

# CHỦ ĐỀ 2 THÀNH NGỮ (IDIOMS)



## A KIẾN THỨC CƠ BẢN

### \* Một số thành ngữ thường gặp

a close shave/ call	thoát chết trong gang tấc	<b>E.g:</b> David, that was a close shave. I was so lucky.
a drop in the ocean ~ a drop in the bucket	giọt nước trong biển cả, muối bỏ biển	<b>E.g:</b> The amount of money raised was a drop in the ocean compared to what we needed.
a great one for sth	đam mê việc gì, thích làm gì	<b>E.g:</b> I've never been a great one for writing letters.
a home from home	một nơi mình cảm thấy thoải mái như gia đình mình	<b>E.g:</b> This hotel is a home from home.
a hot potato	vấn đề nan giải, nóng hổi	<b>E.g:</b> The issue of taxing domestic fuel has become a political hot potato.
a leopard can't change its spots	giang sơn dễ đổi, bản tính khó dời, bản chất của con người khó có thể thay đổi	<b>E.g:</b> She isn't on time. A leopard can't change its spots, you know.
a lost cause	hết hy vọng, không thay đổi được gì	<b>E.g:</b> The game looked a lost cause when the score reached 6-0.
a penny for your thoughts	dùng để hỏi ai đó xem họ đang nghĩ gì	<b>E.g:</b> You've been awfully quiet tonight, honey - a penny for your thoughts?
a sight for sore eyes	người hoặc vật bạn cảm thấy vui khi được nhìn thấy	<b>E.g:</b> You are really a sight for sore eyes.
a stitch in time (saves nine)	làm ngay cho khỏi rách việc ra; nên giải quyết ngay	<b>E.g:</b> Let's patch the roof before the next storm in this month comes. A stitch in time saves nine.
a stone's throw (away/ from)	rất gần, một khoảng rất ngắn	<b>E.g:</b> We live just a stone's throw from here.
Achilles' heel	nhược điểm, điểm yếu	<b>E.g:</b> His Achilles' heel is may be that he cannot solve the problems quickly.
add fuel to the fire	đổ thêm dầu vào lửa, làm vấn đề trầm trọng hơn	<b>E.g:</b> You shouldn't add fuel to the fire.
all at once ~ suddenly	bất thành linh	<b>E.g:</b> All at once she lost her temper.
all in good time	việc gì rồi cũng đến, vì thế hãy kiên nhẫn đợi	<b>E.g:</b> You will get the result. All in good time!



# STEP 3

all mod cons	<i>có những đặc tính, tính năng tốt nhất</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I want to live a place that has all mod cons.
as high as a kite	<i>kiêu căng, tự phụ</i>	<b>E.g:</b> She is always as high as a kite.
as the crow flies	<i>theo đường chim bay, thẳng tắp</i>	<b>E.g:</b> It's 300 kilometers as the crow flies.
at a loose end	<i>không có việc gì làm, rảnh</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Are you at a loose end this weekend?
at heart	<i>thực chất, theo một cách cơ bản nhất</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He's still a socialist at heart.
at sixes and sevens	<i>tình rạn rối tinh rối mù</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I haven't had time to clear up, so I'm all at sixes and sevens.
at somebody's disposal	<i>tùy ý sử dụng, có sẵn cho ai sử dụng theo ý muốn</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He will have a car at his disposal for the whole month.
at the drop of the hat	<i>ngay lập tức, không do dự</i>	<b>E.g:</b> If you need my help, I will be there at the drop of a hat.
at the eleventh hour	<i>vào phút chót</i>	<b>E.g:</b> She always turned her term paper in at the eleventh hour.
back to the drawing board	<i>bắt đầu lại từ đầu</i>	<b>E.g:</b> They rejected our proposal, so it's back to the drawing board.
back to square one	<i>trở lại từ đầu</i>	<b>E.g:</b> If this suggestion isn't accepted, we'll be back to square one.
beat about the bush	<i>vòng vo tam quốc, không vô vấn đề chính</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you want.
be born with a silver spoon in your mouth	<i>sống từ trong trứng sống ra (được sinh ra trong một gia đình giàu có)</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He was born with a silver spoon in your mouth, so he didn't have to work hard.
be bound to do sth	<i>chắc chắn sẽ làm gì</i>	<b>E.g:</b> You're bound to be late if you don't hurry.
be/ go on the wagon	<i>kiêng rượu</i>	<b>E.g:</b> - 'Would you like some vodka?' - 'No, thanks. I'm on the wagon.'
be green with envy	<i>ghen tị</i>	<b>E.g:</b> She was green with envy because her mother bought a new hat for her sister.
be in two minds about something/about doing something; be of two minds about something/about doing something	<i>chưa quyết định được</i>	<b>E.g:</b> She's in two minds about accepting his invitation.



