

PHẦN 2

CHỦ ĐỀ TRỌNG TÂM BÚT PHÁ ĐIỂM SỐ 8+



CHỦ ĐỀ 1: IDIOMS (THÀNH NGỮ)

A. LÝ THUYẾT

* Một số thành ngữ thông dụng:

Thành ngữ	Nghĩa	Ví dụ
cats and dogs = rain heavily	mưa to	It's raining cats and dogs. = It's raining heavily.
chalk and cheese = very different from each other	khác nhau hoàn toàn	I don't have anything in common with my brother. = We're like chalk and cheese.
here and there = everywhere	mọi nơi	I have been looking here and there for the gift I bought for my girlfriend.
a hot potato = a problem, situation, etc. that is difficult and unpleasant to deal with	vấn đề nan giải, nóng hổi	The issue of taxing domestic fuel has become a political hot potato.
at the drop of the hat = immediately, instantly; without hesitating	ngay lập tức, không do dự	The company can't expect me to move my home and family at the drop of a hat.
back to the drawing board : time to start from the beginning; it is time to plan something over again	bắt đầu lại từ đầu	They rejected our proposal, so it's back to the drawing board.
beat about the bush : to talk about something for a long time without coming to the main point	vòng vo tam quốc, không vô vấn đề chính	Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you want.
the best thing since sliced bread : a good invention or innovation; a good idea or plan	ý tưởng hay, tốt	Portable phones are marketed as the best thing since sliced bread; people think they are extremely good.
burn the midnight oil : to study or work until late at night	thức khuya làm việc, học bài	I will have a big exam tomorrow, so I'll be burning the midnight oil tonight.



caught between two stools: when someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives	lưỡng lự, không biết lựa chọn cái nào, do dự	I was caught between two stools when I had to choose which shirt to hang out with my girlfriends.
break a leg: used to wish somebody good luck	dùng để chúc ai đó may mắn	- 'I have a big show tomorrow.' - 'Break a leg!'
hit the books : to study	học	I can't go out tonight. I need to hit the books.
let the cat out of the bag: to tell a secret carelessly or by mistake	để lộ bí mật	I wanted it to be a surprise, but my sister let the cat out of the bag.
when pigs fly ~ pigs might fly: something will never happen	chuyện viễn vông, không tưởng, chỉ điều gì đó khó xảy ra được	- 'With a bit of luck, we'll be finished by the end of the year.' - 'Yes, and pigs might fly!'
scratch someone's back: help someone out with the assumption that they will return the favor in the future	giúp ai với mong muốn sau này người ta sẽ giúp lại mình	"You scratch my back and I will scratch yours," the customer said when we talked about the new sales contact.
hit the nail on the head: to say something that is exactly right	nói trúng phóc	I think he hit the nail on the head when he said that she would choose the red skirt.
take someone/ something for granted: to be so used to somebody/something that you do not recognize their true value any more and do not show that you are grateful	cho là điều hiển nhiên, coi nhẹ, xem thường	Her husband was always there and she just took him for granted.
take something into account/ consideration: to remember to consider something	xem xét, tính đến cái gì, kể đến cái gì	Coursework is taken into account as well as exam results.
keep an eye on sb/ sth: to watch someone or something or stay informed about a person's behaviour.	để ý, để mắt, để tâm đến ai/ điều gì	We've asked the neighbours to keep an eye on the house for us while we are away.
lose touch with sb: to no longer communicate with someone.	mất liên lạc với ai	I lost touch with Kate after she moved to Canada.
at somebody's disposal: available for use as you prefer/somebody prefers	tùy ý sử dụng, có sẵn cho ai sử dụng theo ý muốn	He will have a car at his disposal for the whole month.

