish** and **Welsh**.



Descriptions

It's very important to know how to describe someone or something.

In describing, there are also some **FALSE FRIENDS**. So you need to be careful.

In describing someone, for example:

Corpulent is ok but **Fat** is not polite.

Adjectives

Please be careful in using some adjectives. Follow the examples.

Nice is always positive.

Too, used before adjective means **that something is more than good, necessary, possible, etc.** For example too old or too ugly.

But **too**, at the end of the sentence means **also**. For example: 'My coffee is hot, too'

Beautiful : used only for girls.

Handsome: used only for boys.

More Adjectives

Wise: is used as a suffix to form adjectives and adverbs with the meaning "in particular manner, position, or direction". For example: 'How are your money-wise?'

Obnoxious: hateful. Very offensive adjective.

Loud: noisy

Imperialist: loving his own idea

Presumptuous: too bold

Has-been: a person or thing that is no longer popular

Shy: timid

Class: of high quality vs. **Crass**: without refinement, gross

Sensitive: responsive to the feelings of others

Loser: a person or thing that loses

Hopeless: without hope

Selfish: caring only for oneself vs. **Unselfish**: generous

Ravishing: extremely beautiful

Dazzling: so bright as to blind someone

Clever (UK)/ Smart (US): mentally bright

Crafty: skillful in dishonest schemes

To be going to: different uses

1. To express future time. For example: **I am going to leave** at nine tomorrow morning.
2. To make predictions about the future. For example: She **is going to succeed** because she works hard.
3. To express future time when the sentence concerns a definite plan or intention. For example: Donna **is going to come** to the party tomorrow night.

Different meanings of Just

1. A short time ago. For example: Hello. Have you **just** arrived?
2. Right at this moment. For example: I'm **just** going to make it.
3. Just in case for a smaller possibility. For example: I don't think it will rain but I'll take an umbrella **just** in case.

Mode of transport

- **By** car
- **By** plane
- **By** ship
- **By** train
- **By** bus
- **On** foot
- **By** bike

Words from Latin

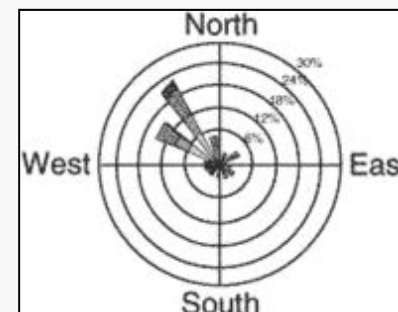
- **Via:** way, route
- **Regina:** queen
- **Quasi:** as if, as though
- **Idea:** an opinion
- Etc, ...

Phrasal verbs

1. **Used to:** accustomed to or also habituated to
2. **Get off:** leave a bus, a airplane, a train, a subway, a bicycle
3. **Get on:** enter a bus, a airplane, a train, a subway, a bicycle
4. **To fall out:** to quarrel or disagree

The wind rose

It is a graphical tool, usually found on maps. It gives cardinal directions.



Homophones

It is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning and may differ in spelling. Here are some examples:

Bear: orso

Bare: nudo

Dear: caro

Deer: cervo

Brake: freno

Break: rompere

Mail: lettera

Male: maschio

Fort: fortezza

Fought: to fight

Gym: palestra

Jim: a person

Phrasal Verbs

- **To fight out:** to fight until a decision is reached. For example: Both sides continued to fight it out.
- **To fall down:** to drop or come down. For example: The apple fell from the tree.
- **To hang over :** to be worry. For example: I hang over his face.
- **To be fit:** to be health. For example: I'm fitting myself for the summer.
- **To let down:** to permit. For example: I let the guard down.
- **To talk shop:** to talk about job, when you are not working. For example: Please, stop talking shop! Just relax!

Differences between Must and Have to

- **Must** expresses a strong obligation. When we use must, this usually means that some **personal** circumstance makes the obligation necessary.

For example: You **must** come and see us some time.

- **Have to** expresses a strong obligation. When we use have to, this usually means that some **external** circumstances makes the obligation necessary.

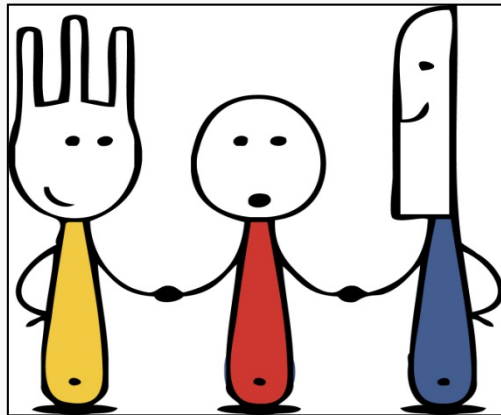
For example: I **have to** arrive at work at 9. My boss is very strict.

