

## **300 Must-Know Idioms for SSC Exams with Meanings & Examples**

### **1) The whole nine yards**

**Meaning:** Everything that is possible or available in a particular situation

**Example:** They made it the whole nine yards in planning the wedding.

### **2) Break the ice**

**Meaning:** To initiate conversation in a social setting

**Example:** He told a joke to break the ice at the party.

### **3) A blessing in disguise**

**Meaning:** Something that seems bad but turns out to be good

**Example:** Losing that job was a blessing in disguise.

### **4) Hit the nail on the head**

**Meaning:** To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem

**Example:** You hit the nail on the head with your analysis.

### **5) Let the cat out of the bag**

**Meaning:** To reveal a secret

**Example:** He let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.

### **6) Bite the bullet**

**Meaning:** To endure a painful or unpleasant situation

**Example:** I had to bite the bullet and go to the dentist.

### **7) Burn the midnight oil**

**Meaning:** To work late into the night

**Example:** She burned the midnight oil to finish her project.

### **8) Kick the bucket**

**Meaning:** To die

**Example:** The old man finally kicked the bucket last week.

### **9) Beat around the bush**

**Meaning:** To avoid talking about the main point

**Example:** Stop beating around the bush and tell me what happened.

### **10) Once in a blue moon**

**Meaning:** Something that happens very rarely

**Example:** We see each other once in a blue moon.

### **11) Spill the beans**

**Meaning:** To reveal a secret

**Example:** He accidentally spilled the beans about the plan.

### **12) Under the weather**

**Meaning:** Feeling unwell

**Example:** She is under the weather today.

### **13) Barking up the wrong tree**

**Meaning:** Accusing the wrong person or pursuing the wrong thing

**Example:** You're barking up the wrong tree by blaming me.

### **14) A piece of cake**

**Meaning:** Something very easy to do

**Example:** The exam was a piece of cake.

### **15) Cry over spilled milk**

**Meaning:** To be upset about something that has already happened

**Example:** Don't cry over spilled milk; move on.

### **16) Cut corners**

**Meaning:** To do something poorly to save time or money

**Example:** They cut corners and used cheap materials.

### **17) Bite off more than you can chew**

**Meaning:** Take on more responsibility than you can handle

**Example:** He bit off more than he could chew by taking two jobs.

**18) Add fuel to the fire**

**Meaning:** To make a bad situation worse

**Example:** His comments added fuel to the fire.

**19) A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**

**Meaning:** It's better to keep what you have than to risk it

**Example:** I won't gamble— a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

**20) Call it a day**

**Meaning:** To stop working for the day

**Example:** Let's call it a day and resume tomorrow.

**21) Hit the sack**

**Meaning:** To go to bed or sleep

**Example:** I'm really tired, time to hit the sack.

**22) Pull someone's leg**

**Meaning:** To joke or tease someone

**Example:** Don't worry, he's just pulling your leg.

**23) In hot water**

**Meaning:** In trouble

**Example:** He found himself in hot water after missing the deadline.

**24) On cloud nine**

**Meaning:** Extremely happy

**Example:** She was on cloud nine after getting selected.

**25) Go the extra mile**

**Meaning:** To make a special effort

**Example:** She always goes the extra mile for her students.

**26) A storm in a teacup**

**Meaning:** A lot of fuss over something unimportant

**Example:** Their argument was just a storm in a teacup.

**27) Actions speak louder than words**

**Meaning:** What someone does is more

important than what they say

**Example:** He promised to help, but actions speak louder than words.

**28) Cost an arm and a leg**

**Meaning:** Very expensive

**Example:** That new phone cost him an arm and a leg.

**29) In the blink of an eye**

**Meaning:** Very quickly

**Example:** It was over in the blink of an eye.

**30) Jump on the bandwagon**

**Meaning:** To join others in doing something trendy

**Example:** He jumped on the bandwagon and started investing in stocks.

**31) Keep an eye on**

**Meaning:** To watch carefully

**Example:** Please keep an eye on my bag.

**32) The ball is in your court**

**Meaning:** It's your decision or responsibility

**Example:** I've done my part, now the ball is in your court.

**33) Break a leg**

**Meaning:** Good luck

**Example:** Break a leg before your performance tonight!

**34) By the skin of your teeth**

**Meaning:** Just barely

**Example:** He passed the exam by the skin of his teeth.

**35) Hit the books**

**Meaning:** To study hard

**Example:** You need to hit the books before your final exam.

