

Intermediate 1

As well (as sb/sth): in addition to sb/sth else: *I need to go to the bookstore as well as the bank.*

Burst into flames: suddenly start burning with large flames: *The car burst into flames after accident.*

By no means: not at all: *You are by no means disable, in fact you are powerful.*

Change sb's mind: change sb's decision or opinion: *I changed my mind. I don't want to go out.*

Do one's bit: (infml) do what you can help or, do your part of what has to be done.

Due to sb/sth: because of sb/sth: *My lateness was due to the heavy traffic.*

Every inch (of sth): the whole of an area or place: *Every inch of class is clean and shiny.*

Every now and then: sometimes but not often: *Every now and then he would write a new article.*

Feel like hell: feel very sick or tired.

How come? : used when you want to know why sth has happened or why a particular situation exist: *How come you are not at work today?*

In a row: one after the other without a break: *He won the game three times in a row.*

In vain: fruitless or useless: *All the police researches were in vain. Finally the robber escaped.*

Kind of: used when you are talking about sb/sth in general way, without being exact or definite: *It was kinda (informal way of saying kind of) strange to see him there at midnight.*

Let us say: for example: *If the price is \$500, let us say, is that too much?*

Lose touch: no longer have recent knowledge or information about sth: *He lost touch with his sister who is abroad for one year.*

Made of money: very rich: *Jimmy can easily buy an iPhone5- His father is made of money.*

Make the most of sth: use a good situation to get the best possible result: *Language learners must make the most of their class time.*

No way: used for saying that you will not agree or be able to do sth: *no way we will be finished by Today.*

On hand: available: *I don't have any cash on hand.*

On one's own: alone, without help: *Although his father is made of money, he bought the house on his own.*

On sb's side: support sb in an argument or fight: *Don't get annoyed with me- I'm on your side!*

On top of: in addition to sth else: *On top of all his achievements, he won the Nobel Prize.*

Out of sight: in a place that you cannot see from where you are: *Sara waved until the car was out of sight.*

Pull faces/a face (at sb): change your expression to make people laugh, or to show that you are angry, etc.

Read sb's palm: claim to be able to tell what will happen to sb in the future by examining the palm of their hand.

Right, left and the center: in large number or amount: *They are buying up companies right, left and center.*

Shift gears: change the way you think about or do sth: *If this idea doesn't work, we're going to have to shift gears.*

Stand on one's own feet: be independent and able to take care of oneself: *You must stand on your own feet boy!*

To some extent: partly, but not completely: *What you say is true to some extent, but it's not the whole story.*

Turn out to be sb/sth: prove to be sb/sth: *The students turned out to be more hardworking than teacher expected.*

Up to sth: used for stating the most an amount can be, or what level it can reach: *Dinosaurs were up to 27 meter long*

Intermediate 2

And so on: and other things of that kind: *There are many search engines on the internet like Google, MSN and so on.*

At the time: at a certain moment or period in the past: *I agreed at the time but later changed my mind.*

(Be) a matter of sth: situation, question or issue that depends on sth else: *Singing is all a matter of good voice.*

Be a/the question of: used for saying what the most important issue is in a situation: *There would definitely be some job losses; it was just a question of how many.*

Be really something: be very good and impressive: *Running your own company at 21 is really something.*

Be under arrest: be made a prisoner: *Don't move (Police shouted)! You are under arrest.*

Behind sb's back: unknown to the person concerned: *You shouldn't make fun of him behind his back.*

Better late than never: used to say that being late is better than not happening or not arriving at all.

(but) then/there again: used to introduce an idea or fact that is different from something you have just said, or makes it seem less likely to be true : *She says she's thirty-five. But then again she might be lying.*

Go Dutch: to agree to share the cost of sth, especially a meal.

Go out of one's way to do sth: to do sth with more effort than is usual or expected: *The nurse went out of her way to make me feel happy and satisfied.*

Go wrong: if a situation or event goes wrong, it becomes unpleasant and is not a success: *Our marriage began to go wrong after we had our first child.*

Hold one's horses: (infml) wait a moment; also it used to tell someone to do sth more slowly or more carefully.

