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IDIOMS AND PHRASES - 2

CHAPTER

'LET'S USE THEM IN SENTENCES'

1. **Above board** (*honest and straightforward, ईमानदारी एवं निःछल*)- Gandhi ji was above board and hence had nothing to hide.
2. **Adam's ale** (*pure water, शुद्ध जल*)- In the remotest parts of Rajasthan, people walk miles for Adam's ale.
3. **Add a new feather in one's cap** (*to acquire a new honour or distinction, कोई नया सम्मान प्राप्त करना*)- Paramount Coaching Centre has added a new feather in its cap by starting Paramount Reader Publication .
4. **Add insult to injury** (*to harm as well as humiliate, जले पर नमक छिड़कना*)- She has added insult to injury by returning the gift and sending a 'get lost' note.
5. **After one's own heart** (*similar to you, जो आप के जैसा ही है*)- Seeing your inclination towards art and Literature, I can say that you are clearly a person after my own heart.
6. **An eye wash** (*a pretence, दिखावा*)- The whole investigation was just an eye wash as no one was held guilty.
7. **An hair-breadth escape** (*very narrow escape, बाल-बाल बचना*)- He had a hair-breadth escape when his bike skid on the oil drenched road.
8. **An old flame** (*long time love, पुराना प्यार*)- He met his old flame in the market yesterday but prudently avoided eye contact .
9. **An old head on young shoulders** (*to be more matured than one's own age, अपनी उम्र से ज्यादा समझदार होना*)- He is an old head on young shoulders as he teaches Physics at a university at an young age of 25 .
10. **As fit as a fiddle** (*strong and healthy, स्वस्थ*)- He feigned illness but I knew that he was as fit as a fiddle.
11. **Assume airs** (*to pretend superiority, बड़प्पन दिखाना*)- After becoming an IAS officer he has assumed airs.
12. **At a stone's throw** (*at a little distance, थोड़ी दूरी पर*)- Lal Quila is at a stone's throw from my house.
13. **At large** (*absconding, कानून के गिरफ्त से दूर*)- Many terrorists are at large and posing serious threat to the security of India.
14. **At logger heads** (*to be at strife, शत्रुता की अवस्था*)- Congress is always at logger heads with the BJP.

15. **At naught** (*to disregard or treat as of no importance, असम्मान करना*)- Leaders today set Gandhiji's ideals at naught.
16. **At odds** (*in disagreement, असहमत होना*)- Various political parties are at odds in the matter of Women Reservation Bill.
17. **At sea** (*to be confused, उलझन में*)- He was at sea when he saw the question paper.
18. **At one's beck and call** (*at service, आज्ञा में हाज़िर रहना*)- The servants were always at the beck and call of the rich merchant.
19. **Back stairs influence** (*improper and private influence, ऐसा प्रभाव जो असार्वजनिक हो एवं सही नहीं हो*)- He tried to get a government job by back stair influence.
20. **Bad egg** (*a worthless person, अवांछनीय व्यक्ति*)- Often a prodigal son of a rich father becomes a bad egg for the society.
21. **Bandy words** (*to argue, जुबान लड़ाना*)- The two neighbours usually bandy words and create a lot of nuisance.
22. **Bank upon** (*depend on, count on, पर निर्भर होना*)- You can bank upon us at the time of need.
23. **Bated breath** (*holding your breath, in anxiety, चिंता इत्यादि से साँस रूकना*)- We waited for the good news outside the delivery room with bated breath.
24. **Caught red-handed** (*to be caught while committing a crime, रंगे हाथ पकड़े जाना*)- My brother felt ashamed when he was caught red handed reading my personal diary.
25. **Be in bad books of** (*out of favour, कृपा पात्र न होना*)- She is in bad books of her parents as she went to see a movie without informing them.
26. **Be in bad odour of** (*to be out of favour, किसी की बुरी राय में होना*)- A corrupt minister is always in bad odour of the public.
27. **Be in good books of** (*to be in kind favour, कृपा पात्र होना*)- She is in good books of her employer as she is very efficient and hardworking.
28. **Be in good odour of** (*to be in good favour, किसी की अच्छी राय में होना*)- An honest minister is always in good odour of the public.
29. **Be in the driving seat** (*to take the whole responsibility, सारी जिम्मेदारी का भार उठाना*)- Ramesh is the eldest son and so he is in the driving seat after his father's death.
30. **Bear the palm** (*to be victorious, विजयी होना*)- Our school bore the palm in the dance competition held at the district level.
31. **Beat the air** (*to make useless efforts, व्यर्थ प्रयास करना*)- Trying to reform a hard-core criminal is like beating the air.
32. **Bed of roses** (*an easy and comfortable situation, सरल और आराम की स्थिति*)- The life of the prince was a bed of roses.
33. **Bee in one's bonnet** (*go on talking about something which other people think is not important, राग अलापना उस बात का जो दूसरों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण नहीं हो*)- She has a bee in her bonnet about recycling of waste material.
34. **Behind the scene** (*secretly, छिपे रूप में*)- The minister is the mastermind behind the scene and the police are arresting small fries.
35. **Below the belt** (*to strike unfairly, गलत तरीके से प्रहार करना*)- One must compete with others in a fair manner and should not hit anyone below the belt.