**36) Kill two birds with one stone**

**Meaning:** Achieve two things at once

**Example:** By visiting my uncle, I killed two birds with one stone—I also delivered the parcel.

**37) Make ends meet**

**Meaning:** To survive financially

**Example:** It's hard to make ends meet on a low salary.

**38) Miss the boat**

**Meaning:** Miss an opportunity

**Example:** He missed the boat by not applying earlier.

**39) Off the record**

**Meaning:** Unofficial

**Example:** Off the record, the company is planning to lay off staff.

**40) On the same page**

**Meaning:** In agreement

**Example:** We need to be on the same page before starting the project.

**41) Out of the blue**

**Meaning:** Unexpectedly

**Example:** He called me out of the blue.

**42) Piece of the pie**

**Meaning:** A share of something valuable

**Example:** Everyone wants a piece of the pie in this profitable deal.

**43) Read between the lines**

**Meaning:** Understand the hidden meaning

**Example:** Reading between the lines, I think she's not happy.

**44) Rome wasn't built in a day**

**Meaning:** Important work takes time

**Example:** Be patient— Rome wasn't built in a day.

**45) Take it with a grain of salt**

**Meaning:** Don't take it too seriously

**Example:** Take his advice with a grain of salt.

**46) The tip of the iceberg**

**Meaning:** A small part of a big problem

**Example:** This issue is just the tip of the iceberg.

**47) Up in the air**

**Meaning:** Uncertain

**Example:** Our plans are still up in the air.

**48) When pigs fly**

**Meaning:** Something that will never happen

**Example:** He'll apologize when pigs fly.

**49) Cross that bridge when you come to it**

**Meaning:** Deal with a problem when it happens

**Example:** Don't worry now— we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

**50) Every cloud has a silver lining**

**Meaning:** There's something good in every bad situation

**Example:** Don't worry— every cloud has a silver lining.

**51) Face the music**

**Meaning:** Accept the consequences

**Example:** He must face the music for his mistakes.

**52) Have a chip on your shoulder**

**Meaning:** Hold a grudge or be angry

**Example:** He always has a chip on his shoulder about his past.

**53) In the same boat**

**Meaning:** In the same difficult situation

**Example:** We're all in the same boat during this crisis.

**54) Keep your fingers crossed**

**Meaning:** Hope for good luck

**Example:** I'm keeping my fingers crossed for the result.

**55) Let sleeping dogs lie**

**Meaning:** Avoid restarting an old argument

**Example:** Don't mention that issue— let sleeping dogs lie.

**56) Make a mountain out of a molehill**

**Meaning:** Exaggerate a small problem

**Example:** You're making a mountain out of a molehill.

**57) Not playing with a full deck**

**Meaning:** Mentally unstable or lacking intelligence

**Example:** He acts like he's not playing with a full deck.

**58) Put all your eggs in one basket**

**Meaning:** Rely on one plan or idea

**Example:** Don't put all your eggs in one basket— diversify.

**59) The best of both worlds**

**Meaning:** Enjoy two different benefits at once

**Example:** She has the best of both worlds— a good job and time for family.

**60) Through thick and thin**

**Meaning:** In good times and bad

**Example:** They've stayed friends through thick and thin.

**61) Turn a blind eye**

**Meaning:** Ignore something wrong

**Example:** The teacher turned a blind eye to the cheating.

**62) A leopard can't change its spots**

**Meaning:** People don't change their nature

**Example:** He's always dishonest— a leopard can't change its spots.

**63) Don't put the cart before the horse**

**Meaning:** Do things in the wrong order

**Example:** Don't apply before reading the instructions— don't put the cart before the horse.

**64) Go down in flames**

**Meaning:** Fail spectacularly

**Example:** His business idea went down in flames.

**65) In the nick of time**

**Meaning:** Just in time

**Example:** He reached the station in the nick of time.

**66) Jump the gun**

**Meaning:** Act too soon

**Example:** Don't jump the gun— wait for the announcement.

**67) Leave no stone unturned**

**Meaning:** Try everything possible

**Example:** We left no stone unturned in our search.

**68) Make a long story short**

**Meaning:** Tell something briefly

**Example:** To make a long story short, he got the job.

**69) Not your cup of tea**

**Meaning:** Not something you like

**Example:** Horror movies are not my cup of tea.

**70) Off the hook**

**Meaning:** Freed from responsibility

**Example:** He's off the hook because of lack of evidence.

**71) On thin ice**

**Meaning:** In a risky situation

**Example:** You're on thin ice with the boss.