splitting headache (n): a severe headache	đau đầu như búa bổ	I've got a splitting headache. I'm going upstairs for a nap.
off the peg ~ off the rack: clothes that are made and bought in standard sizes and not made especially to fit a particular person.	may sẵn (quần áo)	He buys his clothes off the peg.
on the house: something that is given free	không phải trả tiền	Have a drink on the house.
hit the roof ~ hit the ceiling ~ go through the roof: to suddenly become very angry	giận dữ, tức điên lên	I'm afraid she will hit the roof when she finds out our vacation is cancelled
bring down the house: to make people who are watching a show laugh or clap very loudly	làm cho cả khán phòng vỗ tay nhiệt liệt	The singer sang beautifully which brought the house down.
pay through the nose (for sth) : to pay too much for something	trả giá đắt	We paid through the nose to get the car fixed.
by the skin of one's teeth: by a very narrow margin; barely	sát sao	He escaped defeat by the skin of his teeth.
pull somebody's leg: play a joke on somebody, usually by making them believe something that is not true	trêu chọc ai	You don't mean that. You're just pulling my leg.
it strikes sb as odd/ strange (that): to cause to think about someone/ something in a particular way	lấy làm lạ	It struck me as strange that he came there.
high and low ~ here and there = everywhere	mọi nơi	I've searched high and low for my purse.
the more, the merrier: used to say an occasion will be more enjoyable if a lot of people are there	càng đông càng vui	- 'Do you mind if I bring a couple of friends to your party?' - 'Not at all - the more the merrier.'
spick and span : very clean and neat	ngăn nắp và gọn gàng	Their house is always spick and span.
(every) now and then/ again : sometimes, occasionally	thỉnh thoảng	Every now and again she checked to see if he was still asleep.
part and parcel of sth: an essential and crucial part of something	phần quan trọng, thiết yếu	Keeping the accounts is part and parcel of my job.



go to one's head: to make you feel too proud of yourself in a way that other people find annoying	khíến ai kiêu ngạo, kiêu căng	Don't let success go to your head.
be/go on the wagon: to not drink alcohol, either for a short time or permanently	kiêng rượu	He has been on the wagon for a year.
once in a blue moon: very rarely	rất hiếm, hiếm khi	Once in a blue moon, I stop thinking about him.
on the spot: immediately	ngay lập tức	He answered the question on the spot.
few and far between: not frequent; not happening often	hiếm gặp, không thường xuyên	Opportunities for promotion are few and far between.
on the verge of ~ on the brink of ~ in the edge: At something is about to happen or is very likely to happen	bên bờ vực	These elephants are on the verge of extinction.
lead somebody by the nose: to make somebody do everything you want; to control somebody completely	nắm đầu, dắt mũi ai	I'm amazed that he lets them lead him around by the nose like that.
at the eleventh hour: at the last possible moment; just in time	vào phút chót	She always turned her term paper in at the eleventh hour.
find fault (with sb/sth): to criticize or complain of	chỉ trích, kiểm chuyện, bắt lỗi	It is very easy to find fault with the others.
off and on/on and off ~ from time to time: sometime, occasionally	không đều đặn, thỉnh thoảng	It rained on and off all day.
make - believe: a state in which you pretend	giả bộ, giả vờ	She lives in a world of make - believe.
make good time: to complete a journey quickly	di chuyển nhanh, đi nhanh	We made good time and arrived in Spain in two days.
look daggers at somebody: to glare at someone very angrily	nhìn ai đó một cách giận dữ	Their relationship is not free and easy but at least he is no longer looking daggers at her.
be out of the question: not possible or not allowed	không thể được	Another trip abroad this year is out of the question.
all at once: suddenly	bất thành linh	All at once she lost her temper.
blow one's trumpet: boast	bóc phét, khoác loác	He's an immodest man who is always blowing his own trumpet.
sleep on sth: consider something overnight before deciding.	suy nghĩ thêm về điều gì đó	Could I sleep on it and let you know tomorrow?