Utensils for use in eating

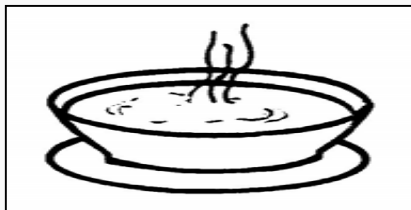
Fork

Spoon

Knife



Dish/dishes



Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

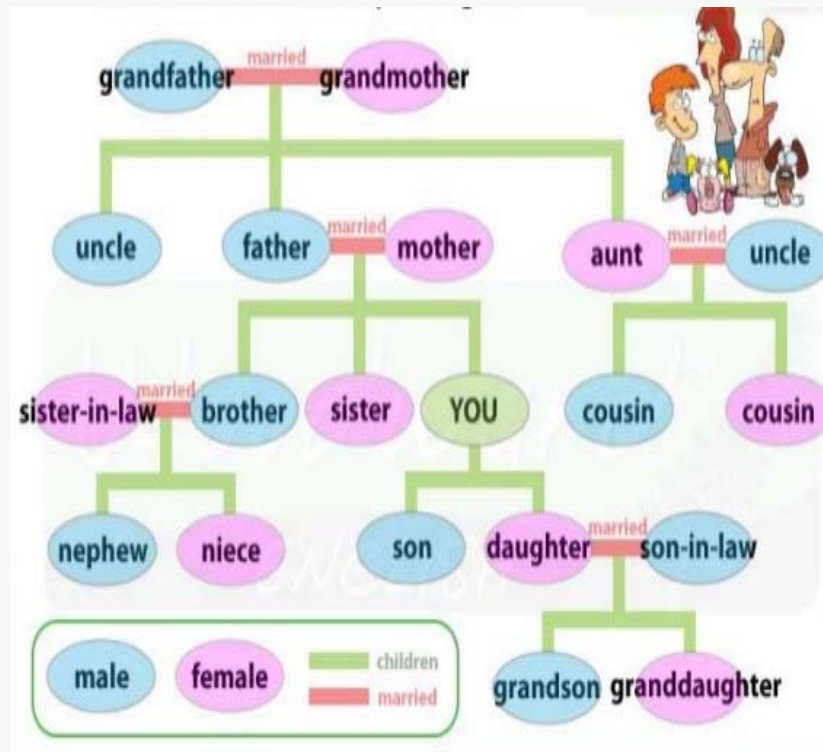
1. With adverbs ending in **-ly**, you must use **more** to form the comparative, and **most** to form the superlative.

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Quietly	More quietly	Most quietly
Slowly	More slowly	Most slowly
seriously	More seriously	Most seriously

2. With short adverbs that do not end in **-ly** comparative and superlative forms are identical to adjectives: add **-er** to form the comparative and **-est** to form the superlative. If the adverb ends in **e**, remove it before adding the ending.

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Hard	Harder	Hardest
Fast	Faster	Fatest
Late	Later	Latest

Family and Relatives



How to create the opposite

-Un is a prefix meaning **not**, freely used as an English formative, giving negative or opposite force in adjectives and their derivate adverbs and nouns.

Here are some examples:

- Fair → unfair
- Heard → un heard
- **Happy → unhappy**



- Able → unable
- Truth → untruth
- Cover → uncover

Differences between American English and British English

Speakers of American English and speakers of British English have no trouble understanding each other.

The differences are small and do not interfere with communication.

Some differences in the usage of common vocabulary are listed below.

American English	British English	Italian
Cookie	Biscuit	Biscotto
Candy	Sweets	Caramelle
Highway	Motorway	Autostrada
Bathroom	Toilet	Bagno
Soccer	Football	Calcio
Pants	Trousers	Pantaloni
Crisps	Chips	Patatine
French fries	Chips	Patatine fritte
Gas	Petrol	Benzina
Truck	Lorry	Camion

English as a Global Language

The population of Great Britain is only about 55,5 million; but the **English language is spoken all over the world**. The number of people who regularly use English, at home, range from 700 million to 1 billion. The reasons for this popularity are easy to understand.

1. England was one of the first countries to develop an “industrial revolution” (in the **18th** century). So it exported workers, engineers and technical books all over the world.
2. The countries which one formed the British Empire (the USA, Canada and Australia) have English as their **national language**. Even in India 30 million people speak English.
3. English is extremely **simple** language and is **happy** to borrow words form:
 - Latin: *genius, extra, exit*;
 - French: *market, machine*;
 - Spanish: *mosquito, potato*;
 - Indian: *shampoo*.

Fruit ...



...and Vegetables



Thing or Stuff

Thing

We use the general noun **thing** more commonly in speaking than writing.

It is most commonly used to refer to physical objects, but we also use **thing** to refer to ideas, actions and events.

For example:

- Anger is a very dangerous **thing** in a young man.
- A holiday? That's just a **thing** for you.

Stuff

Stuff is one of the most common nouns in speaking. It is more informal than thing. It is not at all common in writing.

Stuff is an uncountable noun. We use **stuff** in similar ways to thing.

For example:

- Where can we put our **stuff** (our belongings)?
- She told us to learn lots of new English vocabulary and **stuff** like that.



British Humor

Brits find **humor** in almost everything and they use it to lighten even the most unfortunate and miserable moment, just like death.

It's not used to shock and offend but rather because Brits turn to laughter as a form of medicine when life knocks them down.

In most cultures, there's a time and place for humor. In Britain, this is not the case.

Here are some examples:

1. A: Are you **ready to meet your maker**?

B: Let me think...

People using this expression are referring to **God**. It refers to the Christian belief that when we die, we are called to account for our lives before God.

2. When they announced the gymnast's score, her coach **went berserk**.

People using this expression refers to a furious rage, **to go crazy**, and sometimes to become crazily violent. This expression alludes to the name of **Norse warriors** renowned for their ferocity in battle and for wearing no armor but a **bearskin shirt** (or *berserker*).

Ought to

Ought is used in formal and informal way. It does not change its form, so the third person singular form does not end in '-s'. It is used:

1. For saying what is the right or sensible thing to do, or the right way to behave.

For example: We don't exercise much but we really **ought to**.

2. When you have strong reasons for believing or expecting something.

For example: The meeting **ought to** have finished by three o'clock.

Note:

Should can be used in the same way as **ought to** and is more common, especially in negatives and questions.

Thank You!