<b>be on the same wavelength</b>	<i>có chung ý kiến/ quan điểm</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Nam and I seem to be on the same wavelength.
<b>be out of the question</b>	<i>không thể được</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Another trip abroad this year is out of the question.
<b>below/ under par</b>	<i>dưới/ yếu hơn mức bình thường</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Your essay is below par.
<b>big mouth</b>	<i>lắm mồm</i>	<b>E.g:</b> You have got a big mouth.
<b>blot on the landscape</b>	<i>cái làm mất mỹ quan chung</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The old building is a blot on the landscape.
<b>blow one's trumpet ~ boast</b>	<i>bốc phét, khoác loác, khoe khoang</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Liam can't stop blowing his trumpet when he became a massive success.
<b>break a leg ~ good luck</b>	<i>chúc may mắn</i>	<b>E.g:</b> It's time for the challenge! Break a leg!
<b>break even</b>	<i>hòa vốn</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Our company just broke even last year.
<b>break the mould</b>	<i>phá vỡ khuôn phép; làm điều gì đó khác biệt hơn</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Her latest book broke the mould.
<b>break the news (to sb)</b>	<i>nói cho ai biết tin gì quan trọng, nhất là tin xấu; tiết lộ</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The doctor had to break the news to Mary about her husband's cancer.
<b>bring down the house</b>	<i>làm cho cả khán phòng vỗ tay nhiệt liệt</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Jay is a funny guy in our class, he's able to bring down the house during his joke.
<b>bucket down ~ rain heavily</b>	<i>mưa xối xả, mưa to</i>	<b>E.g:</b> It's bucketing down.
<b>burn the midnight oil</b>	<i>thức khuya làm việc, học bài</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I will have a big exam tomorrow, so I'll be burning the midnight oil tonight.
<b>by a hair's breath</b>	<i>trong đường tơ kẽ tóc</i>	<b>E.g:</b> We won by a hair's breadth.
<b>by the skin of one's teeth</b>	<i>sát sao</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He escaped defeat by the skin of his teeth.
<b>cats and dogs</b>	<i>mưa to</i>	<b>E.g:</b> It's raining cats and dogs = It's raining heavily.
<b>caught between two stools</b>	<i>lưỡng lự, không biết lựa chọn cái nào, do dự</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I was caught between two stools when I had to choose which shirt to hang out with my girlfriends.
<b>chalk and cheese</b>	<i>khác nhau hoàn toàn</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I don't have anything in common with my brother. We're like chalk and cheese.
<b>change your tune</b>	<i>thay đổi ý kiến/ thái độ</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He often criticized her, but now he's changed his tune.
<b>chip in ~ contribute</b>	<i>quyên góp, góp tiền, đóng góp</i>	<b>E.g:</b> If everyone chips in, we'll be able to buy her a really nice present.
<b>clean as whistle</b>	<i>lương thiện, hợp pháp</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He doesn't have any criminal record, he's clean as a whistle.



