IDIOMS AND PHRASES

1. A bee hive – A busy place (CPO, 2015)
2. A black sheep – A person with bad reputation (CHSL, 2014)
4. A cakewalk – An easy achievement (CGL T-1, 2013)
5. A chip of the old block – An experienced old man (CGL T-2, 2015)
6. A close fisted man - Miser (CPO, 2015)
7. A close shave – A narrow escape from danger (CHSL, 2014) (Stenographer, 2010)
10. A cuckoo in the nest – An unwelcomed intruder (CGL T-1, 2016)
11. A cut above – Rather superior to (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
12. A damp squib – A disappointing result (CGL T-1, 2011)
14. A dog’s breakfast – A total mess / A thing that has been done badly (CHSL, 2015)
15. A drop in a bucket – A very insignificant amount (CGL T-1, 2016)
16. A fish out of water – In uncomfortable situation (CGL T-1, 2013)
17. A golden mean – Middle course between two extremes (CPO, 2015)
18. A hard nut to crack – A difficult problem or situation to solve or deal with (CHSL, 2012) (CGL T-2, 2015)
19. A house of cards – An insecure scheme (CGL T-1, 2016)
20. A left hand compliment – An ambiguous compliment (CGL T-1, 2016)
22. A live wire – Lively and active (CGL T-1, 2016)
23. A man in the street – An ordinary person / common man (SAS, 2005)
25. A month of Sundays – A long time (CGL T-1, 2013)
27. A rough, violent, troublesome person - Tartar (CGL T-1, 2016)
28. A sacred cow – A person never to be criticised (CHSL, 2015)
29. A shot in the dark – An attempt to guess something (CHSL, 2012)
30. A sore point – Something which hurts (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
31. A white elephant – Costly and troublesome possession, with much use to its owner (CHSL, 2011) (SO(Audit), 2001) (SO(Audit), 2008)
32. A wild goose chase – Fruitless pursuit/ Pointless search (MT(NT), 2014) (SO(Audit), 2001)
33. Above board – Honest / Without any secret (CGL T-2, 2014) (Constable, 2013)
34. Achilles’s heel – Weak spot (CGL T-1, 2013)
35. Add fuel to the fire – Worsen the matter (CGL T-2, 2014) (CGL T-1, 2014)
36. All at sea – Puzzled (SO(Audit), 1997) (Stenographer, 2011)
37. All ears – Attentive (CHSL, 2014)
38. All might and main – With full force (CPO, 2014)
40. Allow a free hand – Complete liberty (CGL, 2012)
41. Alma mater – Institution where one got education (CGL T-1, 2015)
42. An about turn – Complete change of opinion or situation (CHSL, 2014)
43. An axe to grind – A private interest to serve (TA(IT & CE), 2004)
44. An open book – One that hold no secrets/ Straight forward and honest dealings (TA(IT & CE), 2004) (CHSL, 2011)
45. Apple of discord – Cause of animosity (CGL T-1, 2013)
46. Arm-chair critic – A person who give advice based on theory not on practice (CGL T-2, 2015)
47. Around the clock – Day and night (CHSL, 2014)
48. As daft as a brush – Extremely silly (CGL T-1, 2016) (CGL T-1, 2015)
49. As hard as nail – Emotionless / To show no sympathy, kindness or fear (CGL, 2012)
50. At a loss – Unable / Not knowing about what to do or say (CHSL, 2012)
51. At a snail’s pace - Slowly (CGL T-1, 2016)
52. At a stone’s throw – At short distance (CGL T-1, 2016)
53. At a stretch - Continuously (CPO, 2014)
54. At draggers drawn - Enmity (CHSL, 2014)
55. At loggerheads – In strong disagreement (CGL T-1, 2015)
56. At one’s beck and call – Ready to follow orders/ To be dominated by someone (CHSL, 2011)
58. At random - Without any aim or target (CGL T-2, 2014)
59. At sea – At a loss (CGL T-1, 2016)
60. At sixes and seven – In disorder or confusion (Stenographer, 2011)
61. At snail’s pace – To do things very slowly (SO(CA), 2005)
62. At stake – In danger/ that can be lost or won depending on the success of a particular action (SO(CA), 2007)
63. At stone’s throw – Very near (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
65. Average out - Balance (CGL T-2, 2014)
66. Back to the drawing board – Plan it all over again (CGL T-1, 2014)
67. Backseat driver – A person who gives unwanted advice (CGL T-2, 2014)
69. Bad hats – People of bad character (CGL T-2, 2013)
70. Balloon goes up – The situation turns unpleasant or serious (CHSL, 2014)
71. Barking up the wrong tree – Trying to find someone ay wrong place (CGL T-1, 2014)
72. Batten down the hatches – Prepare for a difficult situation (CPO, 2014)
73. Be down with – Suffering from (CGL T-1, 2016)
74. Be taken aback – Shoked or surprised (CPO, 2015)
75. Bear down – To move quickly towards something/someone in a determined or threatening way (CPO, 2014)
76. Bear in mind - Remember (CGL T-1, 2016)
77. Bear with – Support / To be patient with some body or something (CPO, 2010)
78. Beat about the bush – Circumlocution / Does not talk specifically/ Speak in a round about manner (Constable, 2015) (CHSL, 2010) (CGL T-1, 2016)
79. Beggar description – Cannot be described (CGL T-1, 2016)
80. Beside the mark – Irrelevant / Not to be accurate/ Not to the point (CGL T-2, 2015) (CGL T-1, 2016)
81. Beyond the pale – Outside commonly accepted standards/ Unreasonable or unacceptable (CHSL, 2014) (CGL T-1, 2016)
82. Big draw – Huge attraction (CPO, 2014)
83. Bird’s eye view – A overview / A general view from above (CPO, 2015) (MT(NT), 2011)
84. Birds of same feather – Persons of same character (CHSL, 2011)
85. Black out – Lost consciousness (CGL T-1, 2014)
86. Blood running cold – Become very frightened (SAS, 2005)
88. Blow over – Pass off (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
89. Blue-eyed boys – Favorites (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
91. Bone to pick – Cause of quarrel/ Bone of contention (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
92. Born with a silver spoon – Born in a rich family (CGL T-1, 2013)
94. Break in - To train somebody or something in something (CGL T-2, 2014)
95. Break off – Suddenly stop (CGL T-2, 2014)