**72) Pull out all the stops**

**Meaning:** Do everything possible

**Example:** They pulled out all the stops for the celebration.

**73) Put your money where your mouth is**

**Meaning:** Support your words with action

**Example:** If you really support us, put your money where your mouth is.

**74) Raining cats and dogs**

**Meaning:** Raining heavily

**Example:** It's raining cats and dogs outside!

**75) See eye to eye**

**Meaning:** Agree

**Example:** We don't see eye to eye on this matter.

**76) Steal someone's thunder**

**Meaning:** Take attention away from someone else

**Example:** He stole her thunder by announcing the news first.

**77) Take the bull by the horns**

**Meaning:** Face a challenge directly

**Example:** She took the bull by the horns and started studying harder.

**78) The last straw**

**Meaning:** The final problem in a series

**Example:** His rude comment was the last straw.

**79) Throw in the towel**

**Meaning:** Give up

**Example:** He threw in the towel after several failed attempts.

**80) To add insult to injury**

**Meaning:** Make a bad situation worse

**Example:** He was late and, to add insult to injury, he forgot the files.

**81) To be in a pickle**

**Meaning:** In a difficult situation

**Example:** I'm in a pickle—I forgot my wallet.

**82) Water under the bridge**

**Meaning:** Past issues no longer important

**Example:** We had our differences, but it's all water under the bridge now.

**83) A hot potato**

**Meaning:** A controversial or difficult issue

**Example:** The topic of caste is a hot potato in politics.

**84) Back to the drawing board**

**Meaning:** Start again from scratch

**Example:** The design failed, so it's back to the drawing board.

**85) Don't count your chickens before they hatch**

**Meaning:** Don't assume success before it happens

**Example:** Wait for the final result— don't count your chickens yet.

**86) In black and white**

**Meaning:** In written form

**Example:** I want the contract in black and white.

**87) Let bygones be bygones**

**Meaning:** Forget past disagreements

**Example:** Let's let bygones be bygones and be friends again.

**88) Put a sock in it**

**Meaning:** Be quiet

**Example:** Put a sock in it! I'm trying to focus.

**89) Smell a rat**

**Meaning:** Suspect something is wrong

**Example:** I smell a rat in this sudden resignation.

**90) Take someone for granted**

**Meaning:** Undervalue someone

**Example:** Don't take your friends for granted.

**91) The writing on the wall**

**Meaning:** Signs of something bad

**Example:** The writing was on the wall when sales dropped.

**92) To have cold feet**

**Meaning:** Get nervous before an event

**Example:** He got cold feet before the wedding.

**93) To keep something at bay**

**Meaning:** To prevent something from happening

**Example:** She exercised daily to keep illness at bay.

**94) To rock the boat**

**Meaning:** Cause trouble

**Example:** Don't rock the boat— we're already in a tough spot.

**95) To sweep under the rug**

**Meaning:** Hide something

**Example:** They swept the issue under the rug instead of solving it.

**96) To take a rain check**

**Meaning:** Postpone a plan

**Example:** I'll take a rain check on dinner today.

**97) To throw cold water on something**

**Meaning:** Discourage or criticize

**Example:** He threw cold water on her ideas.

**98) To walk on air**

**Meaning:** Feel very happy

**Example:** She was walking on air after hearing the good news.



**99) To burn one's fingers**

**Meaning:** Suffer from a bad experience

**Example:** He burned his fingers in the stock market.

**100) To have the upper hand**

**Meaning:** Be in control or advantage

**Example:** She had the upper hand in negotiations.

**101) A dime a dozen**

**Meaning:** Very common or inexpensive

**Example:** Fake watches are a dime a dozen in this market.

**102) Cut the mustard**

**Meaning:** To meet expectations or standards

**Example:** The new recruit didn't cut the mustard in the training session.

**103) Draw the line**

**Meaning:** Set a limit

**Example:** I draw the line at lying to customers.

**104) Fish out of water**

**Meaning:** Uncomfortable in a new environment

**Example:** He felt like a fish out of water at the fashion show.

**105) Give the benefit of the doubt**

**Meaning:** Believe someone without proof

**Example:** Let's give her the benefit of the doubt for now.

**106) Go overboard**

**Meaning:** Do something excessively

**Example:** He went overboard decorating the room for the party.

**107) Have a sweet tooth**

**Meaning:** Love sugary foods

**Example:** I can't resist desserts—I have a sweet tooth.

**108) In a nutshell**

**Meaning:** In summary

**Example:** In a nutshell, we need more time to finish the task.

**109) Know the ropes**

**Meaning:** Be familiar with the procedures

**Example:** It took me a week to know the ropes at the new job.