Hustle and bustle: all the busy and noisy activity: *She loves the hustle and bustle of the market-places.*

Jump to conclusion: to guess the facts about a situation too quickly and without having enough information.

Let go of sb/sth: 1-to not punish someone. 2-release (one's hold of) sb/sth: *1-Let him go, he didn't lift (steal) your bag. 2-Don't let go of the rope!*

Lose track of sb/sth: fail to keep informed about sb/sth: *I lose all track of time when I listen to this music.*

Make head or tail of sth: understand sth: *I can't make head or tail of car's engines.*

Not much of a: to not be a good example of sth or not be very good at sth: *I'm not much of a dancer, I'm afraid.*

On the market: available to buy: *Apple iPhone5 is now on the market.*

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Or something: used when you cannot remember, or do not think it is necessary to give, another example of sth you are mentioning: *Her name was Judith, or Julie, or something. Here's some money. Get yourself a sandwich or sth.*

Out of whack: if a system, machine etc. is out of whack, the parts are not working together correctly: *1-The printer's out of whack again. 2-The gears of my old bike is out of whack, but it still goes.*

Pick up the bill/tab: (infml) pay for sth: *Her father picks up the tab for her expensive lifestyle.*

Pull the plug (on sth): stop an activity, esp. by no longer providing the money needed to allow it to continue: *The government pulled the plug on the project when it becomes too expensive and seemed not to going to finish on time.*

Take heart: be encouraged: *Emily took heart from her teacher's praise and wrote another story.*

Trace sth (back) to sth: find the origin or cause of sth: *He could trace his family tree back to 16th century.*

Within (one's) reach: close enough to touch: *Keep a glass of water within reach of your hand.*

Intermediate 3

After all: in spite of what has been said, done or expected: *After all, what does it matter?*

At a time: in sequence; separately: *We usually talk to four or five candidates at a time.*

Be at odds (with sb): be disagreeing or quarreling (with sb): *He is always at odds with his father over politics.*

By/in contrast: used when you are comparing two things or people and saying that the second one is very different from the first: *She had almost failed the exam, but her sister, by contrast, had done very well.*

For life: for the whole of a person's life: *I believe marriage is for life. The accident left her scarred for life.*

Get sth straight: understand sth clearly: *Let's get this straight once and for all.*

In company: with other people: *Darling, I'd rather you didn't mention my little problem when we're in company.*

In the red: to owe more money than you have. *I'm \$500 in the red at the moment.*

In turn: One after the other; in sequence: *His father gave him the sword; and in turn he gave it to his son.*

Invasion of privacy: find or use of information about your private life, esp. illegally: *Opening my letter was an inexcusable invasion of privacy.*

Make a name for oneself: become famous: *He first made a name for himself as a singer.*

Make ends meet: have enough money for your needs: *When Tom lost his job, he could barely make ends meet.*

One's fellow man/men: other people in general: *We all have obligations to our fellow men.*

On the part of sb: done or experienced by sb: *It was a mistake on the part of Jones to sign it without reading it.*

On the point of doing sth: about to do sth.

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Put sb to death: kill sb, esp. after an official decision: *Caesar ordered the prisoners to be put to death.*

Seek one's fortune: go to live in a new place in order to try to become rich and successful there.

Take a dislike to sb/sth: start disliking sb/sth: *I took a strong dislike to him as soon as he said that word.*

Take an interest in: show your interest in: *I wish you'd take a bit more interest in your work.*

Take it for granted (that): believe that sth is true or normal without thinking about it: *I just took it for granted that he'd always be around.*

(there's) nothing to it: used for saying that sth is very easy to do: *Here, just press this button. There's nothing to it.*

The right/wrong way (around/round/up): the position in which an object is placed or held, esp. in relation to the correct position: *Perhaps you should try turning the map the right way up.*

Think for oneself: consider facts and make decisions, without depending on others: *It's time to think for yourself.*

To the touch: used for describing the way sth feels when it touched: *The cake is firm to the touch.*