96. Break the ice – Initiate a talk (FCI, 2013)
97. Break up – Disband itself / The breaking up of relationship or association / The division of larger group in smaller fragments (MTS, 2013)
98. Bring about – Cause to happen (CGL T-1, RE-2013) (Stenographer, 2011)
99. Bring down the house – Amuse the audience greatly / To make everyone cheer (CGL T-2, 2015)
100. Bring the house down – Make the audience applaud enthusiastically (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
101. Brought up – Introduce for discussion (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
102. Build castle in the air - Daydreaming (Stenographer, 2011)
103. Bull in a China shop – A clumsy person (MTS, 2013)
104. Burn one’s boat – Leave no means of return (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
105. Burn your boats – Do something that makes it impossible to return to the previous situation (CGL T-1, 2016)
107. Butt in – Interrupt (CGL T-1, 2016)
108. Button one’s lips – Stop talking (CGL T-1, 2016)
109. By fair or foul means – In honest or dishonest way (CHSL, 2011)
112. By the skin of teeth – By the narrowest margin (CPO, 2014)
113. Call for – To ask (CHSL, 2011)
114. Call in question - Challenge (CGL T-1, 2016)
115. Call on – Pay a visit (CGL T-1, 2016)
116. Call spade a spade – To speak in a straightforward manner (frankly) (CGL T-1, 2013)
117. Cannot hold a candle to – Cannot be compared to (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
118. Cap in hand – In a respectful manner (CGL T-1, 2016)
119. Capital punishment – Death sentence (CGL T-1, 2016)
120. Carrot and stick – Reward and punishment policy (MT(NT), 2011)
121. Carry out – Complete something (Constable, 2015) (SO(Audit), 2007)
122. Carry the ball – Be in charge (CGL T-1, 2016)
123. Carry weight – Be important / Important influence (CHSL, 2012)
124. Casting pearl before swine – Offering good things to undeserving people (CGL T-1, 2013)
125. Catch a tartar – to deal with a person who is more than one’s match (CGL T-1, 2016)
126. Catch time by the forelock – Seize opportunity (CGL T-1,RE 2015)
127. Cat-nap – Short sleep (CGL T-1, 2016)
128. Caught red handed – At the time of committing crime/ Discovered in the act of doing (Stenographer, 2010) (CGL T-1, 2016)
129. Change colours – To turn pale (MTS, 2013)
130. Chapter and verse – Providing minutes details (CGL T-2, 2015)
132. Chicken out – Withdraw / To decide not to do something because you are afraid (CGL T-2, 2013)
133. Clean hands – innocent (CPO, 2015)
134. Close shave – A narrow escape (Stenographer, 2011) (SO(Audit), 2008)
135. Close the book - Stop working on something (MT(NT), 2011)
137. Cold Comfort – Slight satisfaction (CGL T-1, 2011)
139. Come to grief – To suffer (CGL T-2, 2012)
140. Come to light – Been revealed / To become known to people (CHSL, 2014)
141. Cool about working – Not tense about working / Reading to work (CHSL, 2014)
142. Cool as cucumber – Not nervous or emotional (Stenographer, 2010)
143. Cool one’s heel – To keep waiting (CGL T-1, 2013)
144. Cope with - compromise (DEO, 2008)
145. Cordon off – Isolate / To stop people from getting into an area by surrounding it with police (CHSL, 2013)
146. Couch potato – A person who prefers to watch television (CGL T-1, 2016)
147. Cross swords - Disagree (DEO, 2008)
148. Cry over spilt milk – Cry over irreparable loss (Stenographer, 2011)
149. Curry favours – Seek favourable attention (CGL T-1, 2016)
150. Currying favour with – Ingratiating / trying too hard to get please somebody (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
151. Cut a sorry figure – Make a poor impression (CGL T-1, 2016)
152. Cut and dry method - Honest (CGL T-1, 2014)
153. Cut coat according to one’s cloth – Live within your means (CGL, 2012)
155. Cut one off, without a shilling – Disinheriting / To expel from fraternal property (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
156. Cut the guardian knot – Remove difficulty / To solve problem (CGL T-1, 2013)
157. Dark horse – An unexpected winner (CHSL, 2010)
158. Die hard – unwilling to change (CHSL, 2012)
160. Doctor the accounts – To manipulate the accounts (CHSL, 2010)
161. Does not hold water – Cannot be believed (SO(Audit), 2001)
162. Dog in a manger – A selfish person (CGL T-2, 2015)
163. Done for – Ruined (SO(CA), 2005)
164. Donkey’s year – A long time (CGL T-1, 2016) (CGL T-2, 2013)
165. Dot one’s I’s and cross one T’s – Be detailed and exact (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
166. Down in the dumps – Sad and depressed (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
167. Drag one’s feet – Be reluctant to act (CGL T-1, 2016)
168. Draw a blank – Find no favour (CGL T-1, 2016)
170. Draw the line – To set a limit (CPO, 2015)
171. Dressing-down – To give scolding (CGL T-1, 2016)
172. Drive home - Emphasise (CGL T-1, 2016)
173. Dropping like flies – Collapsing in large numbers (CHSL, 2011)
174. Dropping names – Hinting at high connections/To mention famous people you know or have met in order to impress others (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
175. Eat anyone’s salt – To be anyone’s guest (CGL T-2, 2012)
176. Eat humble pie – To say or show that you are sorry for the mistakes committed by you (CPO, 2013) (CPO, 2015)
177. Eat like a horse – Eat a lot (CHSL, 2014)
178. Egg someone on – TO encourage somebody to do something (CGL T-1, 2013)
179. Emerge out of thin air – Appear Suddenly (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
180. End in a fiasco – A Total/Utter failure (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
181. End in smoke – Come to nothing (CPO, 2012)
182. End up in something – Come to nothing/Useless (CHSL, 2011)
183. Enough rope – Enough freedom for action (SO(Audit), 1997)