# STEP 3

clean as whistle	rất sạch sẽ	<b>E.g:</b> This room needs to be as clean as a whistle before my mother comes in.
come clean (about sth)	thú thật, nói ra sự thật mà được giấu bao lâu nay	<b>E.g:</b> You should come clean and tell your mother that it was you who broke the vase.
come rain or shine	dù có chuyện gì xảy ra	<b>E.g:</b> I will be there at 8 o'clock, come rain or shine.
come to light	được biết đến, được phát hiện, được đưa ra ánh sáng	<b>E.g:</b> New evidence has recently come to light.
cost/ pay an arm and a leg	rất đắt	<b>E.g:</b> I think these things will not cost an arm and a leg in the future.
couch potato	một kẻ lười vận động, chỉ suốt ngày dán mắt vào ti-vi	<b>E.g:</b> My sister is really a couch potato.
cut and dried	được quyết định theo cách mà không thể thay đổi	<b>E.g:</b> The inquiry is by no means cut and dried.
cut it fine	đến sát giờ	<b>E.g:</b> Only allowing half an hour to get from the station to the airport is cutting it fine, isn't it?
down on your luck	gặp vận rủi	<b>E.g:</b> He was down on his luck.
down and out (adj)	thất cơ lỡ vận	<b>E.g:</b> a novel about being down and out in London
draw the line (at)	từ chối, không chịu	<b>E.g:</b> I don't mind helping, but I draw the line at doing everything myself.
draw the short straw	được chọn làm công việc mà không ai muốn làm	<b>E.g:</b> I drew the short straw and had to clean the toilets.
dressed (up) to the nines	ăn mặc bảnh bao	<b>E.g:</b> The whole family will be dressed to the nines at the wedding, I'll make sure of it.
easier said than done	nói dễ hơn làm	<b>E.g:</b> Why don't you get yourself a job? 'That's easier said than done.'
every nook and cranny ~ every nook and corner	trong mọi góc ngách	<b>E.g:</b> The wind blew into every nook and cranny.
(every) now and then/ again ~ sometimes, occasionally	thỉnh thoảng	<b>E.g:</b> Every now and again she checked to see if he was still asleep.
drop a brick/ clanger	lỡ lời, lỡ miệng	<b>E.g:</b> I dropped a brick when talking with my best friend, and now he doesn't want to talk to me.
face the music	chịu trận	<b>E.g:</b> The others all ran off, leaving me to face the music.



fall short	không đạt tới cái gì	<b>E.g:</b> This hotel far short of our expectations.
few and far between	hiếm gặp, không thường xuyên	<b>E.g:</b> Good luck finding a nice house in that neighborhood - they're few and far between.
find fault (with sb/ sth)	chỉ trích, kiểm chuyện, bắt lỗi	<b>E.g:</b> It is very easy to find fault with the others.
fight tooth and nail	đánh nhau dữ dội	<b>E.g:</b> The residents are fighting tooth and nail to stop the new development.
fit like a glove	vừa như in	<b>E.g:</b> The dress fits me like a glove.
fly off the handle	dễ nổi giận, nổi cơn tam bành, bỗng nhiên nổi nóng	<b>E.g:</b> She seems to fly off the handle about the slightest thing these days.
for good	mãi mãi	<b>E.g:</b> You should get rid of smoke for good.
for the time being	vào lúc này, trong thời điểm hiện nay	<b>E.g:</b> I'm staying in Ha Noi for the time being.
from time to time	thỉnh thoảng	<b>E.g:</b> We see her from time to time.
get the hang of something	nắm bắt được, sử dụng được, làm được	<b>E.g:</b> I can't seem to get the hang of this game.
get/ have butterflies in one's stomach	cảm thấy bồn chồn	<b>E.g:</b> I always get butterflies in my stomach when it comes to taking test.
get on like a house on fire/ get along like a house on fire	có mối quan hệ rất tốt	<b>E.g:</b> Mary and Lisa are getting on like a house on fire.
get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick	hiểu nhầm hoàn toàn	<b>E.g:</b> I got the wrong end of the stick and thought that she had a relationship with Nam.
get/have your way	làm theo ý mình	<b>E.g:</b> She always gets her own way.
get/ have cold feet	mất hết can đảm, chùn bước	<b>E.g:</b> He was going to ask her but he got cold feet and said nothing
give sb your word	hứa làm gì	<b>E.g:</b> I give you my word I won't tell anyone.
give sth a miss	quyết định không làm gì, tránh làm gì	<b>E.g:</b> I think I'll give the party a miss tonight.
(go) down the drain	đổ sông đổ biển (công sức, tiền bạc)	<b>E.g:</b> It's just money down the drain, you know.
go halves	chia sẻ một nửa cái gì với ai	<b>E.g:</b> We go halves on all the bills.
go into business	bắt đầu công việc kinh doanh	<b>E.g:</b> When he left school, he went into business with his brother.
go up the wall	nổi giận	<b>E.g:</b> I mustn't be late or Dad will go up the wall.