36. **Beside oneself** (*to feel extremely nervous or worried, बहुत अधिक चिन्तीत या व्याकल होना*)- Before any exam I am beside myself.
37. **Beside the mark** (*irrelevant, अप्रासंगिक*)- The judge did not hear any argument that was beside the mark.
38. **Between Scylla and Charybdis** (*between two great dangers, दो कठिन परिस्थितियों के बीच*)- She is between Scylla and Charybdis: If she obeys her mother-in-law she will lose her job and if she does not she will lose her family.
39. **Bid defiance** (*to defy, अवज्ञा करना*)- The army is bidding defiance by going against the government.
40. **Bite the dust** (*to be defeated, हार जाना*)- In every match, the Pakistani team bit the dust.
41. **Blaze the trail** (*to be pioneer and make path for others, दूसरो के लिए रास्ता बनाना*)- Only a man of iron can blaze the trail.
42. **Blessing in disguise** (*something intrinsically good but having a bad appearance, ऊपर से बुरी दिखने वाली पर वास्तव में अच्छी बात*)- He missed the train but it was a blessing in disguise as the train met with an accident.
43. **Blow one's own trumpet** (*to praise one's ownself, अपनी ही शोखी बघारना*)- Every political party always blows its own trumpet and denounces the other political parties.
44. **Blue stocking** (*an educated intellectual lady, पढ़ी लिखी महिला*)- A blue stocking was rarely found in Medieval India.
45. **Book worm** (*a bibliophilic person, किताबी कीड़ा*)- She is not a book worm but still comes first.
46. **Break the ice** (*to break silence by speaking first, निस्तब्धता तोड़ना*)- Shyam broke the ice by talking to me after a long time.
47. **Bring down the house** (*receive great applause, भरपूर तारीफ पाना*)- The performance of Lata Mangeshkar brought the house down.
48. **Bring home** (*to explain, समझाना*)- I was unable to bring my views home before my parents.
49. **Bring to book** (*to punish, सजा देना*)- The guilty should be brought to book.
50. **Bring to light** (*to disclose, पता लगाना, छिपी बात को प्रकाश में लाना*)- The CBI has brought many indiscrepancies to light in many high profile cases.
51. **Brow beat** (*to intimidate, डराना*)- The Government must not brow beat the social reformers if they protest against any unjust law.
52. **Burn one's boats** (*point of no return, वापसी का रास्ता बंद कर देना*)- By signing the agreement he burnt his boat. Now he will have to work in this organization for two more years.
53. **By and by** (*gradually, धीरे-धीरे*)- You will learn the norms of this organization by and by.
54. **By and large** (*on the whole, संपूर्ण रूप से देखने पर*)- My friend is by and large an honest person.
55. **By dint of** (*by means of, के बल पर*)- You can succeed by dint of hard work only.

56. **By fair or foul means** (*by any way right or wrong, सही या गलत किसी भी प्रकार से*)– He will try to get a job by fair or foul means but will ultimately lose his peace of mind.
57. **By the rule of thumb** (*according to practical experience, व्यवहारिक रूप से*)– By rule of thumb we must not allow children to take major decisions.
58. **Call a spade and spade** (*to be frank, मुंहफट बात करना*)– He never hesitated in calling a spade a spade and hence he has few friends.
59. **Call names** (*to abuse, गाली देना*)– He has a bad habit of calling names.
60. **Capital punishment** (*death penalty, मौत की सजा*)– Capital punishment should be abolished as it is the cruelest form of punishment.
61. **Carrot and stick policy** (*reward and punishment policy, इनाम और सजा की पॉलिसी*)– The multinational companies adopt carrot and stick policy to get maximum output.
62. **Carry matters with a high hand** (*to deal with a person strictly, सख्ती से निपटना*)– The police carry matters with high hand.
63. **Cast a slur** (*to bring disgrace, अपयश का कारण बनना*)– Taking bribe could cast a slur on the honour of your family.
64. **Cave in** (*yield, झुक जाना*)– One must not cave in under pressure or temptation.
65. **Chapter and verse** (*in full detail, पूर्ण विवरण के साथ*)– I cannot narrate the whole incident in chapter and verse.
66. **Cheek by jowl** (*close together, साथ-साथ*)– Many poor people live cheek by jowl in a small room.
67. **Child's play** (*a very easy task, बच्चों का खेल*)– It is not a child's play to address a crowd.
68. **Clinch the issue** (*to clear the controversy, विवाद खत्म करना*)– The college administration clinched the issue by accepting the demands of the students.
69. **Clip one's wings** (*to weaken the power, पर कतरना*)– Sonia Gandhi clipped the wings of some ministers by withdrawing the powers delegated to them.
70. **Close shave** (*a narrow escape, बाल-बाल बचना*)– His family had a close shave in the bus accident.
71. **Cloven hoof** (*symbol of disgrace or evil intention, असम्मान या शैतानी इरादे का प्रतीक*)– Usually some or other leader of the BJP shows cloven hoof to the BJP leadership.
72. **Cock a snook** (*to show impudent contempt, असम्मान प्रकट करना*)– He refused to accept the award, cocking a snook at the Filmfare Award jury.
73. **Cock sure** (*very sure and certain, सुनिश्चित होना*)– I am cock sure, we will win the match.
74. **Cold reception** (*not a hearty welcome, जो गर्मजोशी से भरा स्वागत नहीं हो*)– We were very unhappy when we were given cold reception at his marriage party.
75. **Come across** (*meet by chance, अचानक मुलाकात होना*)– I came across a problem when I was solving the equation.
76. **Come home to** (*to understand, समझ में आना*)– At last, it came home and we got the correct answer.
77. **Come in handy** (*to be useful, काम का होना*)– This opener comes in handy when we need to open this container.
78. **Come to a pass** (*a difficult situation, किसी घटना का होना*)– The accident came to pass due to the negligence of the driver.