184. Evening of life – Old age (CGL T-1, 2016)
185. Every inch a gentleman - Entirely (CGL T-1, 2016)
187. Fair and square – Honest (SO(Audit), 2001)
188. Fair-weather friend – A friend that deserts in difficulties (TA(IT & CE), 2006) (CGL T-1, 2016)
189. Fall back – To turn or move back (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
190. Fall flat – Fail to amuse people/ Fail to produce intended effect (CHSL, 2012)
191. Fall short – Fail to meet expectation/ have no effect (CHSL, 2011)
192. Fall through – To fail (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
193. Feather in one’s cap – A new and additional distinction (CGL T-1, 2016) (CGL T-2, 2014)
194. Feather one’s own nest – Make money in an improper way (CGL T-1, 2016)
195. Feather your nest – To make yourself richer, especially by spending money on yourself that should be spent on something else (CGL T-2, 2015)
196. Fed up – Annoyed (SO(Audit), 2008)
197. Feel blue – In trouble / depressed (Constable, 2013)
198. Feel one’s pulse – To find what one is thinking on some point (CPO, 2013)
199. Fell foul of – Got into trouble with (SO(Audit), 1997)
200. Fight shy of – To avoid someone/ something (CGL T-2, 2014)
201. Fight to the bitter end – To fight a losing battle (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
202. Fight tooth and nail – Fight with all strengths (CGL T-2, 2015)
(MT(NT), 2014)
203. Finish with something – Be through / To have something at the end / To stop doing something (CPO, 2015)
204. Fish in troubled water – To make a profit out of troubled situation (FCI, 2013)
205. Fish out of water – An uncomfortable position (CGL T-1, 2016)
206. Fit like a glove - Perfectly (CGL T-1, 2016)
207. Fits and starts – Not regularly (SO(Audit), 2008)
208. Flies off at a tangent – Start discussing something irrelevant (CPO, 2014)
209. Flogging a dead horse – Wasting time in useless effort (SO(Audit), 1997)
210. Floored – To surprise or confuse (CGL T-2, 2014)
211. Flying visit – Very short visit (CHSL, 2015)
212. Foam at the mouth - Angry (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
213. Follow one’s nose – To go straight ahead (CGL T-2, 2014)
214. For all intents and purposes - Practically (CGL T-1, 2016)
215. For better or worse - Always (CHSL, 2012)
216. For good - Permanently (CGL T-1, 2013) (Constable, 2013) (CHSL, 2014)
217. For keeps - Forever (CGL T-1, 2016)
218. From the bottom of one’s heart – To speak frankly (CHSL, 2012)
219. Gate crasher – Uninvited guest (CGL T-1, 2016)
220. Gerrymandering way – In a manipulative and unfair way (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
221. Get down to business – To begin work seriously (CHSL, 2013)
222. Get on nerves - Annoying (CGL T-1, RE 2015)
223. Get on well – Have a friendly relationship (FCI, 2012)
224. Get the sack – Be dismissed (CGL T-1, 2016) (SO(Audit), 2006)
225. Gift of the gab – Ability to speak impressively (Stenographer, 2010) (CPO, 2011)
226. Gift of the gab – talent of speaking (DEO, 2008)
227. Give a hand with – To help with (CPO, 2012)
228. Give a wide berth to – To stay away from or avoid someone (CGL T-2, 2015)
229. Give and take – Adjustment / Willingness in relationship to accept what somebody else wants and gives up some of what you want (CGL T-2, 2013)
230. Give away - To distribute something(CGL T-2, 2015)
231. Give in – To agree to do something that you don’t want to do/ Yield (MTS, 2013) (SO(Audit), 2005)
232. Give the game away – Give out the secret (SO(Audit), 2005) (unintentionally) (CHSL, 2011)
233. Give vent to - Express (CGL T-1, RE-2013) (CPO, 2010)
234. Give way - Collapse (CGL T-2, 2014)
235. Giving a piece of one’s mind – Speak sharply / To disapprove (CHSL, 2013)
236. Go a long way – help considerably (DEO, 2008)
237. Go about – Go around / TO continue to do something (CHSL, 2013)
238. Go down the drain – Lose forever (Stenographer, 2010)
239. Go Dutch – Divide the cost (CGL T-1, 2015)
240. Go for the jugular – Attack all out / To attack somebody’s weaker point during a discussion (CGL T-1, 2015)
241. Go haywire – Become out of control (CGL T-2, 2014)
242. Go out of one’s way – Do everything possible (CGL T-1, 2016)
243. Go scot-free – To escape without punishment (CHSL, 2011)
244. Go through fire and water – Undergo any risk (SO(Audit), 2005)
245. Go to the dogs – Ruin / to go to in very bad situation (CGL T-2, 2014) (CHSL, 2014)
246. Go to the winds - Disappear (SO(CA), 2005)
248. Good Samaritan – Helpful person (SO(Audit), 2007)
249. Got the sack – Dismissed from (Statistical Investigator, 2006)
250. Grease anybody’s palm – To give bribe (Stenographer, 2010)
251. Grease palms – To bribe someone (MT(NT), 2011) (CGL T-1, 2016)
252. Green thumb – To have a natural interest (SO(Audit), 2001)
254. Had better – used for telling somebody what you think he ‘should’ do (CPO, 2012)
257. Hard nut to crack – Difficult task (CHSL, 2011)
258. Hard of hearing – To be deaf (CGL T-1, 2016)
259. Has a bee in one’s bonnet – To be preoccupied or obsessed with something (MTS, 2013)
260. Have a finger in every pie – To be meddlesome / To involved in a lot of different activities and having influence over them (CHSL, 2015)
261. Have something up your sleeve – Have an alternate plan (CPO, 2013)
262. Have the last laugh – To be victorious at the end of an argument (Statistical Investigator, 2005)
263. Heads will roll – Transfers will take place (SO(Audit), 2003)
264. Heart to heart talk – Frank talk (CHSL, 2011)
265. Helter-Skelter – In disorderly haste (Statistical Investigator, 2006)
266. Herculean task – A work requiring very great effort (Statistical Investigator, 2006)
267. High and dry – Neglected/ To leave someone helpless (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