**110) Let your hair down**

**Meaning:** Relax and enjoy

**Example:** After the exams, we all let our hair down.

**111) On pins and needles**

**Meaning:** Nervously waiting

**Example:** I was on pins and needles waiting for the result.

**112) Paint the town red**

**Meaning:** Go out and enjoy oneself

**Example:** The team painted the town red after their victory.

**113) Put your foot down**

**Meaning:** Be firm about something

**Example:** She put her foot down and refused to accept any more delays.

**114) Rub salt in the wound**

**Meaning:** Make someone feel worse

**Example:** His comments only rubbed salt in the wound.

**115) Skeleton in the closet**

**Meaning:** A hidden and embarrassing secret

**Example:** Every politician has a skeleton in the closet.

**116) Sink or swim**

**Meaning:** Succeed or fail without help

**Example:** The company threw him into management—sink or swim.

**117) Smell the coffee**

**Meaning:** Realize the reality

**Example:** You need to smell the coffee and start studying seriously.

**118) Sweep someone off their feet**

**Meaning:** Impress someone greatly

**Example:** She swept him off his feet with her kindness.

**119) Take the cake**

**Meaning:** Be the most outstanding (negatively)

**Example:** His laziness takes the cake.

**120) The elephant in the room**

**Meaning:** An obvious issue no one wants to discuss

**Example:** His resignation was the elephant in the room.

**121) Through the grapevine**

**Meaning:** By informal means

**Example:** I heard through the grapevine that he's quitting.

**122) Too many irons in the fire**

**Meaning:** Too many tasks at once

**Example:** He failed because he had too many irons in the fire.

**123) Under your nose**

**Meaning:** Obvious but unnoticed

**Example:** The solution was right under your nose.

**124) Walk a tightrope**

**Meaning:** Be in a difficult or risky situation

**Example:** She walked a tightrope between family and career.

**125) Wet blanket**

**Meaning:** Someone who spoils the fun

**Example:** Don't be a wet blanket—join the party!

**126) Zip your lip**

**Meaning:** Stay silent

**Example:** Zip your lip about the surprise.

**127) Bite your tongue**

**Meaning:** Stop yourself from saying something

**Example:** I had to bite my tongue to avoid arguing.

**128) Come to grips with**

**Meaning:** Accept or deal with a problem

**Example:** She's finally coming to grips with her loss.

**129) Drag your feet**

**Meaning:** Delay doing something

**Example:** Don't drag your feet— we're already late.

**130) Feather in your cap**

**Meaning:** An achievement to be proud of

**Example:** Winning the scholarship was a feather in his cap.

**131) Get cold feet**

**Meaning:** Get nervous

**Example:** He got cold feet just before the interview.

**132) Hang in there**

**Meaning:** Don't give up

**Example:** Hang in there— success is near.

**133) Keep your shirt on**

**Meaning:** Stay calm

**Example:** Keep your shirt on! The train will arrive soon.

**134) Leave someone in the lurch**

**Meaning:** Abandon someone in difficulty

**Example:** He left me in the lurch when I needed him most.

**135) Make your blood boil**

**Meaning:** Make you very angry

**Example:** Corruption makes my blood boil.

**136) Not the sharpest tool in the shed**

**Meaning:** Not very intelligent

**Example:** He's kind, but not the sharpest tool in the shed.

**137) Off the cuff**

**Meaning:** Without preparation

**Example:** She gave an impressive off-the-cuff speech.

**138) Pass the buck**

**Meaning:** Shift responsibility

**Example:** Don't pass the buck— admit your mistake.

**139) Put all your cards on the table**

**Meaning:** Be open about your thoughts

**Example:** It's time to put all our cards on the table.

**140) Read someone like a book**

**Meaning:** Understand someone easily

**Example:** I can read him like a book.

**141) Skeleton staff**

**Meaning:** Minimum number of employees

**Example:** Only a skeleton staff works on Sundays.

**142) Take it on the chin**

**Meaning:** Accept a setback bravely

**Example:** He took the criticism on the chin.

**143) Up the ante**

**Meaning:** Increase the stakes

**Example:** They upped the ante by raising the prize money.

**144) Vanish into thin air**

**Meaning:** Disappear completely

**Example:** The thief vanished into thin air.

**145) Walk in someone's shoes**

**Meaning:** Understand someone's situation

**Example:** Try walking in her shoes before judging.

**146) X marks the spot**

**Meaning:** Exact location

**Example:** The treasure is buried where X marks the spot.