79. **Come true** (*to prove true, सही साबित होना*)- My dreams have come true as I have got selected.
80. **Cool one's heels** (*to be kept waiting, इन्तजार कराया जाना*)- We sat down and cooled our heels for the minister who didn't turn up.
81. **Corporal punishment** (*bodily punishment, शारीरिक दण्ड*)- Corporal punishment is banned in schools.
82. **Count chickens before they are hatched** (*To anticipate profit before hand, पहले से लाभ का वि'वास कर लेना*)- Don't dream of profit now as it is futile to count your chickens before they are hatched.
83. **Cross one's mind** (*to occur to oneself, अचानक दिमाग में आना*)- I was resting when suddenly a new idea crossed my mind.
84. **Curry favour** (*to win favour by flattery, खुशामद करके के कृपा का पात्र बनना*)- Many developing countries curry favour with America.
85. **Curtain lecture** (*a private scolding by wife to her husband, अकेले में पति को दी गई डाँट*)- Don't tell me that your father has never got any curtain lecture in his life.
86. **Cut both ends** (*to argue in support of both sides of the issue, दोनों पक्षों के तरफ से तर्क देना*)- Mahesh always cuts both ends and hence he has neither friends nor foes.
87. **Cut the Gordian knot** (*to solve a difficult problem, किसी कठिन समस्या का हल निकालना*)- The national leaders cut the Gordian knot by making India a secular country.
88. **Cut throat** (*tough, कठीन*)- We face cut throat competition in every field.
89. **Damp squib** (*complete failure though earlier thought to be exciting, पूर्ण असफलता, जो लगता था उत्तेजनात्मक होगा*)- The performance of team India turned out to be a damp squib.
90. **Dance attendance upon** (*to be in servile attitude all the time, चापलूसी करना/ हाजिरी बजाना*)- The mother-in-law wanted the lady to dance attendance upon her.
91. **Dark Horse** (*unexpected winner, अप्रत्याशित विजेता*)- An unknown independent candidate came out as a dark horse after the election.
92. **Days of reckoning** (*a time when the effects of one's past mistakes or misdeed catch up with one, जब भूतकाल में की गई गलतियों का असर दिखने लगे*)- You have been manipulating the account for a long time. Now days of reckoning have come.
93. **Dead broke** (*penniless, दिवालिया*)- Due to recession he has become a dead broke.
94. **Die-hard** (*obstinately resistant to change, परिवर्तन के खिलाफ दृढ़ता से होना*)- He is a die-hard fan of Devanand.
95. **Dig one's own grave** (*to do something which causes you harm, ऐसा कृत्य जो मुसीबत में डाल दे*)- You are digging your own grave by writing your pass word in your diary.
96. **Dog's life** (*very miserable life, कष्टदायक जीवन*)- Due to unchecked inflation, the poor are living a dog's life.
97. **Double dealing** (*deceitful actions, धोखेबाजी के कार्य*)- The double dealing of the lawyer was exposed by a sting operation.
98. **Double-edged sword** (*act that will harm oneself as well as the others, ऐसा कार्य जो दूसरे को और स्वयं को भी नुकसान पहुंचा सके*)- Corruption is a doubled edged sword for the public as well as the Government.

99. **Down and out** (*lacking funds, resources or prospects, फण्ड, संपदा इत्यादि की कमी होना*)– He was down and out when his factory was burnt to the ground.
100. **Down in the mouth** (*filled with melancholy and despondency, दुख एवं निराशा से भरा होना*)– She was down in the mouth when she saw her husband's dead body.
101. **Draconian law** (*extremely severe law, अत्यन्त क्रूर कानून*)– There are still many draconian laws in under developed countries.
102. **Draw the long bow** (*to tell large stories or to exaggerate, लम्बी कहानियाँ बनाना या बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर कुछ बताना*)– Come to the point. Don't draw a long bow.
103. **Drawn battle / match** (*a battle or match in which no party wins, बराबर की बाजी होना*)– The drawn battle created a lot of excitement till the last ball.
104. **Drop in the ocean** (*very insignificant amount, अत्यन्त ही थोड़ी मात्रा*)– My knowledge about Archeology is only a drop in the ocean.
105. **Ducks and drakes** (*to waste money, पैसे बर्बाद करना*)– I cannot allow you to play ducks and drakes with my hard earned money.
106. **Dutch courage** (*bravery under alcoholic influence, शराब के नशे में दिखाये जाना वाला साहस*)– His dutch courage will vanish when he will gain his sense.
107. **Easy money** (*bribe, रिश्वत*)– Many officers make easy money.
108. **Eat one's word** (*to admit that something you said in the past was wrong, ये स्वीकार करना कि कही हुई बात गलत थी*)– Those who said that Amitabh Bachhan's charm was over had to eat their word after the success of Kaun Banega Crorepati.
109. **Egg on** (*to urge somebody to do some thing that is generally wrong, कुछ गलत कार्य करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना*)– He egged me on to drive faster.
110. **Eke out** (*to support (existence) with difficulty and effort or to add (something insufficient), especially with effort, बहुत मुश्किल से कुछ उपलब्ध कराना*)– He is trying to eke out an income by doing over time.
111. **Elixir of life** (*nectar of life, जीवन का अमृत*)– Contentment is the elixir of life.
112. **Enough and to spare** (*plentiful, प्रचुर मात्रा में*)– He earns enough and to spare.
113. **Ever and Anon** (*now and then, जब-तब*)– The night was dark and we could hear the howling of dogs ever and anon.
114. **Every dog has his day** (*good fortune comes sooner or later, अच्छा दिन सबका आता है*)– When he bagged three movies in a row, he realized that every dog has his day.
115. **Every Inch** (*Completely, पूर्ण रूप से*)– She is an honest person by every inch .
116. **Eye wash** (*ineffective remedy which is just for show, सिर्फ दिखावे का*)– The committee set up to look into the multiple scams was just an eye wash.
117. **See eye-to-eye** (*showing agreement/ to agree, पूर्णतः सहमत होना*)– The two competitors never see eye to eye.
118. **Face the music** (*to face opposition, कठिनाई या विरोध का सामना करना*)– Every leader has to face the music if he doesn't fulfill promises made by him.
119. **Fan the flame** (*to aggravate, बढ़तर बनाना*)– I don't want to fan the flame of the tension between the husband and the wife.
120. **Few and far between** (*very rare, बहुत कम*)– The houses in this remote village are few and far away.