268. High handed – Using authority in an unreasonable way, overbearing (CHSL, 2011)
269. Hobson’s choice – No real choice at all (TA(IT & CE), 2004)
270. Hold one’s horses – To keep waiting (CGL T-1, 2014)
271. Hold up – Delay (CGL T-1, 2016)
272. Hold water – Seem logical/ With logical backing / To stand up to critical examination (CHSL, 2015) (CHSL, 2014)
273. Hold your tongue – To be silent (CHSL, 2012)
274. Hope against hope – Nurture an impossible hope (CGL T-1, 2016)
275. Horse sense – Basic common sense (CGL T-1,RE 2015)
276. Husband one’s resource – Save / Economical (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
277. Ice braking – Starting a conversation (CGL T-2, 2013)
278. In a nutshell - Brief (CHSL, 2012) (CGL T-1, 2016)
279. In a pickle – In an embarrassing or awkward situation (FCI, 2012)
280. In a tight corner – In a difficult situation (SO(Audit), 2001)
281. In apple pie order – In perfect order (CGL T-1, 2013)
283. In cold blood – A murder done without intention (SO(Audit), 2003) (CGL T-1, 2011)
284. In Dutch – In trouble (CHSL, 2014)
285. In fits and starts - Irregularly (MT(NT), 2011)
286. In high spirits – Cheerful/ Full of hope and enthusiasm (Stenographer, 2010) (SO(Audit), 2008)
287. In lieu of – Despite of (CHSL, 2010)
288. In the air – Certain / Able to be firmly relied on to happen or be the case / Specific but not explicitly named or stated (CGL T-1, 2014)
289. In the blues – Cheerless and depressed (CGL T-1, 2016)
290. In the good books – In favour with (SO(Audit), 2008) (SO(Audit), 2006)
291. In the long run – Over a period of time (CGL T-1, 2013) (SO(Audit), 2006)
292. In the loop – Informed regularly (CGL T-1, 2014)
293. In the nick of time – Just in time (CHSL, 2015)
294. In the red – Losing money/to owe money (CHSL, 2010)
295. In the running – Has good prospects in competition (CGL T-1, 2016)
296. In the soup – To be in trouble (CPO, 2015)
297. In the swim – Well informed and up-to-date (CGL T-1, 2014)
298. In two minds – To be undecided (CHSL, 2015)
300. Iron fist – To treat people in severe manner / strictly (Constable, 2013)
301. Iron will – Strong determination (CPO, 2012)
302. Jumping down one’s throat – To react very angrily to somebody (CGL T-1, 2013)
303. Keep a level head – To remain calm and sensible in a difficult situation (CGL T-1, 2015)
304. Keep an open house – Welcome all members (CHSL, 2013)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>305</td>
<td>Keep the wolf away from the door – To keep off starvation</td>
<td>(CPO, 2015) (FCI, 2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>306</td>
<td>Keep up with – Go at equal pace</td>
<td>(CPO, 2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>307</td>
<td>Keep wolf away from the door – Keep away extreme poverty</td>
<td>(CGL T-1, RE-2013)</td>
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<td>308</td>
<td>Keep your head – Remain calm</td>
<td>(MT(NT), 2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>309</td>
<td>Kick up a row - Make a great fuss / To complain loudly about something</td>
<td>(CGL T-2, 2012)</td>
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<td>310</td>
<td>Kicking heels – To be relaxed and enjoy / Waste time</td>
<td>(CPO, 2012)</td>
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<td>311</td>
<td>Kith and kin - Relatives</td>
<td>(Constable, 2015)</td>
</tr>
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<td>312</td>
<td>Know beans about something – Well informed and intelligent</td>
<td>(CPO, 2014)</td>
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<td>313</td>
<td>Know the ropes – Learn the procedures</td>
<td>(CGL T-1, 2014)</td>
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<td>314</td>
<td>Lame excuse – Unsatisfactory explanation</td>
<td>(CHSL, 2012)</td>
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<td>315</td>
<td>Lay down arms – To surrender</td>
<td>(CPO, 2010)</td>
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<td>316</td>
<td>Lay it on thick – An exaggeration / To talk about somebody or something in a way than they really are</td>
<td>(CPO, 2015)</td>
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<td>317</td>
<td>Lay out – Spend</td>
<td>(SO(Audit), 2007)</td>
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<td>318</td>
<td>Laying off – Dismissal from jobs</td>
<td>(SO(Audit), 2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>319</td>
<td>Lays out – To spend money</td>
<td>(CGL, 2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>Leaps and bounds – At rapid pace/ Irregularly</td>
<td>(SO(Audit), 2007) (MTS, 2013) (CGL T-1, 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>321</td>
<td>Leave high and dry – In a difficult situation without help or money / Leave alone to work / A boat in a position out of water</td>
<td>(CGL T-1, 2015)</td>
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<td>322</td>
<td>Leave in the lurch – Abandon in the midway/difficult situation</td>
<td>(Stenographer, 2010) (Stenographer, 2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>323</td>
<td>Leave no stone unturned – To try every possible way</td>
<td>(CGL T-1, 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>Let sleeping dogs lie – Not to bring up an old controversial issue</td>
<td>(CGL T-1, 2013)</td>
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<td>325</td>
<td>Let the cat out of the bag – To utter a secret carelessly or by mistake</td>
<td>(TA(IT &amp; CE), 2009)</td>
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<td>326</td>
<td>Let the grass grow under the feet – Delay in getting things done</td>
<td>(CGL T-1, 2013)</td>
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<td>327</td>
