

Distinction between Similar Expressions

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Some **Idiomatic Expressions** look alike, but they are actually not so. There is a great difference in their meanings. We give below a list of such similar expressions that are in common use :

1. **At no time**—(never)
In no time—(promptly)
2. **In an hour**—(by the end of one hour)
Within an hour—(before the end of one hour)
3. **Work in hand**—(the work in which one is engaged)
Work on hand—(the remaining part of the work)
4. **Go to sea**—(to go to sea in search of a job)
Go to the sea—(to go on a [sea] voyage)
5. **Go to school**—(to go to school for study)
Go to the school—(to go to a school for some work—not for study)
6. **Go to market**—(to go to market to purchase something)
Go to the market—(to go to market for pleasure or some other work)
7. **Go to office**—(to go to office to work there)
Go to the office—(to go to office for some other work)
8. **Work hard**—(to work industriously)
Work hardly—(to work very little)
9. **Come late**—(late in reaching)
Come lately—(come only a little while ago)
10. **Go direct**—(go straight)
Go directly—(go just now)
11. **Shoot a man**—(to kill a man by a gun—shot)
Shoot at a man—(to fire a gun—shot towards someone)
12. **To search somebody**—(to take search of someone)
To search for somebody—(to be in search of some person)
13. **Believe a man**—(to have faith in what one says)
Believe in a man—(to have faith in the honesty of some person)
14. **Meet a man**—(to meet someones in the normal course)
Meet with a man—(to meet someone by chance)
15. **The Chairman and Director**—(Only one man who is both the Chairman and Director)
The Chairman and the Director—(Two men—One Chairman, the other Director)
16. **English**—(English Language)
The English—(English People)
17. **Who is he ?**—(Who is that man ?, *i.e.* What is his name ?)
What is he ?—(What is he by profession)
Which is he ?—(Which one is he amongst them ?)
18. **The eldest son**—(the first born)
The oldest son—(the eldest of the living sons)
19. **Well**—(in good health)
Well off—(financially sound)
20. **Reach by Sunday**—(reach upto Sunday)
Reach before Sunday—(reach before Sunday comes)

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| <p>21. Live on grass—(live by eating grass)
 Live in grass—(live under grass)</p> <p>22. Take heart—(to collect courage)
 Take to heart—(to feel in the depth of heart)</p> <p>23. At a loss—(unable to decide what to do)
 In a loss—(to go in loss)</p> <p>24. Look sick—(to appear ill)
 Look sickly—(to look weak as if sick)</p> <p>25. Find easy—(easy to do)
 Find easily—(to discover easily)</p> <p>26. Tell briefly—(to tell in brief)
 Tell shortly—(to tell soon)</p> | <p>27. Come soon—(come early)
 Come quickly—(come by fast means)</p> <p>28. In respect of—(in view of some quality)
 With respect to—(in reference to something)</p> <p>29. To have business—(regarding some work)
 To have a business—(regarding some business matter)</p> <p>30. Hand in hand—(together)
 Hand to hand—(face to face)</p> <p>31. To call—(to summon somebody)
 To give a call—(to give a general call to people for something)</p> |
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