# STEP 3

go to one's head	khiến ai kiêu ngạo, kiêu căng	<b>E.g:</b> Too much success will go to his head.
golden handshake	món tiền hậu hĩnh dành cho người sắp nghỉ việc	<b>E.g:</b> The manager got early retirement and a 800,000\$ golden handshake when the company was reconstructed.
grin and bear it	ngậm bồ hòn làm ngọt	<b>E.g:</b> We'll just have to grin and bear it.
hard of hearing	lãng tai, nặng tai	<b>E.g:</b> 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)	bị ám ảnh và không thể ngừng nghĩ về chuyện gì đó, đặt nặng chuyện gì (dùng khi ai đó lo lắng hay bức tức về điều gì đó)	<b>E.g:</b> Our teacher has a bee in his bonnet about punctuation.
have a change of heart	thay đổi ý kiến	<b>E.g:</b> He did not want to get married but recently he's had a change of heart.
have green fingers	có tài trồng vườn	<b>E.g:</b> He has had green fingers.
have sb/ sth in mind	đang suy nghĩ, cân nhắc tới ai/ điều gì	<b>E.g:</b> Watching TV all evening wasn't exactly what I had in mind!
have time on your hands/ have time to kill	không việc gì làm, rảnh	<b>E.g:</b> Now the children went to school, she's got a lot more time on her hands.
here and there	mọi nơi	<b>E.g:</b> I have been looking here and there for the gift I bought for my girlfriend.
high and low ~ here and there	mọi nơi	<b>E.g:</b> I've searched high and low for my purse.
hit the books ~ to study	học	<b>E.g:</b> Let's hit the books!
hit the nail on the head	nói trúng phóc	<b>E.g:</b> You hit the nail on the head that song's name! Well done!
hit the roof ~ hit the ceiling ~ go through the roof	giận dữ, tức điên lên	<b>E.g:</b> I'm afraid she will hit the roof when she finds out our vacation is cancelled.
home and dry ~ be home free	êm xuôi, hoàn thành cái gì thành công (đặc biệt khi nó khó)	<b>E.g:</b> I could see the finish line and thought I was home and dry.
in a bad mood	không vui	<b>E.g:</b> After breaking up with her boyfriend, she was in a bad mood for several days.
in/for donkey's years	thời gian dài đằng đẵng, thời gian rất lâu	<b>E.g:</b> We've known each other for donkey's years.
in sb's bad/ good books	bị người nào ghét/ được người nào thích	<b>E.g:</b> I don't think I'm in her good books.
in the dark (about)	không biết gì	<b>E.g:</b> They were kept in the dark about the plan.
in the middle of nowhere	ở một nơi xa xôi	<b>E.g:</b> She was in the middle of nowhere.





in the nick of time	chỉ vừa đúng lúc, ngay phút cuối cùng	<b>E.g:</b> He was rescued in the nick of time.
in the sticks	ở một nơi xa thành phố, vùng quê	<b>E.g:</b> I don't like to live in the sticks.
in two shakes/in a couple of shakes ~ very soon	1 loáng là xong, rất sớm	<b>E.g</b> We'll be there in a couple of shakes.
in vain	uổng công, vô ích, không thành công	<b>E.g:</b> They tried in vain to persuade her to go.
it never rains but it pours ~ when it rains, it pours	họa vô đơn chí	<b>E.g:</b> After months of seeking a job, he suddenly has two job interviews this week. When it rains, it pours.
it strikes sb as odd/ strange (that)	lấy làm lạ	<b>E.g:</b> It struck me as strange that he came there.
jump the (traffic) lights/ run the lights/ run a (red) light	vượt đèn đỏ	<b>E.g:</b> They ignore people who jump the traffic lights.
keep a straight face	không thể hiện cảm xúc, nghiêm túc không cười	<b>E.g:</b> She always keeps a straight face.
keep an eye on sb/ sth	để ý, để mắt, để tâm đến ai/ điều gì	<b>E.g:</b> We've asked the neighbours to keep an eye on the house for us while we are away.
keep sth under your hat	giữ bí mật	<b>E.g:</b> Keep it under your hat!
keep one's finger crossed for somebody	cầu mong điều tốt đẹp cho ai đó	<b>E.g:</b> My brother'll join a race tomorrow. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for him.
kill two birds with one stone	một công đôi việc	<b>E.g:</b> You might as well kill two birds with one stone and drop off your tax forms while you're at the mall for the computer part you need.
knee-high to a grasshopper	còn rất nhỏ, còn bé	<b>E.g:</b> When I was knee-high to a grasshopper, my mother used to tell me funny stories.
know sb by sight ~ recognize	nhận ra ai đó	<b>E.g:</b> She said that she would know the thief by sight if she ever saw him again.
know sth inside out/ know sth like the back of your hand	hiểu tường tận, biết rất rõ	<b>E.g:</b> This is where I grew up. I know this area like the back of my hand.
lead somebody by the nose	nắm đầu, dắt mũi ai	<b>E.g:</b> Dan can't stand the way his boss leads you around by the nose like that and tells him what to do!
learn by heart	học thuộc lòng	<b>E.g:</b> I learnt this poem by heart.