<td>Like a phoenix – With a new life/rebirth/reincarnation</td>
<td>(TA(IT &amp; CE), 2006)</td>
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<td>328</td>
<td>Live from hand to mouth - Miserably</td>
<td>(CHSL, 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>329</td>
<td>Live-wire – A person who is lively or energetic</td>
<td>(CGL T-1, 2013)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
330. Look down upon – Hate intensely (SO(Audit), 1997)
331. Look into – To investigate (FCI, 2013)
332. Look sharp – Pay attention (CPO, 2014)
333. Looking forward to – To expect something or someone (FCI, 2012)
334. Lose head – Panic (Stenographer, 2011)
336. Make a beeline – Rush / To go straight towards something as quick as you can (CGL T-1, 2015)
337. Make a clean breast – Confess (SO(CA), 2005) (SO(Audit), 2003)
338. Make a mockery – to make something seem ridiculous or useless / No serious outcome (CHSL, 2014)
339. Make a mountain of a mole hill – Exaggerate a minor problem (CGL T-1, 2015)
340. Make amends for – Compensate the loss (CGL T-1, 2015)
341. Make believe – To pretend that something is true (CGL T-1, 2015)
342. Make both ends mean – Live within means (CGL T-1, 2016) (DEO, 2008)
343. Make ducks and drakes of – Squander (SO(CA), 2005)
344. Make it light – Treat lightly (CGL T-1, 2016)
345. Make no bones about – Do not have any hesitation in anything (SO(Audit), 2003)
346. Make one’s flesh creep – Horrify (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
347. Make room – Make space (CGL T-1, 2016)
348. Making hay while the sun shines – Taking advantage of a favorable opportunity (CPO, 2010)
349. Man of letters – Proficient in literary arts (CHSL, 2010)
351. Measure up – Reach the level (CHSL, 2010)
352. Mend your way’s – Improve one’s behaviour (CGL T-1, 2016)
353. Mince matters – To confuse issues/ to mix facts (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
354. Nail one’s colours to the mast – Refuse to climb down (CPO, 2014)
355. Nine day’s wonder – A dazzling short-lived spectacle of no real value (CHSL, 2014)
357. No love lost between – Not on good terms (SO(Audit), 2001)
358. Not fit to hold candle – Not so good as somebody or something else (CGL T-1, 2013)
359. Not my cup of tea – Not what somebody likes or interested in (Constable, 2012)
360. Not to look a gift horse in the mouth – Not to find fault with the gift received (CGL T-1, 2013)
362. Of no avail – Useless (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
364. Old head on young shoulder – To be wise beyond one’s age (CGL T-1, 2016)
366. On good terms – Agree with someone (CHSL, 2010)
367. On tenterhooks – In suspense and anxiety (CGL T-1, 2016)
368. On the brink of – On the point of (Stenographer, 2010)
369. On the cuff – On credit (SO(Audit), 2001)
370. On the horns of dilemma – In a situation where you have to make choice between things that are equally unpleasant (CPO, 2012)
371. On the level – Honest and sincere (SO(CA), 2005)
372. On the same page – Thinks in a similar way (CGL T-1, 2014)
373. On the spur of the moment – To act suddenly, without planning (CHSL, 2011)
374. On the verge of – On the brink of (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
375. Once in a blue moon - Rarely (CGL T-2, 2012) (CGL T-1, 2016)
376. Other fish to fry – Some important work to attend to (CHSL, 2014)
377. Out and out – Totally (SO(Audit), 2001)
378. Out of hand – Out of control, at once, immediately (CHSL, 2012)
379. Out of sorts – Ill or sick / Upset (CPO, 2015)
380. Out of the question – Undesirable/ Not worth discussing (CHSL, 2011)
381. Out of the world – Extraordinary (MTS, 2013)
382. Out of wits – Greatly confused (CGL T-1, 2013)
383. Over head and ears – Completely (CPO, 2010)
384. Paled into insignificance – Seemed less important (CGL T-1, 2016)
386. Pay on the nail – Pay promptly / Payment without delay (CHSL, 2014)  
387. Pay through nose – Pay an extremely high price (SO(Audit), 2003)  
388. Penelope’s web – An endless job (CHSL, 2014)  
389. Pick on - Warn severely (MT(NT), 2014)  
390. Picking up holes in – Finding out faults with something (CHSL, 2013)  
391. Pin money – Additional money (CGL T-1, RE-2013)  
392. Plain sailing – Very easy (MTS, 2014)  
393. Play ducks and drakes – Spend lavishly / To waste or squander (CPO, 2015)  
394. Played havoc – Caused destruction (SO(Audit), 2001)  
395. Playing to the gallery – Befooling the common man (SAS, 2005)  
396. Point blank – Very definite and direct (CPO, 2012)  
397. Pore over – Go through (DEO, 2008)  
398. Pot luck dinner – Dinner where somebody brings something to eat (Stenographer, 2011)  
399. Pour cats and dogs – Rain heavily (Constable, 2013)  
400. Pros and cons – Advantages and disadvantage (CGL T-1, 2016)  
(SO(Audit), 2006) (TA(IT & CE), 2007)  
401. Pull a fast one – Play a trick (CGL T-1, 2016)  
402. Pull a long face – Look dejected / An unhappy or disappointed expression (Stenographer, 2016)  
403. Pull no punch – Speaks frankly (CGL T-1, 2014)  
404. Pull strings – Use personal influence (MT(NT), 2011)  
405. Pull together – Work harmoniously (CGL T-1, 2016)  
406. Pull up - Reprimand (Stenographer, 2011)  
407. Put across – To communicate your ideas, feelings, etc. successfully. (CHSL, 2011)  
408. Put something by – To save money for a particular purpose (CHSL, 2015)  
409. Put up the shutters – Go out of business (CGL T-1, 2016)  
410. Put up with – Bear patiently / To bear or endure (CHSL, 2013)  
(Statistical Investigator, 2006) (SO(Audit), 2005)  
411. Put your feet down – Take a firm stand / To be very strict in opposing what somebody wishes to do (CGL T-1, 2014)  
412. Putting one’s foot down – Asserting one’s authority/ take a firm stand (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
