

Phrase of the week
31st July – 6th August 2023

Std-V

Sour grapes (idiom)

Meaning- pretending to not want something that in fact you secretly want, because you cannot have it

Origin- From the story about a fox who sees some high-hanging grapes and wants to eat them. When the fox can't reach the grapes, it sulks off, muttering that the grapes were probably sour anyway.

Synonyms- bad mouthing, ill will

Antonyms- diplomacy, politeness

Usage in sentences:-

- 1- He said he did not care if that sounded like sour grapes.
- 2- I am not going to cry sour grapes here at all.

Std- VI

Agony Aunt (Noun)

Meaning- a newspaper columnist who answers questions and offers advice on personal problems to people who write in.

Origin- The first known use of *agony aunt* was in 1974.

Synonyms- consulter, advisor , advice columnist

Antonyms- ecstasy

Usage in Sentences:

1. It's an **agony aunt** kind of situation, where people call in for advice.
2. Alina did a few months as a TV **aunt agony** on an afternoon TV show.

Std-VII

Under a cloud

Meaning- with the disapproval of the people around you

Origin- around early 14th and 15th century

Synonyms- in disgrace, discredited,shamed

Antonyms- honorable, reputable, respectable

Usage in sentence:-

- 1- The cabinet minister left office **under a cloud** after a fraud scandal.
- 2- Joyce has been **under a cloud** since her roommate's bracelet disappeared.

Std - VIII

Phrase – CUT CORNERS

Meaning - do something perfunctorily so as to save time or money or to do something in cheapest or easiest way

Origin – The idiom has been used since the 1800s.

The idiom can be found in an article entitled ‘About “Going Straight On”’ in The Oxford Magazine and Church Advocate (Vol. III., October 1863, No. 36, page 340)

Synonyms – skimp, economize

Antonyms – fall short of, stay in place

Usage in sentences:

1. There is always a temptation to **cut corners** when time is short.
2. I don't like to **cut corners** when I have company for dinner.

Std. - IX

Phrase – put one's best foot forward.

Meaning – to do one's utmost to make progress.

Origin – This phrase is first recorded in the second edition of Sir Thomas Overbury's poem A Wife, circa 1613:

Synonyms - work diligently, make every effort

Antonyms – block, hold back, obstruct

Usage in sentences:

1. You **put your best foot forward** at job interviews.
2. It is a time for a nation and its sportsmen to **put their best foot forward** to show case their prowess.

Std : X

PHRASE: Cut and dried

MEANING: (of a situation) completely settled, readymade, pre-determined and not changeable

ORIGIN: Used as early as the late 1700's. The most common explanation for the origin of this phrase is that it alludes to the already cut and dried herbs, ready to use and sold in shops, as opposed to fresh growing herbs. Some, however, believe it to allude to cut and dried pieces of wood.

SYNONYMS: definite, precise, routine, familiar, fixed

ANTONYMS: unusual, strange, extraordinary, curious, odd, peculiar

USAGE IN SENTENCES:

1. One cannot always meet the wishes of lawyers to have everything **cut and dried**.
2. The procedure is not quiet **cut and dried** - there's definitely room for improvisation.

Std XI

Phrase-

to the nth degree

Meaning- to the utmost

Origin-This expression comes from mathematics, where to the nth means “to any required power” (n standing for any number). It was first recorded in 1852.

Synonyms- absolutely, comprehensively, Effectively, entirely

Antonyms- incompletely, little

Usage in sentence:-

1. He was pushing my principle **to the nth degree**, in order to test it.
2. Most of my farmers have diversified **to the nth degree** and have continued to try to do so.

Std XII

Std XII

Phrase-

DEVIL’S ADVOCATE

Meaning- someone who pretends, in an argument or discussion, to be against an idea or plan that lot of people support, in order to make people discuss and consider it in more detail

Origin – The *advocatus diaboli* (Latin for **Devil's advocate**) is a former official position within the Catholic Church, the Promoter of the Faith: one who "argued against the canonization (sainthood) of a candidate in order to uncover any character flaws or misrepresentation of the evidence favoring canonization".

Synonym – apologist, pleader, sophist

Usage in sentence –

1. He offered to play **devil’s advocate** and argue against our case so that we could find out any flaws in it.
2. The defence lawyer played **devil’s advocate**, explaining that the truth could be the opposite of the way it looked, but the judge wasn’t having it.