**147) You can't teach an old dog new tricks**

**Meaning:** It's hard to change old habits

**Example:** My grandfather won't use smartphones— you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

**148) Zip through**

**Meaning:** Do something quickly

**Example:** He zipped through the test in no time.

**149) Bend over backwards**

**Meaning:** Make great efforts

**Example:** She bent over backwards to help him.

**150) Cast iron stomach**

**Meaning:** Can eat anything without discomfort

**Example:** He must have a cast iron stomach to eat that spicy food.

**151) Down to the wire**

**Meaning:** Until the last moment

**Example:** The match went down to the wire.

**152) Eye of the storm**

**Meaning:** Center of a difficult situation

**Example:** The politician was in the eye of the storm.

**153) Feel the pinch**

**Meaning:** Experience financial difficulty

**Example:** Many families felt the pinch after inflation rose.

**154) Go hand in hand**

**Meaning:** Be closely related

**Example:** Hard work and success go hand in hand.

**155) Hit below the belt**

**Meaning:** Be unfair

**Example:** That personal comment was hitting below the belt.

**156) In full swing**

**Meaning:** At peak activity

**Example:** The festival is now in full swing.

**157) Jump down someone's throat**

**Meaning:** React angrily

**Example:** Don't jump down my throat for a small mistake.

**158) Know something inside out**

**Meaning:** Know very well

**Example:** He knows programming inside out.

**159) Lay it on thick**

**Meaning:** Exaggerate praise or criticism

**Example:** He laid it on thick about her cooking.

**160) Make waves**

**Meaning:** Cause trouble or attention

**Example:** His bold speech made waves in the media.

**161) Neck of the woods**

**Meaning:** Neighborhood

**Example:** He's from my neck of the woods.



**162) Out of sorts**

**Meaning:** Slightly ill or upset

**Example:** She's feeling out of sorts today.

**163) Play second fiddle**

**Meaning:** Be in a subordinate position

**Example:** He was tired of playing second fiddle.

**164) Quick on the draw**

**Meaning:** Fast to act or respond

**Example:** She's quick on the draw in meetings.

**165) Ring a bell**

**Meaning:** Sound familiar

**Example:** That name rings a bell.

**166) Step on someone's toes**

**Meaning:** Offend someone

**Example:** He stepped on some toes with his direct comments.

**167) Take the wind out of someone's sails**

**Meaning:** Discourage or deflate

**Example:** His rude reply took the wind out of her sails.

**168) Under the table**

**Meaning:** Secretly or illegally

**Example:** He was paid under the table.

**169) Vote with your feet**

**Meaning:** Show dissatisfaction by leaving

**Example:** The audience voted with their feet and left early.

**170) Water down**

**Meaning:** Weaken something

**Example:** They watered down the proposal to make it acceptable.

**171) Bark is worse than your bite**

**Meaning:** Someone sounds more aggressive than they are

**Example:** Don't worry, his bark is worse than his bite.

**172) Call a spade a spade**

**Meaning:** Speak honestly and directly

**Example:** She's not afraid to call a spade a spade.

**173) Devil's advocate**

**Meaning:** One who argues against something for the sake of debate

**Example:** Let me play devil's advocate for a moment.

**174) Eat humble pie**

**Meaning:** Admit a mistake and apologize

**Example:** After the argument, he had to eat humble pie.

**175) Face like thunder**

**Meaning:** Very angry expression

**Example:** He came in with a face like thunder after the meeting.

**176) Get your act together**

**Meaning:** Organize yourself to be more effective

**Example:** You need to get your act together if you want to pass.

**177) Have bigger fish to fry**

**Meaning:** Have more important things to do

**Example:** I can't worry about that now—I have bigger fish to fry.

**178) In the driver's seat**

**Meaning:** In control of a situation

**Example:** After the promotion, she's now in the driver's seat.

**179) Jump through hoops**

**Meaning:** Go through many obstacles

**Example:** He jumped through hoops to get the visa approved.

**180) Keep something under wraps**

**Meaning:** Keep something secret

**Example:** The launch was kept under wraps until today.

**181) Let the dust settle**

**Meaning:** Wait for a situation to become calm

**Example:** Let the dust settle before taking action.

**182) Make no bones about it**

**Meaning:** Be straightforward and honest

**Example:** He made no bones about his dissatisfaction.

**183) Not hold water**

**Meaning:** Not be logical or believable

**Example:** His excuse doesn't hold water.

**184) Off the rails**

**Meaning:** Out of control

**Example:** His behavior went off the rails after the suspension.

**185) Put a damper on**

**Meaning:** Discourage or dull the mood

**Example:** The rain put a damper on our picnic.