413. Putting the cart before the horse – Doing things in the wrong way (CGL T-1, 2013)
414. Rack and ruin - Ransacked (CPO, 2012)
415. Rat race – Fierce competition for power (CHSL, 2011)
417. Red herrings – Clues intended to distract or mislead / An unimportant fact, idea, event, etc. that takes people attention from the important ones (CPO, 2014)
418. Red letter day – Happy and significant day (Gala day) (Statistical Investigator, 2005)
419. Red-letter day – An important day (CPO, 2015)
420. Rest on laurels – To be complacent (SO(Audit), 2003)
421. Rides the high horse – Feel superior (CPO, 2012)
422. Rise with the lark – Get up early / To get out of bed very early in the morning (CGL T-1, 2015)
423. Rub up the wrong way – To irk or irritate someone (CGL T-1, 2014)
424. Rule the roost – Exercise authority / To be the most powerful member in the group (CPO, 2013)
425. Run down - Criticise (DEO, 2008)
426. Run in the same groove – Clash with each other (MT(NT), 2011)
428. Run riot – Act without restraint (SO(Audit), 2005)
429. Sail in the same boat – To be in same situation (CHSL, 2015)
430. Sailing in the same boat – Being in the same difficult situation (CPO, 2011)
431. Salad days - Adolescence (CHSL, 2014)
432. Salt of the earth – Good, honest and ideal (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
433. Scapegoat - A person who is blamed for the wrongdoings, mistakes, or faults of others, especially for reasons of expediency / Fall guy (CPO, 2012) (CHSL, 2010)
434. Scot free - Unpunished (CGL T-1, 2016)
435. Seamy side – Unpleasant and immoral (CHSL, 2015)
436. Second thoughts – Reconsidering the original idea (CGL T-2, 2014)
437. See eye to eye – To have the same opinion (CHSL, 2014) (CHSL, 2011)
438. See through – Detect / To realize the truth (CHSL, 2013) (MTS, 2013)
439. Selling like hot cakes – To have a very good sale (CGL T-1, 2016)
440. Send packing – To tell somebody firmly or rudely to go away / Terminate service (CGL T-2, 2012)
441. Set one’s face against – Oppose strongly (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
442. Set the record straight – Give a correct account (SO(Audit), 2007)
443. Shake in shoes – Tremble with fear (SO(Audit), 2008)
444. Shake off – Forget / To get away from somebody who is chasing or following you (Stenographer, 2016)
445. Sharp practices – Dishonest means (SO(Audit), 2008)
446. Shed crocodile tears – To pretend to be sympathetic (CHSL, 2015)
447. Shot in the arm – Something that gives encouragement (CGL T-1, RE 2015)
448. Show a clean a pair of heels – To run away fast / To flee swiftly (CGL T-2, 2015)
449. Show the white flag – To surrender (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
450. Sit in judgement – To pass judgement(or comment on someone ) especially when you have no authority (Stenographer, 2011)
451. Sit on the fence – To avoid becoming involved in deciding or influencing something (Stenographer, 2016)
452. Sitting on the fence – Hesitating which side to take (SO(CA), 2007)
453. Slip off – Leave quietly (FCI, 2012)
454. Smell the rat – Suspect that something is fishy (CGL T-1, 2013)
455. Snake in the grass – A hidden enemy (CGL T-1, 2015)
456. Soft option – Easy and agreeable option (CPO, 2011)
457. Sought after – Wanted by many people because it’s of good quality or difficult to find/Pursued by (Stenographer, 2011)
458. Sowing wild oats – Irresponsible pleasure seeking in young age (TA(IT & CE), 2004)
459. Spick and span – Neat and clean / Tidy (MTS, 2013)
460. Spill the beans – Reveal the secret information (CGL T-1, 2015) (SO(Audit), 2007)
461. Spread like fire – Spread rapidly (CHSL, 2011)
463. Stand on own feet – To be independent (CPO, 2010)
464. Stand/Hold your ground – Refuse to yield / To continue with your opinions or intentions when someone is opposing you (CGL T-1, 2014)
465. Stand-offish – Indifferent (TA(IT & CE), 2004)
466. Standstill – Complete halt (DEO, 2008)
467. Status quo – As it is/ unchanged position (CHSL, 2011)
468. Stick to guns – Hold on to original decisions (CHSL, 2012) (MTS, 2013) (CGL T-1, 2016)
469. Stir up a Hornet’s nest - To create a lot of trouble (CGL T-2, 2014)
470. Stole the show – Win everyone’s praise (CHSL, 2010)
471. Strain every nerve – Make all efforts / Try all tricks (CGL T-1, RE-2013) (CGL T-1, 2016)
472. Straw in the wind – An indication of what might happen (CGL T-1, 2016)
473. Strike a bargain – To negotiate a deal (CPO, 2012)
474. Strom in a tea cup – Commotion (angry/worry) over a trivial matter (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
475. Struck a chill to the heart – Arouse fear/to make somebody afraid (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
476. Swan song – Last prayer (at funeral or farewell) (CPO, 2014)
477. Sweep under the carpet – Keep hidden (MTS, 2013)
478. Sweeping Statement – Thoughtless statement (SO(Audit), 1997)
479. Take a French leave – Being absent without permission (CGL T-2, 2015)
480. Take a leap in the dark – To take risk (CGL T-1, 2013)
481. Take after – Resembles/ To follow / To take care of older members of family (SO(Audit), 2003) (MTS, 2013)
482. Take cue from – To copy what someone already did in past in order to be successful (CHSL, 2011)
484. Take fancy – To attract or please somebody (Constable, 2015)
485. Take for granted – To accept readily/ To pre-suppose as certainly true (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
486. Take French leave – Absenting oneself without permission (CHSL, 2015)
487. Take hat off – Encourage / To admire somebody very much for something he has done(MTS, 2013)
488. Take the bull by the horns – to face a difficulty courageously (CHSL, 2015)
489. Take to heart – To be very upset by something that somebody says or does / Serious (CPO, 2012)