fight tooth and nail: to fight in a very determined way for what you want	đánh nhau dữ dội	The residents are fighting tooth and nail to stop the new development.
play tricks / jokes on: to confuse someone or cause problem for them	chọc phá, trêu ghẹo, chơi khăm	The children always play jokes on their teachers.
(go) down the drain: to be spoiled or wasted	đổ sông đổ biển (công sức, tiền bạc)	It's just money down the drain, you know.
smell a rat: to suspect that something is wrong about a situation	hoài nghi, linh cảm chuyện không ổn, nghi ngờ có âm mưu gì đó	When I came in, I smelled a rat.
the last straw: the last in a series of unpleasant events that finally makes a situation unbearable	giọt nước tràn ly	When he showed up late a third time, that was the last straw. We had to fire him.
get the hang of something: to learn how to do something, especially when it is not simple or obvious	nắm bắt được, sử dụng được, làm được	I can't seem to get the hang of this game.
hard of hearing: not able to hear well	lãng tai, nặng tai	Mike is hard of hearing. Therefore, we have to speak loudly so that he can hear us.
have a bee in one's bonnet (about sth): keep talking about something again and again	bị ám ảnh và không thể ngừng nghĩ về chuyện gì đó, đặt nặng chuyện gì	Our teacher has a bee in his bonnet about punctuation.
get/have cold feet: to suddenly become nervous about doing something that you had planned to do	mất hết can đảm, chùn bước	He was going to ask her but he got cold feet and said nothing.
on second thoughts: used when someone wants to change a decision	suy nghĩ kỹ, sau khi suy đi tính lại	I'll wait here. No, on second thoughts, I'll come with you.
in vain: unsuccessfully	uổng công, vô ích, không thành công	They tried in vain to persuade her to go.
chip in: contribute	quyên góp, góp tiền, đóng góp	If everyone chips in we'll be able to buy her a really nice present.
out of/off one's head: crazy	điên, loạn trí	The old man has been off his head for at least a year.
run an errand: to go out to buy or do something	làm việc vặt	I've got to run an errand. I'll be back in a minute.



jump the (traffic) lights/run the lights/ run a (red) light: to drive quickly through a red traffic light instead of stopping	vượt đèn đỏ	They ignore people who jumps the traffic lights.
fly off the handle: to react in a very angry way	dễ nổi giận, phát cáu, bỗng nhiên nổi nóng	He seems to fly off the handle about the slightest thing these days.
the apple of one's eye: the person who someone loves most and is very proud of	người yêu quý/ đồ quý giá của ai	She is the apple of her father's eye.
bucket down: rain heavily	mưa xối xả, mưa to	It's bucketing down.
a close shave/call: a narrow escape	thoát chết trong gang tấc	David, that was a close shave. I was so lucky.
drop a brick/clanger: to unintentionally say or do something embarrassing, tactless or indiscreet	lỡ lời, lỡ miệng	I dropped a brick when talking with my best friend, and now he doesn't want to talk to me.
get/have butterflies in one's stomach: to feel anxious and have nervous feeling	cảm thấy bồn chồn	I always get butterflies in my stomach when the test is coming.
off the record: not intended to be repeated or made public	không chính thức, không được công bố	Strictly off the record, some members of staff will have to be made redundant.
(not) one's cup of tea: (not) the sort of thing one likes or prefers	(không phải) người/ thứ mà ta yêu thích	He's nice enough but not really my cup of tea.
cut it fine: to allow little time for something	đến sát giờ	Only allowing half an hour to get from the station to the airport is cutting it fine, isn't it?
golden handshake: a payment given to someone who retires early	món tiền hậu hĩnh dành cho người sắp nghỉ việc	The manager got early retirement and a 800,000\$ golden handshake when the company was reconstructed.
come to light: make or become widely known or evident publicly	được biết đến, được phát hiện, được đưa ra ánh sáng.	New evidence has recently come to light.
take something to pieces: to separate something into parts	tháo ra từng mảnh	He took the clock to pieces.