**186) Raise eyebrows**

**Meaning:** Cause surprise or shock

**Example:** Her sudden resignation raised eyebrows.

**187) Sell like hotcakes**

**Meaning:** Sell quickly and in large amounts

**Example:** The new phones are selling like hotcakes.

**188) Take the plunge**

**Meaning:** Do something risky or bold

**Example:** He finally took the plunge and started his business.

**189) Under lock and key**

**Meaning:** Stored securely

**Example:** The documents are kept under lock and key.

**190) Vent your spleen**

**Meaning:** Express anger

**Example:** He vented his spleen during the meeting.

**191) Weather the storm**

**Meaning:** Survive a difficult time

**Example:** The company managed to weather the storm during the crisis.

**192) You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours**

**Meaning:** Mutual assistance

**Example:** It's politics—you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.

**193) Zero in on**

**Meaning:** Focus closely

**Example:** The police zeroed in on the suspect quickly.

**194) A penny for your thoughts**

**Meaning:** Asking someone to share their thoughts

**Example:** You've been quiet—a penny for your thoughts?

**195) Beat a dead horse**

**Meaning:** Waste time on something that's over

**Example:** Stop arguing, you're beating a dead horse.

**196) Come out of the woodwork**

**Meaning:** Appear unexpectedly or from hiding

**Example:** Old friends came out of the woodwork after he won.

**197) Don't bite the hand that feeds you**

**Meaning:** Don't harm someone who helps you

**Example:** Be grateful—don't bite the hand that feeds you.

**198) Easier said than done**

**Meaning:** Not as easy as it seems

**Example:** Quitting bad habits is easier said than done.

**199) Fall flat**

**Meaning:** Fail to have the desired effect

**Example:** His joke fell flat in front of the crowd.

**200) Get the ball rolling**

**Meaning:** Start something

**Example:** Let's get the ball rolling on the new project.

**201) Act your age**

**Meaning:** Behave in a manner appropriate for your age

**Example:** Stop being silly and act your age.

**202) At the drop of a hat**

**Meaning:** Immediately; without hesitation

**Example:** He's ready to travel at the drop of a hat.

**203) Back to square one**

**Meaning:** Return to the beginning

**Example:** We're back to square one after the deal failed.

**204) Blow your own trumpet**

**Meaning:** Praise yourself

**Example:** He's always blowing his own trumpet about his achievements.

**205) Catch someone red-handed**

**Meaning:** Catch someone in the act of wrongdoing

**Example:** The thief was caught red-handed by the police.

**206) Dig your heels in**

**Meaning:** Refuse to change your opinion

**Example:** She dug her heels in and refused to apologize.

**207) Every dog has its day**

**Meaning:** Everyone gets a chance eventually

**Example:** Don't worry, every dog has its day.

**208) Fall through the cracks**

**Meaning:** Be overlooked or neglected

**Example:** Some students fall through the cracks in big classrooms.

**209) Get down to brass tacks**

**Meaning:** Get to the point

**Example:** Let's get down to brass tacks and discuss the budget.

**210) Have an axe to grind**

**Meaning:** Have a personal motive or bias

**Example:** He has an axe to grind with the manager.

**211) In over your head**

**Meaning:** In a situation too difficult to handle

**Example:** I think he's in over his head with this project.

**212) Jump the bandwagon**

**Meaning:** Follow a popular trend

**Example:** Many brands are jumping the bandwagon on eco-friendly products.

**213) Keep the ball rolling**

**Meaning:** Maintain progress

**Example:** We need to keep the ball rolling with daily meetings.

**214) Look before you leap**

**Meaning:** Consider consequences before acting

**Example:** Always look before you leap in business decisions.

**215) Make your mark**

**Meaning:** Achieve a lasting impact

**Example:** He made his mark in the tech industry.

**216) Not all there**

**Meaning:** Mentally lacking or absent-minded

**Example:** I don't think he's all there today—he seems confused.

**217) On the fence**

**Meaning:** Undecided

**Example:** She's still on the fence about accepting the offer.

**218) Pass with flying colors**

**Meaning:** Pass with high success

**Example:** She passed the SSC exam with flying colors.

**219) Quick fix**

**Meaning:** A temporary or easy solution

**Example:** The quick fix didn't solve the real problem.

**220) Read the riot act**

**Meaning:** Warn someone firmly

**Example:** The coach read the riot act after the poor performance.

**221) Shoot yourself in the foot**

**Meaning:** Harm your own interests

**Example:** He shot himself in the foot by lying in the interview.

**222) Take the floor**

**Meaning:** Begin speaking in a formal setting

**Example:** The speaker took the floor and introduced the topic.