490. Take to one’s heel – Run off (MTS, 2014)
491. Take to task – Punished / Reprimanded (CPO, 2013) (Stenographer, 2011)
492. Take with a grain of salt – To listen to something with considerable doubt (TA(IT & CE), 2004)
494. Tall tales - Boasting (CGL T-2, 2014)
495. Teething problems – Difficulties at the start (MT(NT), 2014)
496. Telling upon – Showing effectively / Having strong effect (Constable, 2015)
497. The Alpha and Omega – Beginning and end (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
498. The genomes of Zurich – A slang term for Swiss bankers (CHSL, 2015)
499. The gift of the gab – Ability to speak well (CHSL, 2013)
500. The green-eyed monster – Used as a way of talking about jealousy (SO(Audit), 2006)
501. The jury is out - No decision has been reached (CHSL, 2015)
502. The man in the street – An ordinary man (common man) (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
503. The salt of the earth – Very good and honest / Kind (CHSL, 2012)
504. Thick and thin – In spite of all difficulties (CGL T-1, 2013)
505. Through thick and thin – Under all circumstances (CGL T-2, 2012)
506. Throw cold water - Discourage (CGL T-1, 2016)
507. Throw down a glove – To accept defeat (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
508. Throw dust into one’s eye – To deceive (CHSL, 2014)
509. Throw up cards – To give in / To blow away the plan (CGL T-2, 2015)
510. Time and again - Always (Constable, 2013)
511. To add fuel to fire – To worsen the matter / To incite (CPO, 2012) (CGL T-1, 2016) (FCI, 2012)
512. To angle – To fish (CGL T-1, 2016)
513. To be all at sea – Lost and confused (CGL T-1, 2011)
514. To be always one’s beck and call – At one’s disposal (ready to serve one’s master) (SO(Audit) 2006)
515. To be down to earth – To be realistic (CHSL, 2015)
516. To be in a fix – In a difficult situation (CGL T-1, 2016)
517. To be in a quandary – In a confusing situation (CHSL, 2015)
518. To beat a retreat – To run away in fear (Statistical Investigator, 2005)
519. To bite the dust – To be defeated (CGL T-1, 2011)
520. To blaze a trail – To lead the way as a pioneer (Statistical Investigator, 2005)
521. To blow one’s own trumpet – Praise one’s own abilities and achievements (TA(IT & CE), 2004) (SO(CA), 2005)
522. To break the ice – Make people comfortable and relaxed / Start conversation (CGL T-1, 2016) (Constable, 2012)
523. To bring to light – TO reveal (CGL T-1, 2016) (CHSL, 2011)
524. To burn candle at both ends – To be extravagant/ Spend without any worry (CHSL, 2011)
525. To burn one’s fingers – To get physically hurt (CPO, 2012)
526. To bury the hatchet – to make peace (CGL T-1, 2016)
527. To call it a day – Decide to finish working of the day/ To conclude proceedings (CHSL, 2015) (CGL T-1, 2011)
528. To call spade a spade – To be frank (CHSL, 2011)
529. To carve out a niche – To work harder in order to have successful career / Develop a special position for oneself (CGL T-2, 2014)
530. To cast a die – To take a decision (CHSL, 2013)
531. To catch up with – To compete with (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
532. To clip one’s wings – To deprive one of power (CGL T-1, 2016)
533. To cut one short – To criticize one (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
534. To cut one’s coat according to one’s cloth – To live within one’s means (CPO, 2014)
535. To cut teeth – To gain experience of something for the first time (MT(NT), 2011)
536. To cut the Gordian knot – To perform a difficult task (CPO, 2015)
537. To die in harness – To die while in service (CGL T-1, 2011)
538. To eat a humble pie – To apologize (TA(IT & CE), 2004) (Constable, 2012)
539. To eat humble pie – To yield under humiliating circumstances (CGL T-1, 2016)
540. To end in smoke – To come to nothing; no outcome (SO(CA), 2005) (CGL T-1, 2016)
541. To explore every avenue – To try every opportunity (CHSL, 2011)
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542. To face the music – To bear the consequences (CGL T-1, 2011) (SO(CA), 2005)
543. To fall back on – to fail to do something important in time (FCI, 2012)
544. To feather one’s nest – To enrich oneself when opportunity occurs (CHSL, 2014) (CGL T-1, 2011)
545. To feel like a fish out of water – Uncomfortable situation (CPO, 2012)
546. To fight tooth and nail – To fight heroically, in very determined way (CHSL, 2011) (SO(Audit), 2006)
547. To flog a dead horse – to waste one’s efforts (CGL T-1, 2011)
548. To foam at one’s mouth – To be very angry (CPO, 2012)
549. To gather roses only – To seek all enjoyments of life (CHSL, 2014)
550. To get cold feet - Fear (CGL T-1, 2016)
551. To get into hot water – To get into trouble (MT(NT), 2014) (CPO, 2014)
552. To get one’s own back – To get one’s revenge (Statistical Investigator, 2005)
553. To get wind – Come to know about something secret or private (CHSL, 2012)
554. To give a piece of mind – Scolding / To tell someone that you are angry with them or you disapprove of their behaviour (CGL T-2, 2015)
555. To give a piece of mind – To reprimand (SO(Audit), 2003)
556. To give oneself airs – Behave arrogantly (CGL T-1, 2016)
557. To give the devil his due – to give encouragement even to the enemy (TA(IT & CE), 2004)
558. To give vent to – To express a feeling, especially anger, strongly (CHSL, 2012)
559. To go to the whole hog – To do it completely (SO(Audit), 2007)
560. To grease the palm – To bribe (CHSL, 2014)
561. To hail from – To come from (CHSL, 2012)
562. To have not a leg to stand on – Unable to prove or explain why something is reasonable (SAS, 2005)
563. To have second thoughts – To reconsider (Constable, 2012)
564. To have something up one’s sleeve – Having a secret plan (SO(CA), 2005) (CHSL, 2011)