# STEP 3

let nature take its course	cứ để mọi thứ tự nhiên	<b>E.g:</b> If we were to let nature take its course and stop maintaining this lot, it would look like the rest of the forest in months.
let off steam	xả hơi, xả bức xúc	<b>E.g:</b> I decide to go for a walk to let off steam.
let the cat out of the bag	để lộ bí mật	<b>E.g:</b> I wanted it to be a surprise, but my sister let the cat out of the bag.
let your hair down	ngủ ngơi và thư giãn	<b>E.g:</b> Let your hair down after a long working day.
let the cat out of the bag	để lộ bí mật	<b>E.g:</b> I wanted it to be a surprise, but my sister let the cat out of the bag.
life and soul of the party	ai đó là trung tâm của buổi tiệc	<b>E.g:</b> She is the life and soul of the party.
(like) water off a duck's back	nước đổ đầu vịt	<b>E.g:</b> I can't tell my son what to do; it's water off a duck's back with him.
like two peas in a pod	giống nhau như đúc, giống nhau như tạc	<b>E.g:</b> Lisa and her sister are like two peas in a pod.
line your pocket(s)	lo nhét đầy túi, đút túi	<b>E.g:</b> He had been lining his pockets for years before he was caught.
live and let live	sống dĩ hòa vi quý	<b>E.g:</b> I don't understand why people can't just live and let live instead of trying to bend everyone to their will.
look daggers at somebody	nhìn ai đó một cách giận dữ	<b>E.g:</b> Their relationship is not easy but at least he is no longer looking daggers at her.
look on the bright side	hãy lạc quan lên	<b>E.g:</b> - A: I failed the exam again. Maybe I will never pass it. - B: Look on the bright side. If you study hard enough, you will pass the exam.
lose touch with sb	mất liên lạc với ai	<b>E.g:</b> Jade lost touch with her ex-boss over many years.
make believe	giả bộ, giả vờ	<b>E.g:</b> My children make believe that they slept when I enter their bedroom.
make (both) ends meet	xoay sở để kiếm sống	<b>E.g:</b> Many families struggle to make ends meet.
make do ~ to manage/ to cope	xoay sở, đương đầu	<b>E.g:</b> We were in a hurry so we had to make do with a quick snack.
make good time	di chuyển nhanh, đi nhanh	<b>E.g:</b> We made good time and arrived in Spain in two days.
make yourself at home	cứ tự nhiên như ở nhà	<b>E.g:</b> Don't be shy. Make yourself at home!