- 121. Fight to the finish** (*to fight to the end, आखिरी नतीजे तक लड़ना*)- When she was blamed and sued without any rhyme or reason, she pledged to fight the case to the finish.
- 122. Fish in troubled waters** (*to take advantage of the difficulties of others, दूसरों की परेशानी का लाभ उठाना*)- Many lawyers don't hesitate from fishing in troubled waters.
- 123. Fit to hold a candle to** (*match for, equal in quality, बराबरी का होना*)- He is such a miser that he is not fit to hold a candle of such a lavish reception.
- 124. Flash in the pan** (*something or someone that became successful quickly and is unlikely to be repeated, अस्क्रमात् सफलता पाना जो क्षणिक हो और भविष्य में फिर शायद न हो*)- The success of Kumar Gaurav in his debut movie 'Love Story' was a flash in the pan.
- 125. Flesh and blood** (*human nature or physical existence, together with its weaknesses / substance and depth in artistic portrayal, हाड़-माँस का होना/ किसी कला में पायी जाने वाली गहराई*)- The movies of late seventies lacked flesh and blood with their ketchup blood and round the tree romance.
- 126. Flog a dead horse** (*to waste one's energy, बेकार की कोशिश करना*)- Trying to reform a terrorist is like flogging a dead horse.
- 127. Fly in the face of** (*to defy/ to brave/ to withstand, अवज्ञा करना/ साहस से सामना करना*)- The theory about the existence of heaven and hell flies in the face of all logic and common sense.
- 128. Fly into a passion** (*to be enraged, क्रोधित होना*)- He flies into a passion within seconds if someone ignores his instructions.
- 129. Fool's errand** (*a fruitless mission or undertaking, निष्फल कार्य*)- Many projects of Mohammad -bin-tuglaq were fool's errand.
- 130. Foot the bill** (*bear expenses, खर्च वहन करना*)- You had ordered these tasteless pizzaz . Now you will have to foot the bill.
- 131. For good** (*for ever, हमेशा के लिए*) He educated him and sent him to America for good.
- 132. For the rainy day** (*precaution for emergency, कठिन परिस्थितियों के लिये प्रबन्ध*)- I have kept some money in the bank for the rainy days.
- 133. Foul Play** (*treachery, धोखाधड़ी*)- Foul play destroys the fun of life.
- 134. French leave** (*leave without information, बिना सूचना के अनुपस्थित होना*)- If you take french leave, you will be fined.
- 135. From the bottom of one's heart** (*very sincerely, अन्तर मन से*)- I thanked him from the bottom of my heart for his timely help.
- 136. Gain ground** (*to progress/ advance, तरक्की करना/ वर्चस्व बढ़ाना*)- Due to the misgovernance by the ruling party, the opposition is gaining ground.
- 137. Gentleman at large** (*wealthy man with time on his hands, धनी व्यक्ति जिसके पास समय की कमी न हो*)- Here he was, talking like a gentleman at large who was free to come and go and roam about the world at pleasure,
- 138. Get down to brass tacks** (*discuss the basic facts or realities/ to deal with the matter straight, किसी मुख्य विषय पर चर्चा करना*)- After avoiding the thorny question of tax reforms for months, the ruling party finally got down to brass tacks last week and drafted a preliminary proposal.
- 139. Get into a scrape** (*find oneself in a difficult or awkward situation, खुद को मुश्किल हालात में पाना*)- By signing the bond he will get into a scrape.

- 140. Get the better of** (*to overcome, काबू पा लेना*)- At last he got the better of his problems and opponents.
- 141. Get wind of** (*to know the secret, भेद जान लेना*)- The opposition got the wind of the plans of the ruling party.
- 142. Gird up the loin** (*to be well prepared for some difficult task, किसी कठिन कार्य को करने के लिए कमर कस कर तैयार होना*)- If we all gird up the loin, we can remove illiteracy.
- 143. Give a wide berth** (*to give ample space or distance to avoid an unwanted consequence, किसी अवांछनिय नतीजे से बचने के लिए दूरी बनाये रखना*)- Being an understanding father, you should give a wide berth to your son and wait for the right time to talk to him.
- 144. Give cold shoulder** (*pay no attention to, ध्यान न देना*)- He went to the police for help but they gave him cold shoulder.
- 145. Give somebody enough rope (to hang themselves)** (*to allow someone to do what he wants to, knowing that he will probably fail or get into trouble, किसी को कुछ करने की अनुमति दे देना ये जानते हुए कि वह असफल हो जाएगा*)- Don't stop him. Give him enough rope to hang. He will be rejected for his poor performance and will return home.
- 146. Give the devil his due** (*even the wicked person should be given the credit due to him, बुरे आदमी की भी उचित प्रशंसा करना*)- In spite of being so rude, he helped me in need. The devil should be given his due.
- 147. Give up the ghost** (*to die, मर जाना*)- My grandfather gave up to ghost last Sunday.
- 148. Give vent to** (*to express one's thoughts or feelings, अपने विचारों या भावनाओं को प्रकट करना*)- Every Indian is free to give vent to his thoughts.
- 149. Wool-gathering** (*to engage in fanciful daydreaming, मनभावन कल्पना में खोए रहना*)- Work hard. Wool gathering will not help you in any way.
- 150. Go back on one's word** (*to change one's mind about/ repudiate, बात से पीछे हट जाना*)- She has decided to do charity and she should not go back on her word.
- 151. Go broke** (*become bankrupt, दिवालिया होना*)- He has gone broke and is unable to make both ends meet..
- 152. Whole hog** (*the whole way/ Completely, पूर्ण रूप से*)- She went the whole hog and checked the account of the whole month in one go.
- 153. Golden opportunity** (*very favourable opportunity or chance, सुनहरा अवसर*)- He missed the golden opportunity by declining the offer.
- 154. Green horn** (*an inexperienced or immature person, especially one who is easily deceived, अनुभवहीन व्यक्ति जिसे बेवकूफ बनाना आसान हो*)- He incurred heavy loss because he relied on the green horn who was his own nephew.
- 155. Hang in balance** (*have two equally possible results/ be uncertain, अनिश्चित की स्थिति*)- After the opposition party won the election, whether or not the new highway will be built, hangs in the balance.
- 156. Hang over one's head** (*to have something bothering or worrying one, परेशानी या समस्या का बने रहना*)- He committed suicide because troubles and court cases hung over his head.
- 157. Hard and fast** (*definite, निश्चित*)- There is no hard and fast rule for solving these numericals.