565. To have Too many iron in the fire – To get engage in too many enterprises at the same time (TA(IT & CE), 2009)
566. To hit below the belt – To attack unfairly (Stenographer, 2011)
567. To hit the jackpot – To make money quickly (CHSL, 2011)
568. To keep in abeyance – In a state of suspension (CGL T-1, 2016)
569. To keep the wolf from the door – Escape starvation (CPO, 2011)
570. To keep under wraps – Secret (TA(IT & CE), 2006)
571. To keep up – To keep in touch (SO(Audit), 2003)
572. To latch onto – To promote (CGL T-2, 2014)
573. To look down one’s nose – To regard with contempt (CHSL, 2011)
574. To lose ground – To become less popular (FCI, 2012)
575. To make a mountain of a molehill – To give great importance to little things (FCI, 2012)
576. To make one’s blood boil – To make somebody furious (FCI, 2012)
577. To make things done – To manage (CGL T-2, 2013)
578. To make up one’s mind – To decide what to do (CHSL, 2015)
579. To miss the bus – To miss an opportunity (CHSL, 2011)
580. To move heaven and earth – to try everything possible (CGL T-1, 2011)
581. To nip in the bud – To stop something in the starting (CGL T-1, 2016)
582. To pass away - Die (CHSL, 2012)
583. To pay off old scores – To refund old dues (CHSL, 2010)
584. To play fast and loose – To act in an unreliable way (CGL T-1, 2016)
585. To play second fiddle – Take a subordinate role (CGL T-1, 2013)
586. To play to the gallery – To behave in an exaggerated way to attract people’s attention (SO(CA), 2007)
587. To pull a long face – Look sad (CGL T-1, 2016)
588. To put a spoke in one’s wheel – To hinder/ Destroy the plan / Cause hindrance / To prevent somebody from putting their plan into action (CGL T-1, 2016) (CPO, 2014)
589. To put an end to – Stop (CHSL, 2012)
590. To put in a nutshell – To state something very concisely (CHSL, 2015)
591. To put up with – To tolerate (CGL T-1, 2011)
592. To run across – To meet by chance (Statistical Investigator, 2005)
593. To run one down – To disparage someone (SO(CA), 2005)
594. To set the Thames on fire – Do a heroic deed / To do such a work that needs a strenuous effort (CPO, 2015)
595. To shed crocodile tears – To pretend grief (CHSL, 2011)
596. To show a clean pair of heels – to escape/run away (CGL T-1, 2011)
597. To shun evil company – To avoid or give up bad company (CHSL, 2015)
598. To smell a rat – To be suspicious (CGL T-1, 2011) (Statistical Investigator, 2005) (CGL T-1, 2016)
599. To speak one’s mind – To be frank and honest (FCI, 2012)
600. To spill the beans – To reveal a secret (CGL T-1, 2016)
601. To starve off – Postpone (SO(Audit), 2003)
602. To steer clear of – Avoid (Statistical Investigator, 2005)
603. To strain every nerve – To make utmost efforts
604. To take after – To resemble an older member of family (CHSL, 2015)
605. To take into account – To consider (TA(IT & CE), 2007)
606. To take someone for a ride – to deceive (cheat) someone (CGL T-1, 2011)
607. To take someone to task – To scold someone (SO(CA), 2005)
608. To take to heart – TO be greatly affected (CGL T-1, 2016) (CGL T-1, 2011)
609. To take to one’s heel – To run away (CGL T-1, 2011) (SO(CA), 2005)
610. To talk to task - Punish (CPO, 2012) (CGL T-1, 2016)
611. To talk someone over – To convince over (CGL T-2, 2012)
612. To tell in a nut shell – In a brief manner / Summarize(CHSL, 2014)
613. To the letter – Paying attention to every detail / Doing or following exactly what somebody something says (CGL T-1, 2014)
614. To throw dust in one’s eye – To deceive (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
615. To toe the line – To follow the lead / To follow boss’s orders (MTS, 2013)
616. To turn a deaf ear – To be indifferent (SO(CA), 2005)
617. To win laurels – to earn great prestige (CPO, 2015)
618. Token strike – Short strike held as warning (SO(Audit), 1997)
619. Too fond of one’s own voice – To like talking without wanting to listen to other people/Very selfish (CHSL, 2011)
620. Took after – Similar to / to look or behave like an older member of your family (CHSL, 2014)
621. Took to heels – Run away in fear (SO(Audit), 2003)
623. Turn an honest living – Make an legitimate living (SO(Audit), 2005)
625. Turn one’s head – To feel proud in a way that other people find it annoying (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
626. Turn up – To appear (CHSL, 2012)
627. Turn up one’s nose at - To not accept something because you do not think it is good enough for you / To treat with contempt (CGL T-1, RE-2013)
628. Turn up one’s nose at – To reject/despises (TA(IT & CE), 2008)
629. Turn-turtle – Complete over-turn of a situation (CGL T-1, 2016)
630. Under a cloud – Being subject to suspicion (FCI, 2012) (CGL T-1, 2016) (SO(Audit), 1997) (Stenographer, 2016)
631. Under the thumb of – Under the control of (CHSL, 2012)
632. Under the weather - Sick (CGL T-1, 2015)
633. Up to the mark – According to the required standard (CGL T-2, 2015)
634. Vexed question – Controversial issue (CPO, 2015)
635. Vote with your feet – Showing your disapproval (CGL T-2, 2015)
636. Watching grass grow – Very boring (CHSL, 2014)
637. Water under the bridge – Something that happened in the past and is now forgotten or no longer important (CHSL, 2012)
638. Weal and woe – Good times and bad times/ Ups and downs (CGL T-1, 2016) (CPO, 2012)
639. Wear and tear - Damage (FCI, 2012)
641. Went to the winds – Dissipated/ To be utterly lost (SO(Audit), 2008)
643. Wet one’s whistle – To have a drink / Moistens one’s throat (CGL T-1, 2013)
644. White elephant – A costly but useless possession (CPO, 2014)
645. Wide off the mark - Irrelevant / Not accurate / Inadequate (MTS, 2013)
647. With one voice - Unanimously (CGL T-1, 2016)
648. Within a stone’s throw – At a short distance (CHSL, 2014)
649. Yeoman’s service – Social work (CGL T-1, 2011)