nineteen to the dozen	<i>nói huyên thuyên</i>	<b>E.g:</b> She was chatting away, nineteen to the dozen.
(not) one's cup of tea	<i>(không phải) người/ thứ mà ta yêu thích</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He's nice enough but not really my cup of tea.
now and then ~ now and again ~ at times ~ from time to time ~ off and on ~ (every) once in a while ~ every so often ~ sometimes	<i>thỉnh thoảng, không thường xuyên</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Every so often I heard a strange noise outside.
off and on/ on and off ~ from time to time	<i>không đều đặn, thỉnh thoảng</i>	<b>E.g:</b> It rained on and off all day.
off the beaten track	<i>đến những nơi hẻo lánh</i>	<b>E.g:</b> We like to get off the beaten track when we go on holiday.
off the peg ~ off the rack	<i>may sẵn (quần áo)</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He buys his clothes off the peg.
off the record	<i>không chính thức, không được công bố</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Strictly off the record, some members of staff will have to be made redundant.
on cloud nine ~ extremely happy	<i>trên 9 tầng mây</i>	<b>E.g:</b> When Lily got her promotion, she was on cloud nine.
once in a blue moon ~ very rarely	<i>rất hiếm</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Once in a blue moon, I stop thinking about him.
on good terms (with)	<i>có mối quan hệ tốt với ai</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I'm always on good terms with everyone.
on probation	<i>trong thời gian quản chế</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The prisoner was put on probation.
on second thoughts	<i>suy nghĩ kỹ, sau khi suy đi tính lại</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I'll wait here. No, on second thoughts, I'll come with you.
on the house	<i>không phải trả tiền</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Have a drink on the house.
on the spot	<i>ngay lập tức</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He answered the question on the spot.
on the verge of ~ on the brink of ~ in the edge	<i>bên bờ vực, sắp</i>	<b>E.g:</b> These elephants are on the verge of extinction.
one in the eye for some-one	<i>làm gai mắt</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The appointment of a woman was one in the eye for male domination.
out of/ off one's head ~ crazy	<i>điên, loạn trí</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The old man has been off his head for at least a year.
out of the blue	<i>bất ngờ</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The decision came out of the blue
out of this world	<i>ngon</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The meal was out of this world.
over the top	<i>tới mức thoải phòng, quá đáng</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The blood and gore is as over the top as any fan of slasher films might hope.



### STEP 3

part and parcel of sth	phần quan trọng, thiết yếu	<b>E.g:</b> Keeping the accounts is part and parcel of my job.
pay through the nose (for sth)	trả giá đắt	<b>E.g:</b> You can get the best room in our homestay, but you have to pay through the nose.
play tricks/ jokes on	chọc phá, trêu ghẹo, chơi khăm	<b>E.g:</b> The children are always play jokes on their teachers.
pull somebody's leg	trêu chọc ai	<b>E.g:</b> You don't mean that. You're just pulling my leg.
pull one's weight	nỗ lực, làm tròn phần trách nhiệm	<b>E.g:</b> The rest of the team complained that Mary wasn't pulling her weight.
put your feet up	ngồi xuống và thư giãn	<b>E.g:</b> After a tired day at work, I'd like to come home, put my feet up, and read book.
put on an act	giả vờ, giả bộ	<b>E.g:</b> You could tell she was just putting on an act.
put one's foot in it / put your foot in one's mouth	nói/ làm điều gì đó ngu ngốc làm xúc phạm người khác, nói điều không nên	<b>E.g:</b> I really put my foot in it with Mary - I didn't know she'd split up with Tom.
quick/ slow on the up- take	sáng ý/ tối dạ; hiểu nhanh/ chậm hiểu	<b>E.g:</b> He is quick on the uptake. He can understand what you suggest.
recharge your batteries	nghỉ ngơi, thư giãn	<b>E.g:</b> Let's go somewhere to recharge our batteries.
a red- letter day ~ an important day	một ngày quan trọng, một ngày đáng nhớ	<b>E.g:</b> It's a red-letter day for my family.
red tape	thủ tục hành chính phức tạp	<b>E.g:</b> Because of red tape, I took a month to get a visa.
ring a bell	nghe quen	<b>E.g:</b> That name rings a bell.
round the bend	điên	<b>E.g:</b> That noise is driving me round the bend.
run an errand	làm việc vặt	<b>E.g:</b> I've got to run an errand. I'll be back in a minute.
scratch someone's back	giúp ai với mong muốn sau này người ta sẽ giúp lại mình	<b>E.g:</b> "You scratch my back and I will scratch yours," the customer said when we talked about the new sales contact.
salt and pepper	màu tóc hoa râm	<b>E.g:</b> His salt and pepper hair looks great!
see eye to eye (with sb)	đồng tình	<b>E.g:</b> We have never seen eye to eye.