- 158. Harp on the same string** (*to keep on talking on the same topic, एक ही विषय पर बात करते रहना*)- Some obsessed people have the habit of harping on the same string.
- 159. At the nick of time** (*at the last possible moment, ठीक समय पर*)- I reached the examination hall at the nick of time.
- 160. Heart and soul** (*with complete faith and dedication, सच्चे दिल से*)- He has put heart and soul in his work.
- 161. Heart to heart** (*very frankly, पूरे दिल से, खुले रूप से*)- The two friends had a heart to heart talk as they met after many years.
- 162. Hen-pecked husband** (*admirer of one's own wife in a servile manner, जोरू का गुलाम*)- Every boy boasts, "I will never become a hen pecked husband."
- 163. Himalayan blunder** (*a serious mistake, गंभीर गलती*)- He committed a Himalayan blunder by leaving for work without his body guards and was shot dead.
- 164. Hit the nail on the head** (*to act in the right way, ठीक नि'गने पर चोट मारना*)- You have hit the nail on the head by making the bid at the right time.
- 165. Hold good** (*valid/ applicable, लागू उचित ठहराना*)- Rule of triple talaq doesn't hold good even in the Islamic countries.
- 166. Hold one's ground** (*to stand firm, दृढ़ता से डटे रहना*)- The Indian soldiers held their ground to the end.
- 167. Hold one's jaw** (*to stop talking, बोलना बन्द होना*)- Please hold your jaw else I shall go away.
- 168. Hold the fort** (*to stand firm on one's position, अपने स्थान पर डटे रहना*)- Our soldiers held the fort and proved their valour.
- 169. Hold the scales even** (*to be impartial, निष्पक्ष रहना*)- The Judge must hold the scales even.
- 170. Hold water** (*to stand up to critical examination, सही साबित होना*)- Your argument does not hold water.
- 171. Hot water** (*trouble, परेशानियाँ*)- Your cousin is in hot water due to his controversial speech.
- 172. In a fix** (*in a difficult mental state, मानसिक उलझन में*)- He was in a fix when he saw his mother in ICU.
- 173. In a tight corner** (*in difficult situation, मुश्किल हालात में*)- I found myself in a tight corner when I lost my journey ticket.
- 174. In doldrums** (*to be depressed, निराशा में*)- He was found in doldrum when he could not succeed even in his third attempt.
- 175. In embryo** (*immature/ in the making, अविकसित अवस्था में*)- My plan of expanding my business is still in embryo.
- 176. In no time** (*in a very short time, थोड़ी ही देर में*)- He can solve any mathematical problem in no time.
- 177. In one's teens** (*from thirteen to nineteen years of age, तेरह से उन्नीस साल तक*)- A person in his teen is spirited, full of dreams and optimistic.
- 178. In the air** (*in circulation/ in people's thoughts, चर्चा में*)- News of his cold blooded murder is very much in the air.

- 179. Down in the dumps** (*unhappy, depressed, दुखी/ निराश*)- He is down in the dumps after his father's death.
- 180. In the family way** (*pregnant, गर्भवती*)- She has applied for leave as she is in the family way.
- 181. In the good books of** (*to be in favour with a person, पक्ष में करना*)- People usually flatter their boss to remain in their good books.
- 182. In the jaws of** (*in the grip of, दाँतों के बीच, किसी के कब्जे में*)- The boy was in the jaws of the kidnappers.
- 183. In the limelight** (*at the centre of attention, आकर्षण का केन्द्र*)- Film stars are habitual of remaining in the lime light.
- 184. In the lurch** (*in a difficult and embarrassing position, मुश्किल एवं बीच मंझार वाली स्थिति में*)- when the experiment failed, the sub-ordinates left the eminent scientist in lurch.
- 185. Melting pot** (*a place where immigrants of different cultures or races form an integrated society, ऐसा स्थान जहाँ अप्रवासी लोग अपनी-अपनी सभ्यता के साथ एक समाज बनाते हैं*)- With immigrants from all over the world getting an easy passage to India, our country is becoming a melting pot.
- 186. In the red** (*in debt, कर्ज में*)- The company is in the red due to its unfeasible projects.
- 187. In the teeth of** (*in opposition to or defiance of/ facing danger or threats, के विरुद्ध/ खतरे का सामना करना*)- The tribe was in the teeth of starvation.
- 188. In the twinkling of an eye** (*in a moment/ in no time, क्षण भर में*)- The house came down in the twinkling of an eye.
- 189. To fish in troubled waters** (*to take advantage of the problems of others, विषम परिस्थिति का लाभ उठाना*)- Many self-centred lawyers fish in troubled water.
- 190. For all intents and purposes** (*for all practical purposes, हर व्यावहारिक उद्देश्य के लिए*)- This dictionary is useful for all intents and purposes.
- 191. Snake in the grass** (*a secret enemy, आस्तीन का साँप/ कपटी मित्र*)- Politicians playing caste based politics are snakes in the grass.
- 192. Keep abreast of** (*not to fall behind, पीछे न रह जाना*)- We must keep ourselves abreast of the latest development in technology.
- 193. Keep an eye on** (*to watch, नजर रखना*)- It is very necessary for us to keep an eye on our growing children.
- 194. Keep an open table** (*to entertain all, सब का स्वागत करना*)- It is not very difficult to keep an open table in a party.
- 195. Keep at an arm's length** (*to keep at a distance, दूरी बना कर रखना*)- You must keep bad habits at arm's length.
- 196. Keep at bay** (*To keep someone at a distance, दूर रखना*)- He held the police at bay with a gun for several hours.
- 197. Keep body and soul together** (*to be able to pay for just those things that you need in order to live, सिर्फ जीवन-यापन भर का जुगाड़ कर पाना*)- They can barely keep body and soul together on what he earns.
- 198. Keep the pot boiling** (*to keep going on actively, जीवन चर्या जारी रखना*)- One has to keep the pot boiling inspite of all odds one has to face in life.

