

# CHỦ ĐỀ 2 THÀNH NGỮ (IDIOMS)



## A KIẾN THỨC CƠ BẢN

### \* Một số thành ngữ thường gặp

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| 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

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| <b>all mod cons</b>   | <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.                                  |
| <b>as high as a kite</b>  | <i>kiêu căng, tự phụ</i>   | <b>E.g:</b> She is always as high as a kite.   |
| <b>as the crow flies</b>  | <i>theo đường chim bay, thẳng tắp</i>  | <b>E.g:</b> It's 300 kilometers as the crow flies.   |
| <b>at a loose end</b>   | <i>không có việc gì làm, rảnh</i>  | <b>E.g:</b> Are you at a loose end this weekend?   |
| <b>at heart</b>   | <i>thực chất, theo một cách cơ bản nhất</i>                                  | <b>E.g:</b> He's still a socialist at heart.   |
| <b>at sixes and sevens</b>  | <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.                |
| <b>at somebody's disposal</b>   | <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.                        |
| <b>at the drop of the hat</b>   | <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.                     |
| <b>at the eleventh hour</b>   | <i>vào phút chót</i>   | <b>E.g:</b> She always turned her term paper in at the eleventh hour.                      |
| <b>back to the drawing board</b>  | <i>bắt đầu lại từ đầu</i>  | <b>E.g:</b> They rejected our proposal, so it's back to the drawing board.                 |
| <b>back to square one</b>   | <i>trở lại từ đầu</i>  | <b>E.g:</b> If this suggestion isn't accepted, we'll be back to square one.                |
| <b>beat about the bush</b>  | <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.                         |
| <b>be born with a silver spoon in your mouth</b>  | <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. |
| <b>be bound to do sth</b>   | <i>chắc chắn sẽ làm gì</i>   | <b>E.g:</b> You're bound to be late if you don't hurry.                                    |
| <b>be/ go on the wagon</b>  | <i>kiêng rượu</i>  | <b>E.g:</b> - 'Would you like some vodka?'<br>- 'No, thanks. I'm on the wagon.'            |
| <b>be green with envy</b>   | <i>ghen tị</i>   | <b>E.g:</b> She was green with envy because her mother bought a new hat for her sister.    |
| <b>be in two minds about something/about doing something; be of two minds about something/about doing something</b> | <i>chưa quyết định được</i>  | <b>E.g:</b> She's in two minds about accepting his invitation.                             |



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| <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<br/>~ boast</b> | <i>bốc phét, 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<br/>~ 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

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



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| 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.                                      |



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



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| 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.   |



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|---------------------------------|---|--|
| let nature take its course      | <i>cứ để mọi thứ tự nhiên</i>                 | <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                   | <i>xả hơi, xả bức xúc</i>                     | <b>E.g:</b> I decide to go for a walk to let off steam.  |
| let the cat out of the bag      | <i>để lộ bí mật</i>                           | <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              | <i>ngủ ngơi và thư giãn</i>                   | <b>E.g:</b> Let your hair down after a long working day.   |
| let the cat out of the bag      | <i>để lộ bí mật</i>                           | <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      | <i>ai đó là trung tâm của buổi tiệc</i>       | <b>E.g:</b> She is the life and soul of the party.   |
| (like) water off a duck's back  | <i>nước đổ đầu vịt</i>                        | <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          | <i>giống nhau như đúc, giống nhau như tạc</i> | <b>E.g:</b> Lisa and her sister are like two peas in a pod.  |
| line your pocket(s)             | <i>lo nhét đầy túi, đút túi</i>               | <b>E.g:</b> He had been lining his pockets for years before he was caught.   |
| live and let live               | <i>sống dĩ hòa vi quý</i>                     | <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        | <i>nhìn ai đó một cách giận dữ</i>            | <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         | <i>hãy lạc quan lên</i>                       | <b>E.g:</b> - A: I failed the exam again. Maybe I will never pass it.<br>- B: Look on the bright side. If you study hard enough, you will pass the exam. |
| lose touch with sb              | <i>mất liên lạc với ai</i>                    | <b>E.g:</b> Jade lost touch with her ex-boss over many years.  |
| make believe                    | <i>giả bộ, giả vờ</i>                         | <b>E.g:</b> My children make believe that they slept when I enter their bedroom.   |
| make (both) ends meet           | <i>xoay sở để kiếm sống</i>                   | <b>E.g:</b> Many families struggle to make ends meet.  |
| make do<br>~ to manage/ to cope | <i>xoay sở, đương đầu</i>                     | <b>E.g:</b> We were in a hurry so we had to make do with a quick snack.  |
| make good time                  | <i>di chuyển nhanh, đi nhanh</i>              | <b>E.g:</b> We made good time and arrived in Spain in two days.  |
| make yourself at home           | <i>cứ tự nhiên như ở nhà</i>                  | <b>E.g:</b> Don't be shy. Make yourself at home!   |



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



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