sell/ go like hot cakes	<i>bán đắt như tôm tươi</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The book has only just been published and copies are already selling like hot cakes all over the world.
sell somebody short	<i>đánh giá thấp</i>	<b>E.g:</b> When you say that Nam isn't interested in music, you're selling him short.
set your heart on	<i>rất muốn cái gì</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I have set my heart on a house in this city.
six of one (and) half a dozen of the other	<i>bên tám lạng, bên nửa cân</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Ben: "Would you rather have pepperonis or sausage on your pizza?" Bella: "Eh, six of one, half a dozen of the other."
sleep like a log	<i>ngủ say, ngủ ngon</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The baby is sleeping like a log.
sleep on sth	<i>suy nghĩ thêm về điều gì đó</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Could I sleep on it and let you know tomorrow?
smell a rat	<i>hoài nghi, linh cảm chuyện không ổn, nghi ngờ có âm mưu gì đó</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The minute I came in, I smelled a rat.
spick and span ~ spic and span	<i>ngăn nắp và gọn gàng</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Their house is always spick and span.
splitting headache (n)	<i>đau đầu như búa bổ</i>	<b>E.g:</b> I've got a splitting headache. I'm going upstairs for a nap.
stick to your guns	<i>giữ vững lập trường của mình</i>	<b>E.g:</b> She always sticks to her guns.
take (great) pains to do sth	<i>dốc sức để làm gì</i>	<b>E.g:</b> The couple went to great pains to keep their plans secret.
take (great) pains with/ over sth	<i>làm cái gì đó cẩn thận và tận tâm</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He always takes great pains with his lectures.
take it easy ~ relax	<i>đừng lo lắng, hãy thư giãn</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Take it easy! Don't panic. The doctor told me to take it easy for a few weeks.
take someone/ something for granted	<i>cho là điều hiển nhiên, coi nhẹ, xem thường</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Her husband was always there and she just took him for granted.
take something into account/ consideration	<i>xem xét, tính đến cái gì, kể đến cái gì</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Coursework is taken into account as well as exam results.
take the law into your own hands	<i>tự trừng phạt ai theo cách của mình</i>	<b>E.g:</b> That's no reason to take the law into your own hands.
take things to pieces	<i>tháo ra từng mảnh</i>	<b>E.g:</b> He took the clock to pieces.
ten to one ~ very probably	<i>rất có thể</i>	<b>E.g:</b> Ten to one he'll be late.
the apple of one's eye	<i>người yêu quý/ đồ quý giá của ai</i>	<b>E.g:</b> She is the apple of her father's eye.



### STEP 3

the best thing since sliced bread	phát minh hay, ý tưởng/ kế hoạch hay, tốt	<b>E.g:</b> Portable phones are marketed as the best thing since sliced bread; people think they are extremely good.
the last straw	giọt nước tràn ly	<b>E.g:</b> When he showed up late a third time, that was the last straw. We had to fire him.
the more, the merrier	càng đông càng vui	<b>E.g:</b> Oh sure, your parents can come to our party – the more, the merrier!
the luck of the draw	số phận, hên xui	<b>E.g:</b> I think that's the luck of the draw.
throw the book at sb	phạt nặng ai đó	<b>E.g:</b> I will throw the book at you this time.
time and tide wait for no man	thời giờ thấm thoát trôi đi, nó đi mãi có chờ đợi ai, thời gian không đợi ai	<b>E.g:</b> Hurry up or we'll miss the bus! Time and tide wait for no man.
turn over a new leaf	cải tà quy chính, thay đổi thành người tốt hơn	<b>E.g:</b> He seems to have turned over a new leaf.
under sb's thumb	bị ai kiểm soát, ở dưới quyền	<b>E.g:</b> I was sick of being under someone's thumb.
under the weather	bị ốm nhẹ	<b>E.g:</b> Do you feel under the weather today?
up in arms about	kịch liệt phản đối	<b>E.g:</b> We are up in arms about having to work this weekend.
your flesh and blood	người thân, người cùng máu mủ	<b>E.g:</b> My parents are very important to me, because they are my flesh and blood.
when pigs fly ~ pigs might fly	chuyện viển vông, không tưởng, chỉ điều gì đó khó xảy ra được	<b>E.g:</b> - 'With a bit of luck, we'll be finished it by the end of the year.' - 'Yes, and pigs might fly!'