- 199. Keep up appearance** (*to keep one's prestige/ to maintain outward show, बाहरी दिखावा बनाये रखना*)– In spite of being a bankrupt, he is able to keep up his appearance.
- 200. Kick one's heels** (*wait impatiently to be summoned, बुलावे के लिए बेसब्री से इंतजार करना*)– The whole day we kicked our heels outside the court room.
- 201. Kick the bucket** (*to die, मर जाना*)– He kicked the bucket and left his family in extreme financial difficulty.
- 202. Kill the fat calf for** (*to arrange a lavish reception for someone, किसी का धूमधाम से स्वागत करना*)– India killed the fat calf for the Common Wealth Games.
- 203. Kiss the dust** (*to be humiliated, अपमानित होना*)– In Indo-Pak war our enemies had to kiss the dust.
- 204. Knock against** (*to hit against, टक्कर खाना*)– I couldn't see the transparent door and knocked against it.
- 205. Lapped in luxury** (*brought up in luxury, विलासिता में पलना*)– Great people are generally not lapped in luxury.
- 206. Laugh in one's sleeves** (*to laugh secretly, चुपके से*)– Our neighbours laughed in their sleeves when they saw my grand father wearing a pair of fashionable goggles.
- 207. Lead by the nose** (*to lead someone by coercion/ to guide someone very carefully, दबाव में या मार्गदर्शन करने हेतु किसी को रास्ता दिखाना*)– I had to lead him by the nose to the meeting.
He will never find his way through the admission form unless you lead him by the nose.
- 208. Lead to the altar** (*to marry, शादी करने जाना*)– He promised her to lead her to the altar.
- 209. Leap in the dark** (*to do something though there is uncertainty about the outcome, अनिश्चित परिणाम होने पर भी कोई कार्य करना*)– To play lottery is to leap in the dark.
- 210. Leave no stone unturned** (*to make all possible efforts, कोई भी प्रयत्न बाकी न छोड़ना*)– He worked very hard to pass the Civil Services Exams and left no stone unturned.
- 211. Leave one in the lurch** (*to leave one in difficulties, किसी का कठिनाईयों में साथ छोड़ देना*)– He kicked the bucket and left his family in the lurch.
- 212. Let by-gones be by-gones** (*to forget old things, पुरानी बातों को भूल जाना*)– India and Pakistan must start bi-lateral talks and let by-gones be by-gones.
- 213. Lick the dust** (*to get defeated, हार जाना*)– The team licked the dust in the final match.
- 214. Lie in wait** (*wait in hiding to attack, घात लगाये बैठे रहना*)– The policemen were lying in wait for the kidnappers.
- 215. Live in an Ivory tower** (*where one can be aloof from the realities of life, जहाँ जीवन की वास्तविकता से दूर रहते हैं*)– The queen lived in an ivory tower and did not know the meaning of poverty.
- 216. Long and short** (*all that can or need be said, सारांश*)– The long and short of the whole discussion will be made available to all in black and white.
- 217. Look down upon** (*To hate a person, किसी व्यक्ति से घृणा करना*)– I hate those people who look down upon the poor.
- 218. Lose the day** (*to be defeated, हार जाना*)– My favourite football team lost the day.
- 219. Make a fortune** (*To grow rich, धनी बन जाना*)– He made a fortune by selling smuggled goods.

- 220. Make after** (*to pursue or chase, पीछा करना*)– The people made after the chain snatcher and caught him.
- 221. Make amends** (*to compensate, हर्जाना देना*)– He had to make amends for his bad behavior.
- 222. Make head or tail of** (*to understand, समझना*)– The doctor could not make the head or tail of his illness.
- 223. Make one's mark** (*to achieve distinction, अपना प्रभाव छोड़ना*)– India has made its mark in the field of technology.
- 224. Make out** (*to understand, समझ लेना*)– I could not make out what he was saying.
- 225. Make up the leeway** (*struggle out of a bad position, especially by recovering lost time, गवां चुके समय की क्षतिपूर्ति करके बुरे हालात से निकलना*)– The Government will have to make up the leeway by taking remedial actions immediately.
- 226. Make up one's mind** (*To determine, निश्चय करना*)– She has made up her mind to divorce her cruel husband.
- 227. Make a clean breast** (*to confess especially something bad or illegal, किसी गुनाह का सच कबूल लेना*)– After months of lying about the money, he decided to make a clean breast of it and tell the truth.
- 228. Man in the street** (*common man, साधारण व्यक्ति*)– The life of a man in the street has become very difficult because of rising price.
- 229. Man of iron** (*man with strong will-power, दृढ़ इच्छा शक्ति वाला*)– Nothing can deter a man of iron .
- 230. Meet half-way** (*to be prepared for compromise, समझौते के लिए राजी होना*)– We were ready to meet the other party half way and settle all litigation.
- 231. Milk of human kindness** (*human compassion, मानवता से भरा हृदय*)– Milk of human kindness is necessary for the existence of humanity.
- 232. Narrow circumstances** (*hard days/ poverty, गरीबी के दिन*)– After his father's death, he is living in narrow circumstances.
- 233. Neither chick nor child** (*no child, कोई बच्चे का न होना*)– She feels very lonely because she has neither chick nor child.
- 234. No love lost** (*having no love, किसी प्रकार का प्रेम/मित्रता का न होना*)– There is no love lost between these two neighbours who are fighting an endless court case.
- 235. Nook and corner** (*at every place, प्रत्येक स्थान पर*)– I searched for my book at every nook and corner of the house.
- 236. Oil someone's hands** (*to bribe, रिश्वत देना*)– We should stop oiling the officials' hands.
- 237. Beauty is only skin deep** (*physical beauty is not important, बाहरी सुन्दरता महत्वपूर्ण नहीं*)– She took a wrong decision by not marrying this gentleman. She doesn't know that beauty is only skin deep.
- 238. On and on** (*to continue, जारी रखना*)– She went on and on but nobody listened to her.
- 239. On the horns of a dilemma** (*to face a difficult situation between two problems, मुसीबत में फँसना, दो कठिन अवस्थाओं के बीच में*)– The demolition drive has put many shops on the horns of a dilemma because if they do not shut down, their shops will be sealed and if they do, they lose their means of livelihood.