put one's foot in it/put your foot in one's mouth: say something foolish, embarrassing or tactlers	nói/ làm điều gì đó ngu ngốc làm xúc phạm người khác, nói điều không nên	I really put my foot in it with Mary - I didn't know she'd split up with Tom.
pull one's weight: to contribute to a group activity or project in proportion to one's abilities or role	nỗ lực, làm tròn phần trách nhiệm	The rest of the team complained that Mary wasn't pulling her weight.
make (both) ends meet: to earn just enough money to pay one's bill	xoay sở để kiếm sống	Many families struggle to make ends meet.
get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick: to not understand a situation correctly	hiểu nhầm ai đó	I think I must explain to her that she got hold of the wrong end of the stick again.
cut and dried: completely settled or decided	được quyết định theo cách mà không thể thay đổi	The inquiry is by no means cut and dried.
see eye to eye: be in a full agreement	đồng tình	The two of them have never seen eye to eye on politics.
have sb/sth in mind: to have a plan or intention	đang suy nghĩ, cân nhắc tới ai/ điều gì	Watching TV all evening wasn't exactly what I had in mind!
a lost cause: someone or something that has no chance of succeeding	hết hy vọng, không thay đổi được gì	The game looked a lost cause when the score reached 6 - 0.
to be bound to do sth: be very likely to do something	chắc chắn sẽ làm gì	You're bound to be late if you don't hurry.
at heart: in one's real nature	thực chất, theo một cách cơ bản nhất	He's still a socialist at heart.
know sb by sight: to recognize someone or something based solely on appearance	nhận ra ai đó	She said that she would know the thief by sight if she ever saw him again.
now and then ~ now and again ~ at times ~ from time to time ~ off and on ~ (every) once in a while ~ every so often: sometimes	thỉnh thoảng, không thường xuyên	Every so often I heard a strange noise outside.
take (great) pains to do sth: to try very hard to do something	dốc sức để làm gì	The couple took great pains to keep their plans secretly.
take (great) pains with/over sth: to expend a lot of time, effort, and care doing something	làm cái gì đó cẩn thận và tận tâm	He always takes great pains with his lectures.



make do: to manage to do with things of a worse quality than you would like	xoay sở, đương đầu	We were in a hurry so we had to make do with a quick snack.
sell somebody short: to underestimate someone	đánh giá thấp	When you say that Nam isn't interested in music, you're selling him short.
face the music: to accept criticism or punishment for something	chịu trận	The others all ran off, leaving me to face the music.
on probation: being watched for a period of time	trong thời gian quản chế	The prisoner was put on probation.
sell/ go like hot cakes: to be bought quickly and in large number	bán đắt như tôm tươi	The book has only just been published and copies are already selling like hot cakes all over the world.
it never rains but it pours ~ when it rains, it pours: used to say that when one bad thing happens to you, other bad things happen soon after	họa vô đơn chí	The team not only lost the game but three of its best players were injured when it rains, it pours.
salt and pepper: a mixture of dark hairs and grey or white hairs	màu tóc hoa râm	Her hair was salt and pepper.
a penny for your thoughts: used to ask somebody what they are thinking about	dùng để hỏi ai đó xem họ đang nghĩ gì	You haven't said very much - a penny for your thoughts.
home and dry ~ be home free (adj): have done something successfully, especially when it was difficult	êm xuôi, hoàn thành cái gì thành công	I could see the finish line and thought I was home and dry.
down and out: having no luck, no money, and no opportunities	thất cơ lỡ vận	A novel about being down and out in London.
learn by heart: to learn something in such a way that you can say it from memory	học thuộc lòng	I learnt this poem by heart.
a red- letter day: an important day	một ngày quan trọng, một ngày đáng nhớ	birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other red-letter days
as high as a kite: to behave in a silly or excited way because you have taken drugs or drunk a lot of alcohol	vui mừng quá khích	She was as high as a kite when she'd got a job.
sleep like a log: to sleep very well, without being woken by any noises	ngủ say, ngủ ngon	The baby is sleeping like a log.
fit like a glove: to be the perfect size and shape for someone	vừa như in	The dress fits me like a glove.