**223) Under the gun**

**Meaning:** Under pressure

**Example:** We're under the gun to submit the project by tonight.

**224) Voice of reason**

**Meaning:** Someone who guides others sensibly

**Example:** She acted as the voice of reason in the heated argument.

**225) Watch your back**

**Meaning:** Be careful of danger or betrayal

**Example:** In politics, you always have to watch your back.

**226) X-ray eyes**

**Meaning:** Ability to see through things (figuratively)

**Example:** Teachers seem to have X-ray eyes during exams.

**227) You can't have your cake and eat it too**

**Meaning:** You can't enjoy two conflicting things

**Example:** You can't be lazy and expect to succeed—you can't have your cake and eat it too.

**228) Zero tolerance**

**Meaning:** No allowance for mistakes or violations

**Example:** The company has a zero-tolerance policy for cheating.

**229) Add insult to injury**

**Meaning:** Make a bad situation worse

**Example:** Losing the game was bad, but being mocked added insult to injury.

**230) Backseat driver**

**Meaning:** Someone who gives unwanted advice

**Example:** Stop being a backseat driver and let me handle this.

**231) Call the shots**

**Meaning:** Be in charge

**Example:** She calls the shots in the marketing team.

**232) Don't cry wolf**

**Meaning:** Don't raise false alarms

**Example:** No one believes him anymore because he always cries wolf.

**233) Eager beaver**

**Meaning:** Very enthusiastic person

**Example:** He's an eager beaver in every class project.

**234) From pillar to post**

**Meaning:** From one place to another in confusion

**Example:** She ran from pillar to post to get the approval.

**235) Get wind of**

**Meaning:** Hear about something unofficially

**Example:** I got wind of the promotion before it was announced.

**236) Hand in glove**

**Meaning:** In close cooperation

**Example:** The departments worked hand in glove on the project.

**237) If the shoe fits, wear it**

**Meaning:** Accept the criticism if it applies

**Example:** I didn't name anyone, but if the shoe fits, wear it.

**238) Jump the queue**

**Meaning:** Go ahead of others unfairly

**Example:** He jumped the queue and angered everyone.

**239) Keep a low profile**

**Meaning:** Avoid attention

**Example:** She kept a low profile after the scandal.

**240) Laughing stock**

**Meaning:** A person who is ridiculed

**Example:** His silly video made him a laughing stock online.

**241) Mum's the word**

**Meaning:** Keep it a secret

**Example:** The project details are confidential—mum's the word.

**242) Neck and neck**

**Meaning:** Very close in a race or competition

**Example:** The candidates are neck and neck in the polls.

**243) Out of the woods**

**Meaning:** Out of danger

**Example:** He's recovering but not out of the woods yet.

**244) Pull strings**

**Meaning:** Use influence

**Example:** He pulled some strings to get the job.

**245) Quick on the uptake**

**Meaning:** Understands quickly

**Example:** She's quick on the uptake in math class.

**246) Rock the boat**

**Meaning:** Cause trouble or disturbance

**Example:** Don't rock the boat during this peaceful time.

**247) Spill your guts**

**Meaning:** Confess everything

**Example:** He spilled his guts during the interrogation.

**248) The coast is clear**

**Meaning:** No danger or obstruction

**Example:** Let's run—the coast is clear!

**249) Up your sleeve**

**Meaning:** Hidden plan or idea

**Example:** He always has something up his sleeve.

**250) Variety is the spice of life**

**Meaning:** Different experiences make life interesting

**Example:** I travel often—variety is the spice of life.

**251) Win hands down**

**Meaning:** Win easily

**Example:** She won the quiz hands down.

**252) Your guess is as good as mine**

**Meaning:** I don't know either

**Example:** When will they arrive? Your guess is as good as mine.

**253) A bolt from the blue**

**Meaning:** A sudden and unexpected event

**Example:** His resignation was a bolt from the blue.

**254) Break the bank**

**Meaning:** Cost a lot of money

**Example:** That phone will break the bank.

**255) Cold shoulder**

**Meaning:** Intentionally ignore someone

**Example:** She gave him the cold shoulder after the fight.

**256) Don't judge a book by its cover**

**Meaning:** Don't judge based on appearance

**Example:** He looks rough, but don't judge a book by its cover.

**257) Easier said than done**

**Meaning:** Not easy to do despite sounding easy

**Example:** Quitting sugar is easier said than done.

**258) Fall on deaf ears**

**Meaning:** Be ignored

**Example:** His warnings fell on deaf ears.

**259) Get a taste of your own medicine**

**Meaning:** Experience the same bad treatment

**Example:** He got a taste of his own medicine when he was ignored.