- 240. On the wrong side of** (*one's age being more than, अधिक उम्र का होना*)- He is on the wrong side of fifty now.
- 241. Open secret** (*known to all, सर्वविदित*)- He is bankrupt and this is an open secret now.
- 242. Order of the day** (*some common things of the time, कोई प्रचलित बात*)- Following new fashion is the order of the day.
- 243. Out of the wood** (*out of difficulties, मुसीबत से छुटकारा*)- At last India came out of the wood and got independence.
- 244. Pay one back in one's own coin** (*tit for tat, जैसे को तैसा*)- The person doing wrong should be paid back in his own coin.
- 245. Pell mell** (*very fast and not organised, बहुत जल्द और अस्त-व्यस्त तरीके से*)- Every thing was done pell mell as we got the order at the eleventh hour.
- 246. Petticoat-Government** (*undue influence of women, स्त्रियों का अनुचित दबाव*)- Petticoat-government may adversaly influence your whole project.
- 247. Pick holes in** (*to find fault with, दूसरों में दोष निकालना*)- My boss has the habit of picking holes in our performance.
- 248. Pin prick** (*troubles that are for short time, जो समस्याएं कुछ सिर्फ समय के लिए हों*)- We should ignore such pin pricks and get on with the job.
- 249. Play a double game** (*to act dubiously, धोखाधाड़ी करना*)- My friend was playing a double game.
- 250. Play fast and loose** (*be unreliable, अविश्वसनीय होना*)- How can you trust a man who plays fast and loose changing his statement every minute?
- 251. Play one false** (*to deceive, किसी को धोखा देना*)- He played her false and married again.
- 252. Play one's cards well** (*to do the correct things to achieve a desired result, समझदारी से काम करना*)- If you play your cards well, you will get selected..
- 253. Play the fool** (*to act foolishly, बेवकूफी करना*)- Why do you play the fool when it comes to spending money?
- 254. Pocket an insult** (*to bear insult, अपमान सहन कर लेना*)- Indians had to pocket much insult during their fight for Independence.
- 255. Poison one's ears against** (*to set a person against another, किसी के विरुद्ध कान भरना*)- She has poisoned the ears of my mother-in-law.
- 256. Past master** (*an expert, किसी क्षेत्र का विशेषज्ञ*)- He is a past master in cheating others.
- 257. Pour oil on troubled waters** (*to pacify the anger of others, क्रोध को शान्त करने का प्रयत्न*)- He solved the matter by pouring oil on troubled waters with his good behaviour.
- 258. Pull the string** (*to exercise secret influence, छिपे रूप से प्रभाव डालना*)- When I saw extreme level of red-tapism in the organization, I had to pull my strings to get my work done.
- 259. Pull to pieces** (*to criticise severely, कटु आलोचना करना*)- The leader of opposition has pulled the ruling party to pieces.
- 260. Put an end to** (*to finish, समाप्त कर देना*)- She has put an end to her unfeasible ideas.
- 261. Put pen to paper** (*to start writing, लिखना आरम्भ कर देना*)- In my board examination I put my pen to paper without wasting a second.
- 262. Put the saddle on the right horse** (*to blame the really guilty person, सही अपराधी पर आरोप लगाना*)- The court put the saddle on the right horse and passed the right order.

- 263. Put to the sword** (*to kill, मार देना*)- Nadir Shah put even children to the sword.
- 264. Put up with** (*to tolerate, सहन करना*)- Maharana Pratap could not put up with insult.
- 265. Rank and file** (*lower middle class people, साधारण श्रेणी के लोग*)- The extra-ordinary speeches of the great orators cannot be appreciated by the rank and file.
- 266. Red rag to a bull** (*something that will surely produce a violent reaction, निश्चित ही उत्तेजित करने वाली बात*)- The racial comments against the Indians proved to be a red rag to a bull and the riot took place.
- 267. Rise to the occasion** (*to show that you can deal with a difficult situation, ये दिखा देना कि आप मुश्किल हालात का सामना कर सकते हैं*)- Mahatma Gandhi rose to the occasion and dared the British.
- 268. Roll up one's sleeves** (*to be prepared for hard work, कड़ी मेहनत के लिये तैयार रहना*)- We will have to roll up our sleeves as the time of examination has come.
- 269. Rub shoulders with** (*to meet and spend time with, किसी के निकट सम्पर्क में आना*)- He claims to have rubbed shoulders with Salman Khan during his journey to Sydney.
- 270. Run down** (*reduced in health/to criticize, स्वास्थ्य में गिरावट/ निन्दा करना*)- I was worried because she looked run down .
Do not run down your friends in public.
- 271. Run short/ Hard up** (*not proving sufficient, shortage of money/ something, किसी चीज/ पैसे की कमी*)- I am running short of money these days.
If you are hard up, you can come to me.
- 272. Scratch one's head** (*to be perplexed, परेशान हो जाना*)- I scratched my head when I saw the puzzles in the PO exam.
- 273. Screw up one's courage** (*to gather courage, साहस बढ़ाना*)- Working women have to screw up their courage to handle eve teasing incidents at their working places.
- 274. Seal of love** (*kiss, चुम्बन*)- They validated their marriage with a seal of love.
- 275. See the light** (*to be born, जन्म लेना*)- Many female babies are aborted before they see the light.
- 276. Set price on one's head** (*to offer reward for killing or helping in the arrest of a criminal, किसी अपराधी को मारने या पकड़वाने में मदद करने पर इनाम की घोषणा*)- The government of America had set price on Osama's head.
- 277. Show a clean pair of heels** (*to run away, भाग जाना*)- The chain snatcher showed a clean pair of heels and the people were unable to catch him.
- 278. Sink fast** (*to deteriorate in quality or condition, बद से बदतर होना*)- The patient was sinking fast.
- 279. Slip of the pen** (*a small unintentional mistake in writing, लिखने में अनजाने में की जाने वाली गलती*)- The slip of the pen created a lot of confusion.
- 280. Snake in the grass** (*some hidden enemy, अज्ञात शत्रु*)- Many leaders are snake in the grass creating disharmony in the society.
- 281. Sow wild oats** (*indulgence in youthful follies, युवावस्था की बेवकूफियां करना*)- Mothers always keeps an eye on their daughters to see that they do not sow wild oats.
- 282. Square meal** (*full meal, पेट भर भोजन*)- A poor person does not get even one square meal a day.