be green with envy: to be very unhappy because someone has something that you want	ghen tị	She was green with envy because her mother bought a new hat for her sister.
go up the wall: to become crazy or furious.	nổi giận	I mustn't be late or Dad will go up the wall.
put on an act: to behave or speak in a false or artificial way	giả vờ, giả bộ	You could tell she was just putting on an act.
break the news (to sb): to tell someone about something unpleasant that will affect or upset them	nói cho ai biết tin gì quan trọng, nhất là tin xấu; tiết lộ.	The doctor had to break the news to Mary about her husband's cancer.
cost/pay an arm and a leg: to be extremely expensive	rất đắt	I think the robot will not cost an arm and a leg in the future.
look on the bright side: to be cheerful or positive about a bad situation, for example by thinking only of the advantages and not the disadvantages	hãy lạc quan lên	- 'I failed the exam again'. Maybe I will never pass it. - 'Look on the bright side. If you study hard enough, you will pass the exam'.
easier said than done: something may seem like a good idea but would be difficult to do	nói dễ hơn làm	- 'Why don't you get yourself a job?' - 'That's easier said than done'.
take it easy: relax	đừng lo lắng, thư giãn nào	Take it easy! Don't panic. The doctor told me to take it easy for a few weeks.
go into business: start up a business	bắt đầu công việc kinh doanh	When he left school, he went into business with his brother.
in a bad mood: upset, unhappy, depressed	không vui	After breaking up with her boyfriend, she was in a bad mood for several days.
out of this world: extremely good	ngon	The meal was out of this world.
time and tide wait for no man: to emphasize that people can't stop the passing of time, and therefore should not delay doing things	thời gian không đợi ai	You shouldn't delay your plan. Time and tide wait for no man.
back to square one: working on a plan from the beginning because your previous attempt failed completely	trở lại từ đầu	If this suggestion isn't accepted, we'll be back to square one.
a great one for sth : to enjoy or do something a lot	đam mê chuyện gì, thích làm gì	I've never been a great one for writing letters.
one in the eye for someone: to be a disappointment or defeat for someone	làm gai mắt	The appointment of a woman was one in the eye for male domination.



be in two minds about something/about doing something; be of two minds about something/about doing something: to be unable to decide about something	chưa quyết định được	She's in two minds about accepting his invitation.
in two shakes: very soon	Một loáng là xong, rất sớm	We'll be there in two shakes.
at sixes and sevens: in a confused, badly organized, or difficult situation	tình rạng rồi tình rồi mù	I haven't had time to clear up, so I'm all at sixes and sevens.
on cloud nine: extremely happy	trên chín tầng mây	When my son was born, I was on cloud nine.
dressed (up) to the nines: to be wearing fashionable or formal clothes for a special occasion	ăn mặc bảnh bao	Jackie went out dressed to the nines.
ten to one: very probably	rất có thể	Ten to one he'll be late.
nineteen to the dozen: talk, etc. without stopping	nói huyên thuyên nói không ngừng	My aunt can get talking nineteen to the dozen if you get her on topic she's passionate about.
kill two birds with one stone: to succeed in achieving two things in a single action	một công đôi việc	I killed two birds with one stone and picked the kids up on the way to the supermarket.
by a hair's breadth: a very small amount or distance	trong đường tơ kẽ tóc	We won by a hair's breadth.
keep one's finger crossed: to hope that things will happen in the way that you want them to	cầu mong điều tốt đẹp xảy ra	Let's keep our fingers crossed that it doesn't rain.
(like) water off a duck's back: criticisms of or warnings to a particular person that have no effect on that person	nước đổ đầu vịt	I can't tell my son what to do; it's water off a duck's back with him.
every nook and cranny ~ every nook and corner: every part of a place; every aspect of a situation	trong mọi góc ngách	The wind blew into every nook and cranny.

B. BÀI TẬP

Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the underlined part.

Question 1. When she left she was extremely disappointed. I think she's gone for good.

A. permanently

B. to a good place

C. to seek good fortune

D. to a foreign country