**260) Have a ball**

**Meaning:** Enjoy a lot

**Example:** They had a ball at the farewell party.

**261) It takes two to tango**

**Meaning:** Both people are responsible

**Example:** Don't blame only him—it takes two to tango.

**262) Jump the lights**

**Meaning:** Drive through red lights

**Example:** He was fined for jumping the lights.

**263) Keep your head above water**

**Meaning:** Survive in difficult conditions

**Example:** They're barely keeping their heads above water financially.



**264) Let the chips fall where they may**

**Meaning:** Accept consequences

**Example:** I'll speak the truth—let the chips fall where they may.

**265) Make ends meet**

**Meaning:** Cover daily expenses

**Example:** They struggle to make ends meet on one income.

**266) No stone unturned**

**Meaning:** Try everything

**Example:** We left no stone unturned in our search.

**267) On tenterhooks**

**Meaning:** Anxious or nervous

**Example:** I'm on tenterhooks waiting for the results.

**268) Pay through the nose**

**Meaning:** Pay a high price

**Example:** I paid through the nose for that hotel room.

**269) Quiet as a mouse**

**Meaning:** Very quiet

**Example:** The child was quiet as a mouse during the ceremony.

**270) Ruffle feathers**

**Meaning:** Annoy people

**Example:** His remarks ruffled a few feathers.

**271) Set the record straight**

**Meaning:** Clarify the truth

**Example:** She set the record straight about the rumors.

**272) The writing is on the wall**

**Meaning:** Warning signs are visible

**Example:** The writing was on the wall before the company shut down.

**273) Under the radar**

**Meaning:** Without attracting attention

**Example:** The startup stayed under the radar for months.

**274) Vote of confidence**

**Meaning:** Expression of trust

**Example:** The director gave the team a vote of confidence.

**275) Work like a charm**

**Meaning:** Be very effective

**Example:** The medicine worked like a charm.

**276) X-factor**

**Meaning:** Special or unique quality

**Example:** Her confidence is her X-factor.

**277) You name it**

**Meaning:** Everything you can think of

**Example:** He sells fruits, vegetables, snacks—you name it.

**278) Zip past**

**Meaning:** Move very quickly

**Example:** The train zipped past the station.

**279) All ears**

**Meaning:** Fully listening

**Example:** I'm all ears—tell me your plan.

**280) Break new ground**

**Meaning:** Do something innovative

**Example:** Their research breaks new ground in medicine.

**281) Come clean**

**Meaning:** Confess

**Example:** He finally came clean about the incident.

**282) Dressed to kill**

**Meaning:** Wearing very stylish clothes

**Example:** She was dressed to kill at the party.

**283) Eyes in the back of your head**

**Meaning:** Very observant

**Example:** Teachers seem to have eyes in the back of their heads.

**284) Fall head over heels**

**Meaning:** Deeply in love

**Example:** He fell head over heels for her.

**285) Get in someone's hair**

**Meaning:** Annoy someone

**Example:** The kids were getting in their mother's hair.

**286) Hit the jackpot**

**Meaning:** Have great success

**Example:** He hit the jackpot with his first novel.

**287) In the loop**

**Meaning:** Informed about something

**Example:** Please keep me in the loop about the project.

**288) Jump out of your skin**

**Meaning:** Be extremely startled

**Example:** I jumped out of my skin when I saw the snake.

**289) Keep your eyes peeled**

**Meaning:** Be alert

**Example:** Keep your eyes peeled for the announcement.

**290) Let off steam**

**Meaning:** Release stress

**Example:** He plays football to let off steam.

**291) Make a beeline**

**Meaning:** Go directly

**Example:** She made a beeline for the dessert table.

**292) Not see eye to eye**

**Meaning:** Disagree

**Example:** They don't see eye to eye on politics.

**293) Out of the blue**

**Meaning:** Unexpectedly

**Example:** He called me out of the blue after years.

**294) Put two and two together**

**Meaning:** Draw a conclusion

**Example:** I put two and two together and realized he lied.

**295) Quicker than lightning**

**Meaning:** Very fast

**Example:** She completed the quiz quicker than lightning.

**296) Raise the bar**

**Meaning:** Set a higher standard

**Example:** His success raised the bar for all of us.

**297) Spill the tea**

**Meaning:** Share gossip

**Example:** Come on, spill the tea!

**298) The sky's the limit**

**Meaning:** No limits

**Example:** With hard work, the sky's the limit.

**299) Up to speed**

**Meaning:** Fully informed

**Example:** Let me get you up to speed on the issue.

**300) Your heart's in the right place**

**Meaning:** You mean well

**Example:** He made a mistake, but his heart's in the right place.