- 283. Stand in good stead** (*to be of great service, बहुत सहायक होना*)- Your experience will always stand in good stead when you join a full time job.
- 284. Storm in a tea cup** (*much hue and cry over a little matter, छोटी सी बात पर बहुत शोरगुल करना*)- Do not worry about these silly rows. They are just storm in a tea cup.
- 285. Strain every nerve** (*to make every possible effort, हर प्रकार का प्रयत्न करना*)- I strained every nerve to get out of the problem.
- 286. Sword of Damocles** (*an imminent danger, सिर पर लटकी तलवार*)- Terrorism is a sword of Damocles hanging over the whole world.
- 287. Take a leaf out of another man's book** (*to imitate another person, नकल करना*)- He has no originality of thought; he only takes a leaf out of another man's book to make quick money.
- 288. Take an exception to** (*to be offended by something, किसी बात का बुरा मानना*)- She took an exception to his joke.
- 289. Take into one's head** (*to suddenly decide to do some thing, often silly or surprising, कुछ बेवकूफी भरी हरकत करने का अचानक निर्णय लेना*)- It took into their heads to get married next sunday.
- 290. Take pains** (*to work hard, कठिन परिश्रम करना*)- She took pains to bring up her children after her husband's death.
- 291. Take the bull by the horns** (*to face danger with courage, खतरे का हिम्मत से सामना करना*)- Bhagat Singh took the bull by the horns and bravely challenged the British empire.
- 292. Take to one's heels** (*to run away, भाग जाना*)- when the police came, the robber took to his heels.
- 293. Tall talk** (*boasting, शेखी मारना*)- One of my friends Rajesh is famous for his tall talks.
- 294. The Fourth Estate** (*the press, प्रेस*)- Today the fourth estate can influence the court proceedings of any case.
- 295. The knock down price** (*very low price, बहुत कम कीमत*)- I bought every thing at the mega sale at knock down prices.
- 296. Sheet anchor** (*a person or thing to be relied upon in an emergency, आपातकाल में काम आने वाला व्यक्ति अथवा वस्तु*)- His uncle proved to be his sheet anchor after his father's death.
- 297. Thick-skinned person** (*not easily offended, insensitive, लज्जाहीन या संवेदनहीन व्यक्ति*)- He is such a thick- skinned person that he laughed when people cursed and abused him.
- 298. Think lightly** (*not to be serious about a thing, मजाक के रूप में लेना*)- Don't think of your married life lightly.
- 299. Throw light on** (*to make something easier to understand, किसी विषय पर प्रकाश डालना*)- I wanted to throw light on the pitiful life of the bar dancers.
- 300. Throw mud at** (*try to make a low opinion of someone by saying unpleasant things about him, बदनाम करना*)- Companies should think carefully before slinging mud at someone who may respond with a libel action costing it crores of rupees.
- 301. Tool in the hands of** (*under the authority of another, दूसरे के हाथ में कठपुतली की भाँति*)- The whole legal system has become a tool in the hands of the politicians.
- 302. Turn one's coat** (*to change one's party, दल बदल लेना*)- Some people are so ambitious that they often turn their coat.

- 303. Turn the tables** (*to change the situation completely, स्थिति को बिल्कुल बदल देना*)– The ruling party had an easy victory in the last Lok sabha election but inflation and corruption have totally turned the table.
- 304. Under a cloud** (*under suspicious conditions, सदेहपूर्ण स्थिति में*)– Ever since the rumours of corruption started, the former chief minister has been under a cloud .
- 305. Under the rose** (*secretly, गुप्त रूप से*)– He is selling confidential documents under the rose.
- 306. Under the thumb of** (*completely under one's power or influence, किसी के वर्चस्व में दबा होना*)– He is under the thumb of his mother and does not listen to the problems of his wife.
- 307. Upto the mark** (*up to standard, उचित स्तर तक*)– I have to watch my staff all the time to keep them up to the mark.
- 308. Vexed question** (*much debated and discussed, जिस प्रश्न पर काफी बहस हो चुकी हो*)– 'Mercy killing should be granted or not' has become a vexed question.
- 309. Wash dirty linen in public** (*to expose private affairs in public, व्यक्तिगत बातों को बाहर उछालना*)– There is nothing as bad as washing one's dirty linen in public.
- 310. Wash one's hand of** (*to be free from, किसी बात से मुक्त हो जाना*)– Police have washed their hands of the kidnapping case.
- 311. Wear a long face** (*to look gloomy, उदास दिखाई देना*)– In spite of losing his job, he did not wear a long face.
- 312. Wild goose chase** (*useless efforts, व्यर्थ का प्रयत्न*)– Pakistan's efforts to grab Kashmir have proved to be a wild goose chase.
- 313. Win laurels** (*to win honours, य'1 प्राप्त करना*)– Sachin won laurels for India.
- 314. Without rhyme or reason** (*without any justification, अकारण*)– Don't shout at anyone without rhyme or reason.